

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:

VHHA Hosts Nursing Leaders Legislative Forum

- This week, VHHA hosted the **Nursing Leaders Legislative Forum** in collaboration with the **Virginia Nurses Association** and the **Virginia Organization for Nurse Leaders**. The Forum

brought together nursing leaders from across the state for collaborative discussions on pressing legislative issues and best practices to amplify the collective nurse voice in Virginia.

VHHA, VDH Host Public Health Webinar for Virginia Hospital Teams

- This week, VHHA hosted a webinar briefing for hospital and health system team members featuring updates from the **Virginia Department of Health (VDH)** on public health topics of interest. Topics covered in the ongoing webinar series may include disease surveillance, modeling, influenza, and unique pathogens, among others. View a webinar recording [here](#) and access presentation slides through this [link](#).

VHHA Hosts VHHAC Meeting, 10th Annual Allied Health Care Summit

- This week, VHHA hosted an in-person meeting of the **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Advocacy Committee**, whose members include government relations representatives of Virginia hospitals and health systems, for a discussion of policy issues ahead of the 2025 **Virginia General Assembly** session. VHHA also hosted the **10th Annual Allied Health Care Summit** at VHHA offices in Glen Allen, VA. The Summit brought together health care leaders and advocates for a conversation about priorities for the upcoming 2025 Virginia General Assembly session. **Virginia State Senator Ghazala Hashmi** was a guest speaker during the event.

VHHA Shares 2024 Holiday Video Card

- The holiday season is a time to be thankful for our blessings. Here at VHHA, we are grateful for the dedicated caregivers and health care professionals who work in hospitals across Virginia to help keep people healthy. To mark the season, VHHA is sharing its 2024 video holiday card that features Association staff offering holiday greetings. In the video message, VHHA staff wishes everyone a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season and a prosperous New Year. View the 2024 video holiday card [here](#).

VHHA Monitors State Board of Health Meeting

This week, VHHA staff attended a meeting of the **Virginia State Board of Health**, whose [agenda](#) included regulatory action updates and a presentation about legislative affairs ahead of the upcoming 2025 **Virginia General Assembly** session.

VHHA Foundation Website Updated with New Features, Content

- A redesign of the **VHHA Foundation** website has recently been completed. The revamped site features updated information about programmatic offerings, an events calendar, and much more. VHHA Foundation is the non-profit educational affiliate of VHHA. The Foundation hosts many of VHHA's conferences and educational programming and provides grant funding to support a variety of hospital-based programs and initiatives. Visit the site to learn more [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.

News Updates

Baxter Provides IV Solution Shortage Update

Baxter International Inc. recently confirmed upward revised product allocation levels for customers impacted by the ongoing shortage of IV solution products due to storm damage from Hurricane Helene at the firm's 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. In November, the company indicated that it expected to reach 100 percent across several IV product codes by the end of the year. Baxter has indicated that it plans phased increases in allocations again in mid-December and at year-end. The company said the ability to adjust allocation level is based on “the current and projected status of our North Cove remediation efforts...expectations regarding our ability to reallocate capacity from other Baxter facilities, and temporary importation of certain products.” VHHA continues to work with member hospitals and other stakeholders throughout this time in response to challenges posed by supply shortages. In related news, the **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH)** recently added empty intravenous (IV) containers (product code KPE) to the [Medical Device Shortages List](#), noting the shortage is expected to last through March of 2025. Read more from Baxter [here](#).

FDA Approves Medication for Cardiomyopathy

The **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** recently approved Attruby (acoramidis) to treat adults with cardiomyopathy to reduce death and hospitalization related to heart problems. Transthyretin amyloid cardiomyopathy (ATTR-CM) is a rare, serious disorder affecting the heart muscle. People with the condition experience a build-up of protein deposits in the heart that cause the walls of the heart to become stiff, resulting in the left ventricle being unable to properly relax and fill with blood. As the condition progresses, the heart can become unable to pump blood out adequately, causing heart failure. Read more [here](#).

CDC Issues Warnings on Listeria, Salmonella Outbreaks

The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** recently issued food safety alerts regarding multistate outbreaks of *Listeria* and *Salmonella* infections. Eleven people infected with the outbreak strain *Listeria* have been reported from four states related to consumption of Yu-Shang Food ready-to-eat meat and poultry products. Of the eleven people infected, nine people have been hospitalized. One

person, an infant, has died in California. The affected products have been recalled. Read more [here](#). The *Salmonella* outbreak has been traced to cucumbers grown by Agrotato, S.A. de C.V. in Sonora, Mexico, including recalled cucumbers from SunFed Produce, LLC, that may be contaminated with *Salmonella* and may be making people sick. Sixty-eight people have been infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* that has been reported from 19 states. Eighteen people have been hospitalized. Read more [here](#).

DHP: State Law Requires Surgical Technologists to be Certified by Board of Medicine

The **Virginia Department of Health Professions (DHP)** is reminding hospitals and health systems, clinics, ambulatory surgical centers, and other satellite facilities that a [state law approved in 2021](#) requires surgical technologists to be certified by the state **Board of Medicine**. Since the 2021 law took effect, the Board of Medicine has determined that it will accept the credential for surgical technologist/surgical technician from the **National Center for Competency Testing** and from **American Allied Health**.

Events

Register for Dec. 9 Price Transparency Webinar with HFMA, AHA, CMS

In an upcoming webinar, representatives from the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)**, the **Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA)**, and the **American Hospital Association (AHA)** will share insights on forthcoming changes to federal hospital price transparency standards set to take effect Jan. 1, 2025 and related compliance considerations. The free webinar is scheduled for Dec. 9. Register [here](#).

Register for Dec. 17 ‘Hope in the ED’ Opioid Treatment Program Webinar Featuring Carilion Clinic

Psychiatric and clinical leaders from **Carilion Clinic** will share insights on the success of the Emergency Department Bridge to Treatment program for opioid use disorder patients during a free Dec. 17 webinar. Launched in 2019, the Carilion [program model](#) is focused on patients who present in the emergency department with a non-fatal overdose, acute withdrawal symptoms, or those who are requesting treatment. Patients are rapidly connected with follow-up care appropriate to their needs to establish a “bridge” from acute care to post-discharge evaluation and subsequent treatment with the help of Peer Recovery Specialists. Combined with anti-stigma efforts, a review of the bridge program results showed a significant increase in patients accessing outpatient treatment for substance use disorder. Webinar participants may be eligible for continuing education credits. Register for the webinar, scheduled for Dec. 17 at noon, through this [link](#).

Save the Date for the 2025 Virginia Patient Safety Summit

The 14th annual **Virginia Patient Safety Summit** presented by the **VHHA Center for Healthcare Excellence** and the **VHHA Foundation** is scheduled for Feb. 27, 2025 (9:30 a.m.-3:45 p.m.) as a virtual event. The theme for the upcoming Summit is “Improvement Unleashed: Strategies for Sustainable Change.” The event will be an opportunity to highlight strategies for supporting and sustaining improvements in health care quality and safety, including the use of robust process improvement methodologies. The event is being hosted in collaboration with the **Virginia Nurses Foundation**, the

Medical Society of Virginia, the Virginia Pharmacists Association, and the Virginia Society of Health-System Pharmacists. Event registration is scheduled to open Dec. 16.

Register for Dec. 18 Webinar on Winter Weather Preparedness Activities

The **Virginia Healthcare Emergency Management Program (VHEMP)** will host winter weather preparedness activities on Dec. 18, including a 9 a.m. communications test through the **Virginia Healthcare Alerting & Status System (VHASS)** – additional test details will be provided by Regional Healthcare Coalitions – and a webinar at noon featuring a **National Weather Service (NWS)** briefing on the 2024-2025 Winter Weather Outlook. Register for the webinar [here](#).

Podcast

VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features UVA Health Physician, Professor on Refugee Medicine

The latest episode of VHHA's *Patients Come First* podcast features **Dr. Fern Hauck**, Professor of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences at the **UVA School of Medicine** and Director of the International Family Medicine Clinic at **UVA Health**, for a conversation about her career, her recent recognition for her work with refugee families, 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



Shally Pannikode has been named to the **Sentara Health Board of Directors**. She brings 25 years of experience as a health care technology executive to Sentara, having served previously in roles with Anthem, Wellstar Health System, and Liberty Mutual. She is also co-founder and chairwoman of the **Freedom Council for the Alliance for Freedom Restoration and Justice**, a global non-profit working to end human trafficking, which has been recognized by the **U.S. Department of Justice**. Read more [here](#).

The CIVIC Leadership Institute presented the 2024 Corporate Darden Award to **Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters**. The award recognizes leadership in improving the quality of life in Hampton Roads. Read more [here](#).