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FEATURED CONTENT

[VHHA in Action](#)

[News Updates](#)

- [ChartSpan Shares Guide on CMS Proposed Advanced Primary Care Management Program](#)
- [View Recording of CMS Webinar on Hospital Price Transparency Requirements for Jan. 1](#)
- [Health Care Professionals Can Apply for Sorensen Institute Political Leaders Program by Nov. 12](#)
- [CDC Recommends Second Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine for Older, Immunocompromised Individuals](#)
- [ACA Marketplace Open Enrollment Period Begins Nov. 1](#)
- [Medicare Open Enrollment Period Now Active](#)

[Events](#)

- [There's Still Time to Register for the 2024 VHHA Hospital and Healthcare Leaders Summit](#)
- [American Diabetes Association to Host "The State of Diabetes" Event Nov. 14 in Richmond](#)
- [VDH to Host Nov. 12 Webinar on Frontline Health Care Preparation for Marburg Virus Disease](#)

[Podcast](#)

- [VHHA Patients Come First Podcast Features Riverside Memory Café, Geriatric Cognitive Services](#)

[Around the State](#)

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 Staff Participate in Governor's Summit on Rural Prosperity in Wytheville

- This week, VHHA staff attended [The Governor's Summit on Rural Prosperity](#) held in Wytheville and participated on a panel discussion focused on the topic of "Innovation in Rural Healthcare" that also featured representatives from these VHHA member organizations: **Ballad Health**,

Carilion Clinic, and Wythe County Community Hospital (Lifepoint Health). View the full program agenda [here](#) and see event photos through this [link](#).

FDA Approves Extended Use of Some Baxter IV Products Amid Shortage

- The **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** has [authorized an extension of the expiration date of certain Baxter International Inc. IV solution products](#) amid the ongoing shortage that is a result of storm damage to the company's Marion, NC facility, which has interrupted manufacturing operations. During this time, VHHA is convening calls with hospital chief medical officers, chief nursing officers, and pharmacy leaders regarding the reduced shipment allocation of IV fluid solution and peritoneal dialysis solution. VHHA is also working with member hospitals and state and federal partners in response to this evolving situation. Domestic-bound supply shipments from overseas Baxter production plants have been authorized. Baxter, which has been updating a [webpage](#) with information for clinical providers, recently [announced](#) that "barring any unanticipated developments" the firm "anticipates restarting the highest-throughput IV solutions manufacturing lines within the next week." The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)** is also [sharing situational updates](#) and recently hosted a webinar about conservation strategies, a recording of which can be viewed through this [link](#). This week, **Virginia State Health Commissioner Dr. Karen Shelton** also distributed an updated [letter](#) to health care providers regarding the evolving situation.

View VHHA 2024 Election Overview Webinar

- The **VHHA Government Relations Team** recently hosted a webinar featuring representatives from the **K&L Gates LLP** law firm offering insights about the ways in which the outcome of the 2024 elections could impact health care delivery and policy. View a webinar recording [here](#).

Virginia Health Commissioner Shares Clinician Letter on Mpox, Syphilis

- In a recent [letter](#) to health care providers, **Virginia State Health Commissioner Dr. Karen Shelton** offers updated information and guidance for clinicians about the Mpox outbreaks in Central and Eastern Africa and the rise of congenital syphilis cases in Virginia.

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, investigates consumer complaints, and evaluates compliance with state requirements. 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 [Augusta Free Press](#).

News Updates

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. 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](#).

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** is accepting applications for the 2025 Political Leader Program until 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 to discuss this opportunity and the ways in which VHHA can support applicants.

CDC Recommends Second Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine for Older, Immunocompromised Individuals

The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC) recently [endorsed](#) a recommendation by the CDC **Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices** (ACIP) that people 65 and older and those who are immunocompromised should receive a second dose of 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine six months after a first dose.

ACA Marketplace Open Enrollment Period Begins Nov. 1

The open enrollment period for people to shop for 2025 health insurance plans through the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) [Health Insurance Marketplace](#) begins today (Friday, 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](#).

Medicare Open Enrollment Period Now Active

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." In related news, 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.

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 for questions or registration assistance.

American Diabetes Association to Host "The State of Diabetes" Event Nov. 14 in Richmond

The **American Diabetes Association** is hosting “The State of Diabetes” event on Nov. 14 from 8-10:30 a.m. at the Bon Secours Training Center in Richmond. This annual event brings together employers, industry leaders, health care providers, payers, and community experts to engage in critical conversations about diabetes. The session will feature networking opportunities as well as a panel discussion on the current landscape of diabetes and its financial impact on employers and employees. Learn more and register [here](#).

VDH to Host Nov. 12 Webinar on Frontline Health Care Preparation for Marburg Virus Disease

The **Virginia Department of Health (VDH)** is hosting a free webinar Nov. 12 at noon whose topic is the “Marburg Virus Disease: Preparation for Frontline Facilities.” The webinar content will offer an update on Marburg virus disease (MVD) prevention efforts in the United States and Virginia, set expectations for level four (frontline) health care facilities caring for patients with suspected MVD, review infection prevention and control recommendations for managing a patient with suspected MVD, and provide resources and tools to aid in facility preparedness and situational awareness. The target audience includes frontline health care facility leaders such as infection preventionists, emergency department leadership, and facility administrators. Register for the webinar [here](#). In related news, VDH and VHHA recently collaborated on a public health webinar about the current Marburg virus outbreak in Rwanda. 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. View that webinar recording [here](#) and access presentation slides through this [link](#). 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.

Podcast

VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features Riverside Memory Café, Geriatric Cognitive Services

The latest episode of VHHA’s *Patients Come First* podcast features **Denise Butler**, a Geriatric Assessment Coordinator with **Riverside Health**, for a conversation about working with people experiencing cognitive challenges as they age, an innovative Memory Café she helped pioneer, 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

Michelle Riley-Brown, MHA, FACHE, President and Chief Executive Officer of **Children's National Hospital**, and **Dr. J. Stephen Jones**, MD, FACS, President and CEO of **Inova**, have been named to the *Washington Business Journal* Power 100 of 2024 [list](#).



Dr. Paula Ferrada, MD, FACS, FCCM, MAMSE, System and Division Chief of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery at **Inova**, has been named to the [Most Visionary Women Leaders to Watch in 2024](#) list by The CIO Today magazine.