

# 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:

- The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC) has updated its recommendations regarding older adult vaccination for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). The CDC, through the **Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices** (ACIP), previously recommended that adults 60 and older should receive a single dose of the RSV vaccine after consulting with their medical provider about their personal situation. The updated ACIP recommendations indicate that all adults 75 and older, as well as adults ages 60–74 who are at increased risk for severe RSV disease, should receive a single dose of RSV vaccine. Read more [here](#).
- Several national organizations are sounding a warning about blood shortages, including the [American Red Cross](#), which reported an “emergency” 25 percent decline in the national blood inventory. Groups like the [Association for the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies](#) and [America's Blood Centers](#) are urging people to donate blood to help replenish supplies amid the ongoing shortage.
- **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](#).

- [ChartSpan](#), a [VHHA Solutions](#) endorsed partner, has shared a white paper discussing Medicare claims data for 2023. 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.
- **CrowdStrike** recently 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.
- 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](#).
- 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. Questions may be sent to [VONLstaff@gmail.com](mailto:VONLstaff@gmail.com). 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 in situations 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.
  - 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](#).
  - 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 [Axios](#), [WVIR](#), [WRIC](#), [WVVA](#), [WWBT](#), the [Prince William Times](#), the [Royal Examiner](#), the [Daily Progress](#), and the [Williamsburg Yorktown Daily](#).
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## 2. CMS Shares Updated Hospital Quality Star Ratings

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) has shared the updated Hospital Quality Star Ratings at the [Care Compare](#) website as well as the [Provider Data Catalog](#) site. The hospital ratings are assigned annually by CMS based on criteria including safety of care, readmission rates, patient experience, timeliness of care, and mortality rates.

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## 3. VHHA Shares 2024-2025 Membership Directory

This week, VHHA issued the 2024-2025 Membership Directory, an annual publication that features summary listing information about Virginia hospitals and health systems, VHHA program areas and staff, associate members, **VHHA Solutions** endorsed partners, and more. Access the VHHA 2024-2025 Membership Directory [here](#).

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## 4. 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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## 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 Carilion Clinic Surgeon, USA Hockey Team Physician

The latest episode of VHHA’s *Patients Come First* podcast features **Dr. Michael O’Malley**, an orthopaedic surgeon at **Carilion Clinic**, who has served as a team physician for professional athletes in the world of baseball, basketball, and hockey. Dr. O’Malley joins us for a conversation about his work, his time as team physician with **USA Hockey**, his past as a college hockey player, 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. FDA Approves First Gene Therapy for Adults with Metastatic Synovial Sarcoma

The **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** recently approved Tecelra (afamitresgene autoleucel), a gene therapy for the treatment of adults with metastatic synovial sarcoma who have received prior chemotherapy, are HLA antigen(s) A\*02:01P, -A\*02:02P, -A\*02:03P, or -A\*02:06P positive, and whose tumor expresses the MAGE-A4 antigen as determined by FDA authorized companion diagnostic devices. Synovial sarcoma is a rare type of cancer in which malignant cells develop and form a tumor in soft tissues of the body. Each year, synovial sarcoma impacts about 1,000 people in the U.S. and most often occurs in adult males in their 30s or younger. Treatment typically involves surgery to remove tumors and may also include radiotherapy or chemotherapy if the tumor is larger. 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. Deadline Approaching for Virginia Hospital Staff to Complete 2024 VHHA Member Feedback Survey

Aug. 16 is the deadline to participate in the 2024 VHHA Member Feedback Survey. The annual survey 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

**Dr. Riley Ewen**, DO, has joined **Bath Community Hospital** and **Bath Community Physicians Group**. Dr. Ewen studied at the Virginia Military Institute and attended Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine.

**Dr. Tracy Downs**, MD, Chief Diversity and Community Engagement Officer for **UVA Health**; **Iris Lundy**, Vice President of Health Equity at **Sentara Health**; **Dave Marks**, Vice President of Human Resources and DEI for **Inova**; and **Toiya Sosa**, Chief Diversity Officer at **Riverside Health System**; have been named to the *Becker's Hospital Review* 2024 [list](#) of 111 hospital and health system chief diversity, equity, and inclusion officers to know.

**Karen Delorey**, RN, of **Centra Medical Group**, and **Sydney White**, RN, of **Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters**, have been named recipients of the "Virginians Speak Up for Safety Award" for the second quarter of 2024. Since 2017, the Speak Up Awards have been presented by the **VHHA Center for Healthcare Excellence** in recognition of individuals and teams within Virginia hospitals who speak up to prevent potential harm to patients or other staff members. Delorey was recognized for utilizing de-escalation skills and providing emotional support for a patient. White was recognized for actions taken to ensure compliance with organizational surgical site marking policy.

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