

# FYI Weekly

HEALTH CARE NEWS FOR VIRGINIA'S HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

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## 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:

### **Baxter IV Solution Update**

- VHHA continued to convene calls with hospital chief medical officers, chief nursing officers, and pharmacy leaders this week regarding the reduced shipment allocation of IV fluid solution and peritoneal dialysis solution due to flooding and rain damage caused by Hurricane Helene at the **Baxter International Inc.** facility in Marion, NC. During the calls, members discussed conservation strategies and other response measures being pursued at

this time. VHHA is working with member hospitals and state and federal partners in response to this evolving situation. Baxter has launched a [webpage](#) with information for clinical providers. Also, the **U.S. Food and Drug Administration** (FDA) recently issued [guidance for compounders](#) to help fill the gaps from the impact of Hurricane Helene on Baxter International's North Cove facility and the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC) has [shared](#) a Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory to inform health care providers about the supply disruption of peritoneal dialysis (PD) and intravenous (IV) solutions due to the Baxter situation and provide guidance on response strategies.

### Healthcare Safety & Security Forum Meets

- This week, VHHA held a virtual meeting of the **Healthcare Safety & Security Forum**, whose members include hospital safety and security leaders focused on sharing experiences, ideas, and best practices regarding current and future safety, security, violence prevention, and response activities in Virginia hospitals and health systems. Contact Abraham Segres at [asegres@vhha.com](mailto:asegres@vhha.com) with questions about the group. In related news, **Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin** recently issued a formal proclamation recognizing Healthcare Security and Safety Officer Week (Oct. 13-19). Read the proclamation [here](#).

### Patient and Family Experience Workshop

- An in-person **Patient and Family Experience and HCAHPS Workshop** was hosted by the **VHHA Center for Healthcare Excellence** this week. Topics covered include preparation for the 2025 HCAHPS, engaging clinicians in patient experience, and improving emergency department patient experience. The group is led by **Brenda Woodcock**, President of **Bon Secours Southside Medical Center** and **Bon Secours Southern Virginia Medical Center**; and **Jennifer Kreiser**, Chief Nursing Officer at **Sentara Norfolk General Hospital**.

### Payor Advisory Committee

- VHHA held a meeting of the **Payor Advisory Committee** this week. The Committee is a forum for hospital payor relations and revenue cycle leaders to discuss priority issues and ongoing payor-related challenges. Contact Craig Connors at [cconnors@vhha.com](mailto:cconnors@vhha.com) to inquire about the committee. In related news, a recent **Kaiser Family Foundation** (KFF) analysis found that the average annual premium for employer-sponsored family health coverage rose 7 percent in 2024 to \$25,572. Read the report [here](#).

### HosPAC 2024 Fundraising Campaign

- **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.

### VHHA in the News

- 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 [WSLS](#), the [Roanoke Star](#), [MSN](#), [NBC Washington](#), and [WJLA](#).

### Webinar Recording: Potential Election Implications for Health Care

- The **Virginia Healthcare Emergency Management Program (VHEMP)** – a partnership between the **Virginia Department of Health (VDH)**, VHHA, and the four regional healthcare coalitions – recently hosted a webinar focused on medical facility operational planning in the lead up to the 2024 election cycle and the role of medical intelligence in anticipating potential issues. Recent years have seen an increase in civil unrest events across the nation, which can unfortunately impact health care operations in several ways including the potential for mass casualty events. This year’s elections have the potential to spark protests or other conduct that could have public health implications. The webinar featured Scott Cormier, Vice President of Emergency Management and Safety with Medxcel. View a webinar recording [here](#) and presentation slides through this [link](#).

### Disaster Relief Donations for Hospitals

- Donations are now being accepted to support hospitals operated by VHHA members **Ballad Health** and **Lifepoint Health**, and staff members at those facilities, impacted by the heavy rain, winds, and flooding caused by Hurricane Helene in parts of Southwest Virginia, Western North Carolina, and Eastern Tennessee. Contributions to support recovery efforts can be made to the Ballad Health Team Member Emergency Fund that will benefit team members affected by the disaster, the Patient Assistance Fund to benefit patients who have financial needs, and the Disaster Relief Fund. Visit this [link](#) to make an online donation or text “disasterrelief” to 44834 to make a gift. Meanwhile, the Lifecare Fund serves to provide short-term, emergency support to Lifepoint Health employees or eligible dependents who are facing serious financial hardship as a result of certain unforeseen and unpreventable circumstances and who cannot afford housing, utilities, or basic living expenses. Donate to the fund through this [link](#). In addition to those resources, the **North Carolina Hospital Association (NCHA)** and the **Tennessee Hospital Association (THA)** are also accepting donations for disaster relief funds. NCHA contributions can be made [here](#). THA is accepting donations through Venmo: @THA\_Hospital\_Employee\_Relief.

## News Updates

### CMS Issues Final Rule on Medicare Outpatient Appeals Process

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** recently issued a [final rule](#) that establishes appeals processes for some Medicare beneficiaries who are initially admitted for care as hospital

inpatients but later reclassified as outpatients receiving observation services. The rule establishes retrospective and prospective appeal rights for Medicare beneficiaries seeking to appeal for coverage as inpatients.

### **Health Care Professionals Can Apply for Sorensen Institute Political Leaders Program by Nov. 12**

The **Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership** at the **University of Virginia** has opened the application period for the 2025 Political Leader Program; the application window will close on Nov. 12. The 2025 cohort program will run from March-December. Visit this [link](#) for more information and to access the program application. The previous class featured several VHHA-affiliated individuals – in 2020, VHHA [entered into a five-year partnership with Sorensen](#) to support its programming and help identify health care leaders who are strong candidates for the Political Leaders Program. Program participants are drawn from a diverse group of applicants from across the state, and will focus on Virginia politics and governing, policy issues and solutions, regional needs, ethical servant leadership, and efforts to unite the Commonwealth. This program is primarily focused on individuals who are 10-plus years removed from college. Prospective program applicants from VHHA hospitals or health systems are encouraged to contact VHHA President and CEO **Sean T. Connaughton** at [sconnaughton@vhha.com](mailto:sconnaughton@vhha.com) to discuss this opportunity and the ways in which VHHA can support applicants.

### **FDA Approves Treatment to Mitigate Bleeding Episodes in Hemophilia Patients**

The **U.S. Food and Drug Administration** (FDA) recently [approved](#) Hympavzi (marstacimab-hncq) for routine prophylaxis to prevent or reduce the frequency of bleeding episodes in adult and pediatric patients 12 and older with hemophilia A without factor VIII inhibitors or hemophilia B without factor IX inhibitors (neutralizing antibodies). Hemophilia A and hemophilia B are genetic bleeding disorders. Patients with these conditions are unable to clot properly and may bleed for a longer time than normal after injury or surgery. They may also have spontaneous bleeding in muscles, joints and organs, which can be life-threatening. These bleeding episodes are typically managed by episodic treatment or prophylaxis. Rather than replacing a clotting factor, Hympavzi is a new type of drug that works by reducing the amount of the naturally occurring anticoagulation protein to help increase the amount of thrombin, an enzyme critical in blood clotting, to reduce or prevent the frequency of bleeding episodes.

## **Events**

### **There's Still Time to Register for the 2024 VHHA Hospital and Healthcare Leaders Summit**

There's still time to register for the rapidly approaching **2024 Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Leaders Summit**, which is scheduled for Nov. 6-8 in Hot Springs, VA. The theme for this annual VHHA event is "Come Home to Healthcare." The Summit programming agenda is centered around topics of interest and opportunities for networking and engagement with fellow leaders and national experts. Former **U.S. Representative Harold Ford Jr.** of Tennessee is confirmed as a Summit keynote speaker. Summit participants are also eligible for continuing education credits. Visit this [link](#) to register and contact [events@vhha.com](mailto:events@vhha.com) for questions or registration assistance.

### **Register for Oct. 23 Public Health Webinar Briefing for Virginia Hospitals on Marburg Virus**

In collaboration with the **Virginia Department of Health (VDH)**, VHHA will host a public health webinar on Oct. 23 at noon to provide hospital and health systems teams with a briefing on the current Marburg virus outbreak in Rwanda. Webinar topics will include a travel monitoring program being implemented at Dulles International Airport, efforts and preparedness activities VDH is undertaking, and updates and information specific to hospitals. Register for the webinar [here](#). Registrants will receive a confirmation e-mail containing information about joining the webinar. The Marburg virus disease (MVD) is a rare but highly fatal viral hemorrhagic fever (VHF) caused by infection with one of two zoonotic viruses: Marburg virus or Ravn virus. Marburg virus and Ravn virus are in the virus family *Filoviridae*, which also includes Ebola viruses. The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** recently [issued](#) a Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory to inform clinicians about the Republic of Rwanda's first confirmed outbreak of MVD with 36 laboratory confirmed cases and 11 deaths reported as of Oct. 2, including at least 19 cases in health care workers. A person infected with the Marburg virus is not contagious before the appearance of symptoms, which may include fever, headache, muscle and joint pain, fatigue, loss of appetite, gastrointestinal symptoms, or unexplained bleeding. MVD is spread through direct contact with broken skin or mucous membranes with the body fluids of someone who is sick with MVD, or who recently died from their infection. It is not spread by airborne transmission. The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)** has issued a [fact sheet](#) on MVD and **Virginia State Health Commissioner Dr. Karen Shelton** recently shared an [update](#) in a letter to clinicians.

#### **Register for Oct. 25 Webinar on Health Care Workforce Market Update from Qualivis**

[Qualivis](#), a [VHHA Solutions](#) endorsed partner, will host a webinar on Oct. 25 at noon ET examining the state of the health care workforce market and how organizations can prepare for current labor challenges and supply and demand trends. The webinar content will also focus on clinical quality and engagement as well as resource deployment plans for the upcoming holiday season. View webinar details and register through this [link](#).

#### **Join Oct. 23 Webinar on 2025 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Presented by ChartSpan**

[VHHA Solutions](#) and its endorsed partner, [ChartSpan](#), are presenting a webinar on Oct. 23 at noon on the topic of "Medicare Physician Fee Schedule 2025: Essential Updates for Virginia Practices." The Medicare Physician Fee Schedule 2025 proposed rule brings major changes for practices: lower reimbursements, the removal of code G0511, and a brand-new program – Advanced Primary Care Management (APCM). APCM is available to all Medicare beneficiaries and could bring in new reimbursements for clinical practices. It also demands complex, in-depth care management. The webinar will cover the details of these proposed rule changes, how APCM will function in 2025, and provide a forum for participant questions. Read more about the webinar and register [here](#).

#### **VDH to Host Oct. 23 Webinar Highlighting Office of Licensure and Certification Updates**

The **Virginia Department of Health (VDH)**, in collaboration with the **VHHA Center for Healthcare Excellence**, is hosting a webinar at 10:30 a.m. on Oct. 23 to provide updates from the VDH Office of Licensure and Certification. That office administers state licensing programs for hospitals, outpatient surgical hospitals, nursing facilities, home care organizations, and hospice programs. It also conducts inspections to ensure compliance with state requirements, investigates consumer complaints and evaluates compliance with state requirements. During the webinar, VDH staff will review insights gained from their inspection and survey activity in Virginia hospitals and health systems and discuss recent improvement initiatives have been undertaken to make the licensing and survey process more

efficient for health care facilities. Webinar participants may earn up to 1.0 ACHE Qualified Education Hours toward initial certification or recertification of the Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE) designation. Register for the free webinar [here](#).

## Podcast

### VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features Sentara Health Nurse Informatics Leader

The latest episode of VHHA's *Patients Come First* podcast features **Amy Rosa**, DNP, Vice President and Chief Nursing Informatics Officer for **Sentara Health**, for a conversation about her work and professional journey, and some insight about how smartphone technology is being leveraged in Sentara hospitals to enhance patient care. 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).



## Around the State

The **Bon Secours Mercy Health Foundation** has named **Carrie Miller** president of the **Bon Secours Hampton Roads Foundation**. Miller previously worked as a senior gift officer for organizational giving at the regional foundation. She has a bachelor's degree in health science from Clemson University and a master's degree in public health from the University of Virginia. Read more [here](#).



**Greg Madsen**, Vice President and CEO of **Carilion Rockbridge Community Hospital**, and **Kristie Williams**, Vice President and CEO of **Carilion Giles Community Hospital**, have been named to the *Becker's Hospital Review* 2024 90 critical access hospital CEOs to know [list](#).