

# FYI Weekly

HEALTH CARE NEWS FOR VIRGINIA'S HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

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## 1. VHHA in Action

Each day, VHHA actively works on behalf of its members, their employees, and Virginians to advance the interests of Virginia's hospitals and health care systems. In the past week, here are some developments of interest to Virginia hospitals and health systems:

- **CrowdStrike** has issued a [preliminary post-incident report](#) following the recent information technology system disruptions impacting organizations using **Microsoft Windows**. The company previously issued an [updated recovery tool](#) with repair options to assist IT administrators in the [remediation process](#). In late July, organizations around the globe experienced Microsoft Windows information technology outages related to CrowdStrike software updates.
- The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** recently issued final rules for the fiscal year (FY) 2025 [skilled nursing facility prospective payment system](#), the FY 2025 [inpatient rehabilitation facility prospective payment system](#), the FY 2025 [inpatient psychiatric facility prospective payment system](#), and to update [hospice payment rates](#) for FY 2025.
- The **Virginia Organization for Nurse Leaders (VONL)** has scheduled its 2024 Fall Conference for Sept. 13 at The Westin – Richmond. The conference theme is “Mastering the Canvas: Nursing Leadership in Practice.” Continuing education credits are available to event participants. [Abstract applications for poster presentations](#) are being accepted. Questions about that process may be sent to [VONLstaff@gmail.com](mailto:VONLstaff@gmail.com); the submission deadline is Aug. 6. View event details, including the speaker lineup, and register for the conference through this [link](#).
- The **Mid-Atlantic ADA Center**, the **Southeast ADA Center**, the **University of Kentucky Human Development institute**, and the **Syracuse University Burton Blatt Institute** are presenting an Aug. 22 webinar (10 a.m. ET) on “Effective Communication in Healthcare

- Settings.” The webinar content will cover the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements when healthcare providers interact with people with communication disabilities. The webinar will feature a presentation from **Steven Gordon**, Civil Rights Enforcement Coordinator and Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia. Register for the webinar [here](#).
- **HosPAC**, the political action committee of VHHA, is in the midst of its 2024 fundraising campaign and needs support from members of the health care community. Financial contributions of any amount, large or small, help HosPAC support candidates for state office who are committed to strengthening the health care delivery system in Virginia by growing the health care workforce, promoting access to care, and investing in public health. By supporting candidates from both parties who champion these values, HosPAC helps advance the voice of the health care community in state public policy development. Please consider contributing to HosPAC to support this important work on behalf of Virginia hospitals, health systems, and their teams. Visit this [link](#) to make contributions and contact Hannah Coley at [hcoley@vhha.com](mailto:hcoley@vhha.com) with any questions.
  - Registration is open for an upcoming **Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services** (DCJS) five-day Sexual Exploitation Treatment & Training Services (SETTS) course developed by Trauma and Hope. The five-day course provides education and training to professionals who work with sex trafficking survivors. The in-person training is free but participants must [register](#) in advance. It is scheduled for Sept. 16-20 (9 a.m.-4 p.m. daily) in Fredericksburg, VA. Participants are responsible for their own transportation, lodging, and meals. DCJS will provide participants with hotel information prior to the training session. The address of each training location and complete details about the training will be sent to confirmed participants via e-mail. Read more [here](#) and direct questions to DCJS State Trafficking Training Coordinator Blane Sawyer at [blane.sawyer@dcjs.virginia.gov](mailto:blane.sawyer@dcjs.virginia.gov).
  - In a recent [letter](#) to health care providers, **Virginia State Health Commissioner Dr. Karen Shelton**, MD, addresses the national shortage of Penicillin G benzathine (Bicillin L-A®) and treatment recommendations at a time of rising syphilis cases in Virginia, including early syphilis, late or unknown duration cases, as well as increases in ocular, otic, neurological, and congenital syphilis cases. The letter recommends health care professionals screen at-risk patients in accordance with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). Read more [here](#).
  - The application window is open for the **American Hospital Association** (AHA) 2025 Quest for Quality Prize, which recognizes hospitals and health systems committed to leadership and innovation in improving quality and advancing health. Hospitals and health systems that are making significant progress toward providing exceptional care based on the National Academy of Medicine’s six health aims – safe, timely, effective, efficient, equitable and patient-centered care – are encouraged to apply for the 2025 AHA Quest for Quality Prize. Up to five organizations will be recognized at the 2025 AHA Leadership Summit in Nashville. Access the application form through this [link](#).
  - The **U.S. Department of Justice** (DOJ) recently announced that a grand jury has indicted a North Korean, Rim Jong Hyok, regarding his alleged involvement in a conspiracy to hack and extort U.S. hospitals and health care providers for ransom and then launder those to fund additional global computer intrusions. The perpetrated ransomware attacks interfered with health care providers in rendering aid to patients. Read more [here](#).

- VHHA actively engages with the news media to share public messaging and coordinate member media appearances to showcase the important work done by Virginia hospitals. That includes recent coverage from [Becker's Hospital Review](#), the [Virginia Mercury](#), [WHSV](#), [WTOP](#), [Cville Right Now](#), and the [Henrico Citizen](#).

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## 2. VHHA Solutions Partner Qualivis to Host Aug. 15 Clinician Burnout Webinar

[Qualivis](#), a [VHHA Solutions](#) endorsed partner, is scheduled to host a webinar on Aug. 15 at noon focused on addressing clinician burnout, which remains a central concern for leaders striving to enhance retention and elevate patient outcomes. While many human resources and clinical leaders are undergoing organizational and policy changes to address burnout, AI-enabled technology may be an additional tool in the burnout toolkit. The webinar will explore the potential of this technology to alleviate burnout and enhance the well-being of managers, clinicians, and patients. Expert panelists will offer insights on navigating the landscape of AI technology, emphasizing essential considerations and best practices for successful adoption. Register for the webinar [here](#).

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## 3. Virginia Recognized as a Top State for Rural Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement

Virginia is one of the top states recognized in 2024 by the Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project (MBQIP) from the federal **Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA)**. The goal of the MBQIP is to improve the quality of care patients receive in critical access hospitals (CAH), which are modest-sized federally-designated health care facilities serving remote rural communities. Virginia has [eight CAHs](#). The MBQIP focuses efforts in the 45 states that participate in the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program; MBQIP works with 1,360 CAHs to measure data for quality improvement efforts in areas such as patient safety, outpatient care, patient engagement, and care transitions. For 2024, Virginia was ranked number two among the top states “who achieved the highest reporting rates and levels of improvement in CAHs over the past 12 months.” Read more [here](#).

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## 4. VHHA Solutions Partner ChartSpan Shares White Paper on Medicare Chronic Care Management

[ChartSpan](#), a [VHHA Solutions](#) endorsed partner, has shared a white paper discussing Medicare claims data for 2023, and the results are exciting. Chronic Care Management (CCM) with ChartSpan leads to lower health care costs and fewer emergency department visits for Medicare patients. According to ChartSpan averages, patients who enroll in CCM have: 20 percent fewer ED visits, a 52 percent decrease in 30-day hospital readmission rates, 36 percent lower inpatient costs, and a 21 percent reduction in total costs. Download the report [here](#) to see more detailed claims data. Contact Bryan Hudson at [bhudson@vhha.com](mailto:bhudson@vhha.com) to learn more about CCM and preventative care.

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## 5. DBHDS to Host Aug. 13 Webinar on Substance Use Treatment in Maternal Population

The **Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)** is sponsoring a free webinar on Aug. 13 (noon-1:30 p.m.) regarding “Best Practices for Substance Use Disorder Treatment for the Maternal Population.” Attendees will hear from subject matter experts on the stigma

around perinatal substance use and addiction and evidence-based guidelines for management of substance use. Learn more and register [here](#).

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## 6. VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features VCU Student-Athlete Building Mental Health App

The latest episode of VHHA's *Patients Come First* podcast features **Joe Bamisile**, a graduate student at the **VCU College of Health Professions** and a guard on the VCU men's basketball team, who joins us for a conversation about life, hoops, mental wellness, his work to develop the Maunda mental health mobile app, and more. Listen to the episode [here](#) and hear past episodes through this [link](#). Podcast episodes are also available through these podcast apps and networks: [Apple Podcast](#), [Amazon Music](#), [Spotify](#), [Pandora](#), [Stitcher](#), [TuneIn](#), [SoundCloud](#), [Blubrry](#), [iHeart Radio](#), [Deezer](#), [Podbay](#), [Overcast](#), [Pocket Casts](#), the [Virginia Audio Collective](#), the [Public Health Podcast Network](#), the [World Podcast Network](#), and the [Family Podcast Network](#). The podcast can also be heard on the radio airwaves – episodes air each Sunday at noon on 100.5 FM, 107.7 FM, 92.7 FM, and 820 AM across Central Virginia and 1650 AM in Hampton Roads, 105.1 FM and 1050 AM in Lynchburg, and Wednesdays at 1 p.m. on 93.9 FM in Richmond. Send questions, comments, feedback, or guest suggestions to [pcfpodcast@vhha.com](mailto:pcfpodcast@vhha.com).

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## 7. Blood Culture Vial Supply Shortages Persist, FDA and CDC Offer Guidance

**Beckton Dickinson** is experiencing reduced availability of BACTEC blood culture media bottles due to supplier issues. The firm anticipates relief in these supplier issues in September, according to an informational [website](#) providing updates on the situation. In response to interruptions in the supply of BD BACTEC blood culture media bottles, the **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** is recommending that laboratories and health care providers consider conservation strategies to prioritize the use of blood culture media bottles, preserving available supplies for patients at highest risk. Current supply challenges may impact patient diagnosis, follow-up patient management, and antimicrobial stewardship efforts. A list of specific conservation recommendations is available [here](#). In related news, the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** has also issued an advisory alerting health care providers, laboratory professionals, and others in health care settings of a critical shortage of Becton Dickinson BACTEC blood culture bottles. Read more [here](#).

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## 8. VHHA Solutions Partner AblePay to Host Aug. 20 Webinar on Increasing Patient Revenue

[AblePay Health](#), a [VHHA Solutions](#) endorsed partner, is scheduled to present a webinar on Aug. 20 at noon focused on increasing revenue while addressing patient affordability. The webinar will explore root causes of patient payment affordability as well as ways in which changing patient payment behavior can improve provider financial strength. During the webinar, Lehigh Valley Health Network representatives will discuss the health system's success in that regard, which yielded a 47 percent increase over its historical collection rate, 16 percent new revenue, and a 43 percent increase in revenue per patient. Register for the website [here](#).

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## 9. Virginia Hospital Staff Encouraged to Complete 2024 VHHA Member Feedback Survey

VHHA is sharing the 2024 Member Feedback Survey, which provides individuals who work for VHHA member hospitals and health systems, as well as other stakeholders engaged with the Association, with an opportunity to share their insights and observations about the VHHA, its work, programming, and engagement activities. Please take a moment to complete the survey and share feedback about VHHA [here](#).

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## 10. Around the State

**Michelle Burtchin**, RN, MSN, has been named Chief Nursing Officer at **Bon Secours Maryview Medical Center**. Burtchin has been with **Bon Secours** since 2006, starting as a patient care tech at St. Rita's Medical Center in Lima, OH. She earned her master's and bachelor's degrees in nursing from Chamberlain University and an associate's degree in nursing at James A. Rhodes State College.

**Carilion Clinic** has been recognized as a finalist for the AHA Quest for Quality Award, which recognizes hospital and health care systems that have committed to, and are making significant progress in, providing access to exceptional quality, safe, timely, effective, efficient, equitable, patient-and-family centered and affordable care. The award showcases successful innovative models of care, service, and collaboration to provide seamless patient experience and inspires hospitals systems to lead and partner with community organizations to improve health status and address care disparities.

**Shane Hilton**, Chief Financial Officer for **Ballad Health**, has been named to the *Becker's Hospital Review* 2024 [36 rural hospital CFOs to know](#) list.

**Inova Mount Vernon Hospital** recently received the Corporate Excellence Award from Shelter House, Inc., a nonprofit that supports homeless families and victims of domestic violence.

**Kristen L. McSorley**, DNP, RN, CNML, has been named Vice President of Nursing for **Bon Secours Harbour View Medical Center**. She currently serves as the Clinical Nursing Director for The Jewish Hospital – Mercy Health in Cincinnati, OH. McSorley holds a doctorate in nursing practice from Mount St. Joseph University, a master's degree in health care administration from Xavier University, a bachelor's degree in nursing from Ohio University, and an associate's degree in nursing from The Good Samaritan College of Nursing. Read more [here](#).

**Kristin King** has been named Chief Human Resources Officer for **VCU Health System**. She will begin her new role on Sept. 1. She joins VCU Health from **Centra Health**, where she most recently served as Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer. Read more [here](#).

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