

# 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 **Executive Committee** of the **VHHA Board of Directors** met this week for a discussion of issues of interest and importance to hospitals and health systems.
- The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) has extended the application submission deadline for the ACO Primary Care Flex Model (ACO PC Flex Model) through Aug. 23 to provide applicants with more time to make submissions. The ACO Primary Care Flex Model (ACO PC Flex Model) is a voluntary model that will focus on primary care delivery in the Medicare Shared Savings Program. It will test how prospective payments and increased funding for primary care in accountable care organizations (ACO) impact health outcomes, quality, and costs of care. The flexible payment design will empower participating ACOs and their primary care providers to use more innovative, team-based, person-centered and proactive approaches to care. The model, which starts January 1, 2025, aims to grow participation in ACOs and the Shared Savings Program and increase the number of people with Medicare in an accountable care relationship. Read more [here](#).
- VHHA recently 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](#).
- The **Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency** (CISA) and the **Federal Bureau of Investigation** (FBI) recently issued guidance on secure by design software products, which are made by software developers with a focus on security throughout the product

development lifecycle. The guidance provides questions and resources that may be useful to organizations purchasing software to help them better understand a software manufacturer's approach to cybersecurity and ensure that the manufacturer makes secure by design a core consideration. These considerations are important at a time when cyber threats and attacks targeting key sectors and industries, including health care, are a growing concern. Read more [here](#).

- 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.
- [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.
- **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 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 [WDBJ](#), [Virginia Business](#), and the [Augusta Free Press](#).

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## 2. Registration Open for 2024 VHHA Hospital and Healthcare Leaders Summit in November

Registration is now open for the **2024 Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Leaders Summit**, scheduled for Nov. 6-8 at The Omni Homestead Resort 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. Summit

participants are also eligible for continuing education credits. Discounted early bird registrations rates are available until Sept. 6. Visit this [link](#) to register and contact [events@vhha.com](mailto:events@vhha.com) for questions or registration assistance.

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### 3. Nominations Being Accepted for 2024 VHHA Outstanding Service Awards

VHHA is pleased to announce that nominations for the **2024 VHHA Outstanding Service Awards** are now being accepted. The awards recognize individuals who have made a real difference to Virginia's hospitals and health systems, and to health care in general, through selfless, energetic, and passionate service. Awards are presented in the following categories: the Distinguished Service Award, the Meritorious Service Award, and the Excellence in Governance Award. Each award recognizes those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to contribute to Virginia's hospitals and health systems.

- The **Distinguished Service Award** is given to past or present chief executive officers of member institutions who have long records of performing outstanding, valuable, and unique services to the hospital and health system community.
- The **Meritorious Service Award** honors people other than chief executive officers affiliated with member institutions who have a history of making significant contributions to the health care field – on both a state and local level through commitment to service and leadership. Nominees must be recognized as leaders in health care management and policy issues and be involved in health care from the perspective of management or providing support for delivering health care services.
- The **Excellence in Governance Award** honors people from member hospital or health system governing bodies who have a history of making significant contributions to the health care field – on both a state and local level – through commitment to service and leadership. Nominees must be or have been involved in health care from the governance perspective.

The deadline to submit nomination materials is Sept. 13. The nomination form with submission instructions can be accessed through this [link](#). Read more about VHHA awards and see lists of past recipients [here](#).

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### 4. Register for Upcoming Sept. 4 Public Health Webinar with VDH Officials

The next webinar in the quarterly public health webinar series for Virginia hospitals and health systems is scheduled for Sept. 4 at noon. The webinar series is hosted by VHHA in collaboration with **Virginia Department of Health (VDH)** officials who provide updates on key topics including disease surveillance, modeling, influenza, RSV, and unique pathogens, among others. Register for the free webinar [here](#). Registrants will receive a confirmation e-mail containing information about participating in the webinar.

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### 5. FDA Approves Epinephrine Nasal Spray to Treat Serious Allergic Reactions

The **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** recently approved an epinephrine nasal spray for the emergency treatment of allergic reactions (Type I), including those that are life-threatening (anaphylaxis) in certain adult and pediatric patients. Allergic reactions occur when a person's immune system reacts abnormally to a substance that normally does not cause symptoms. Anaphylaxis is a

severe, life-threatening allergic reaction that typically involves multiple parts of the body and is considered a medical emergency. Common allergens that can induce anaphylaxis include certain foods, medications, and insect stings. Symptoms usually occur within minutes of exposure and include, but are not limited to, hives, swelling, itching, vomiting, difficulty breathing, and loss of consciousness. Epinephrine is the only life-saving treatment for anaphylaxis and has previously only been available for patients as an injection. Read more [here](#).

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## 6. VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features Chesapeake Regional Healthcare Lactation Consultant

The latest episode of VHHA's *Patients Come First* podcast features a conversation with **Jessica Williams**, a nurse and lactation consultant on the mother-baby unit at **Chesapeake Regional Healthcare**, about her work, the hospital's recent recognition for excellence in lactation care, 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. Register for Aug. 22 Webinar on Effective Communication Regarding Americans with Disabilities Act

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](#).

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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. Aug 16 is Deadline for Virginia Hospital Staff to Complete 2024 VHHA Member Feedback Survey

Today (Friday, 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. Laura Tosi**, MD, Director of the Bone Health Program at **Children's National Hospital**, is one of four inductees nominated into the **Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America (POSNA)** Hall of Fame, which honors members who have displayed dedication to teaching and mentoring, studying musculoskeletal conditions in children and caring for children with musculoskeletal conditions. Read more [here](#).

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