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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:

VHHA Convenes Clinical, Pharmacy Leaders for Baxter IV Solution Updates

- This week, VHHA hosted the latest in an ongoing series of conference calls with hospital clinical, pharmacy, and supply chain leaders regarding the ongoing shortage of IV solution products due to storm damage from Hurricane Helene at the **Baxter International Inc.** Marion, NC facility where manufacturing operations have been impaired. Flooding and rain damage from the late September storm interrupted operations at the plant that is a major

U.S. manufacturer of IV solutions and fluids – the facility reportedly produced 1.5 million units of IV solution daily pre-storm, accounting for approximately 60 percent of the domestic United States production. Due to storm damage that stalled product manufacturing, Baxter previously announced reduced allocations of IV solution supplies to customers. More recently, the company stated that “barring any unanticipated developments, it expects to reach 100% allocation across several IV product codes by the end of the year,” noting that there are plans for phased allocation increases in late November and mid-December. In the past week, [Baxter restarted one manufacturing line and announced plans to restore a second line](#). Together, those two lines represent about 50 percent of the total production capacity at the facility and about 85 percent of the production of one-liter IV solutions that are most commonly used by hospitals and clinics. Baxter also indicates that the firm expects that “peritoneal dialysis (PD) solutions and irrigation will be the next manufacturing lines to restart by early December,” adding that while it expects “all lines will be restarted by the end of the year” there is not yet “a timeline for when we expect North Cove production to be fully restored to pre-hurricane levels.” In the meantime, VHHA continues to work with member hospitals and health systems as well as government partners to share updates and provide data-informed insights about the impact of the ongoing supply shortages. In related developments, The **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** previously [authorized an extension of the expiration date of certain Baxter International Inc. IV solution products](#) and domestic-bound supply shipments from overseas Baxter production plants have been authorized. The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)** is also [sharing situational updates](#) and previously hosted a webinar about conservation strategies, a recording of which can be viewed through this [link](#). **Virginia State Health Commissioner Dr. Karen Shelton** has also shared updates in a [letter](#) to health care providers regarding the evolving situation.

VHHA Co-Hosts Webinar on Provisional License Pathway for International Physicians

- This week, VHHA co-hosted a webinar on Virginia’s new Provisional License Pathway for International Physicians. In response to health care staffing shortages, the **Virginia General Assembly** and **Governor Glenn Youngkin** enacted a new law ([House Bill 995](#)) to create a pathway for international physicians who immigrated to Virginia, including those whose careers were interrupted by forcible displacement, to fill workforce gaps in medically underserved communities. This webinar provided an overview of the new law and how organizations can apply its provisions to address workforce vacancies and meet patient needs. View a webinar recording [here](#).

VHHA Hosts Caring for Caregivers Learning Community Session

- This week, VHHA and the **Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes’ Foundation** hosted a Caring for Caregivers learning community session for participating members that featured a progress case study from **Augusta Health**, among other presentations and discussion topics.

VHHA Shares Video Recap and Photo Gallery from 2024 Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Leaders Summit

- Last week, hundreds of hospital leaders and stakeholders gathered at The Omni Homestead Resort in Hot Springs, VA for the **2024 Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Leaders Summit**.

VHHA has produced a [video recap](#) of the event and a [photo gallery](#) to showcase some sights, sounds, and images from the event. See more about the Summit, program highlights, and award recipients [here](#).

VHHA Hosts Webinar with VDH on Hospital Licensure

- The **VHHA Center for Healthcare Excellence** recently hosted a webinar to provide updates from the **Virginia Department of Health (VDH)** Office of Licensure and Certification. The 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 and investigates consumer complaints. During the webinar, VDH staff shared insights gained from their inspection and survey activity in Virginia hospitals and health systems and discussed recent improvement initiatives that have been undertaken to make the licensing and survey process more efficient for health care facilities. View a webinar recording [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 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 the [Virginian Review](#), [The Recorder](#), the [Winchester Star](#), and [Chief Healthcare Executive](#).

News Updates

CDC Report on Infections in Hospitals Shows General Decrease

The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** recently issued the *2023 National and State Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Progress Report* which provides a summary of select HAIs across four health care settings: acute care hospitals (ACH), critical access hospitals (CAH), inpatient rehabilitation facilities (IRF) and long-term acute care hospitals (LTACH). Report highlights include findings indicating that central line-associated bloodstream infection (CLABSI), catheter-associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI), ventilator-associated event (VAE), methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), and *C. difficile* (CDI) declined in 2023 compared to 2022 among acute care hospitals

while there was a 3 percent increase in surgical site infection (SSI) combined surgical care improvement project (SCIP) procedures from 2022 to 2023. Read more [here](#).

CDC Data indicates STI Rates Declining Following Years of Increases

Data from the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC) indicates that while the number of U.S. sexually transmitted infections (STI) remains high with more than 2.4 million reported in 2023, there are signs the epidemic may be slowing as gonorrhea cases declined for a second year and overall syphilis cases increased just 1 percent following years of double-digit increases. Read more [here](#).

CMS Shares 2025 Medicare Premium and Deductible Figures

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) recently [announced](#) that the Medicare Part A 2025 deductible for inpatient hospital services will increase by \$44 to \$1,676 and that daily coinsurance will be \$419 for days 61-90 of hospitalization in a benefit period, \$838 for lifetime reserve days, and \$209.50 for days 21-100 of extended care services in a skilled nursing facility in a benefit period. The monthly Part A premium, paid by enrollees who are not otherwise eligible for Part A benefits and certain people with disabilities, [will increase to \\$518](#). The agency also [announced](#) Part B rates and amounts for 2025. A summary fact sheet is accessible [here](#).

ChartSpan Shares Guide on CMS Proposed Advanced Primary Care Management Program

[ChartSpan](#), a [VHHA Solutions](#) endorsed partner, has released an educational guide covering the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) proposed new program, Advanced Primary Care Management (APCM). For more information about who is eligible for the program, its key requirements, and the benefits of APCM for providers and Medicare patients, download the guide [here](#).

View Recording of CMS Webinar on Hospital Price Transparency Requirements for Jan. 1

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) recently hosted a webinar on hospital price transparency requirements including how to encode the data elements required by Jan. 1, 2025, tips for ensuring that hospital machine-readable files conform to the form and manner requirements that took effect July 1, 2024, and tips to support hospitals in meeting the accessibility requirements. Enter the passcode WRj6S.a* to view the webinar recording through this [link](#).

Enrollment Periods for ACA Marketplace, Medicare Now Active

Adults and seniors seeking health care coverage for 2025 now have the option to shop for insurance plans and Medicare. The open enrollment period for people to shop for 2025 health insurance plans through the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) [Health Insurance Marketplace](#) began Nov. 1 and continues through Jan. 15, 2025. Consumers who select a plan by midnight Dec. 15 (5 a.m. EST on Dec. 16) can get full-year coverage starting Jan. 1, 2025. Those who select a plan after Dec. 15, 2024, but before the deadline, will have coverage that starts Feb. 1, 2025. The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) have an [open enrollment fact sheet](#) with more information. People can also shop for coverage through [Virginia's Insurance Marketplace](#). Meanwhile, the annual [open enrollment period for Medicare](#) began Oct. 15 and continues through Dec. 7. Medicare-eligible individuals have the ability to check their enrollment status and choose or change plans (such as switching from Medicare Advantage and prescription drug plans to original Medicare) during the open enrollment period. In September, the

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) [indicated](#) that “average premiums, benefits, and plan choices for Medicare Advantage and the Medicare Part D prescription drug program are expected to remain stable in 2025.”

Events

AHA to Host Nov. 18 Webinar on What Election Results Mean for Hospitals, Health Care

The **American Hospital Association (AHA)** will host a Nov. 18 webinar at 3 p.m. ET to provide analysis on the recent elections for Congress and the White House and what the results mean for health care going forward. The webinar is open to AHA members. Hospital and health systems leaders will have the opportunity to submit questions. Register for the webinar [here](#).

ASPR to Host Nov. 19 Webinar on IV Fluid Shortage

As hospitals and health care providers contend with IV fluid shortages, the **Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR)** within the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)** has scheduled a virtual session for Nov. 19 at noon ET discuss the shortage, best practices and response strategies, and lessons learned that can be applied to future shortages. Register to participate through this [link](#).

Podcast

VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features UVA Health Nurse Leader on Vascular Screenings

The latest episode of VHHA’s *Patients Come First* podcast features **Bernie Ammons**, a nurse and the Clinical Program Coordinator for Vascular Surgery at **UVA Health**, for a conversation about her work, the importance of heart and vascular screenings, 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.



Around the State

Dr. Marlon Levy, MD, MBA, FACS, has been [appointed](#) Senior Vice President for **VCU Health Sciences** and Chief Executive Officer of **VCU Health System**. Dr. Levy joined VCU in 2015. He had been serving as Interim CEO since November 2022. Dr. Levy earned his medical degree from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, completed general surgery residency at the Medical College of Wisconsin and multiorgan transplant surgery fellowship at Baylor Scott & White. He is board-certified in general surgery – previously with added qualifications in surgical critical care – and is an elected member of the American Surgical Association. Dr. Levy also earned a Master of Business Administration degree from Brandeis University. His appointment is effective immediately.

