

# FYI Weekly

HEALTH CARE NEWS FOR VIRGINIA'S HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

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## FEATURED CONTENT

### [VHHA in Action](#)

### [News Updates](#)

- [CDC Monitoring Measles Outbreak Across Several States](#)
- [Virginia Infection Prevention Training Center Shares Free On-Demand Courses](#)
- [Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation Recognizes Hospitals, Licensure Boards as 'Wellbeing Champions'](#)
- [White House Issues Executive Order on Price Transparency for Hospitals, Payors](#)
- [VDH Seeks Survey Responses to Improve Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Awareness](#)

### [Events](#)

- [Register for VHHA Emergency Preparedness Summit on April 16](#)
- [VDH, VCU Health, MAATEC to Host March 18 Webinar on Congenital Syphilis Trends](#)
- [ChartSpan to Host March 19 Webinar on the End of Billing Code G0511](#)
- [VCCRN, VHHA to Host Biotech Networking Event March 27 in Richmond](#)
- [VACEP to Host March 14 Webinar on 'Navigating ECOs and TDOs in Virginia'](#)

### [Podcast](#)

- [VHHA Patients Come First Podcast Features VCU Health Nurse, Dementia Clinical Researcher](#)

### [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, Hospital Leaders Make Congressional Visits in Washington, D.C.**

- VHHA staff and representatives from several member health systems – **Carilion Clinic, Centra Health, Inova, Riverside Health System, UVA Health, and Valley Health** – gathered on Capitol

Hill this week to meet with members of Congress to advocate for protecting access to essential health care services. These visits, which are part of VHHA's year-round efforts to represent the interests of hospitals and the health systems, were conducted at a time when federal officials are considering significant health care policy changes. View photos from the trip [here](#).

### **VHHA Staff Travel to Florida to Attend NRCC Winter Meeting to Advocate for Hospitals**

- VHHA President and CEO **Sean T. Connaughton** and Vice President of Government Affairs **Julie Dime** recently traveled to Miami, FL for the [winter meeting](#) of the [National Republican Congressional Committee](#) (NRCC). The VHHA team participated in the NRCC gathering to advocate for the interests of hospitals and health systems at a time when the **White House** and **Congress** are contemplating the prospect of significant changes to health policy and funding.

### **View Recordings of Health Care Careers Webinars Hosted by On Board Virginia, Community Colleges**

- **VHHA, Virginia's Community Colleges**, and [On Board Virginia](#) recently collaborated on a three-part webinar series for educators, students, and parents about health care careers and the skills and education they require. Webinars in the series focus on exploring high-demand health care roles and the education necessary to work in those professions. The first two webinars in the series focus on exploring high-demand health care roles and the education necessary to work in those professions. View those webinar recordings [here](#) and [here](#). The final webinar in the series was held recently and its focus was on hospital roles for aspiring nurses. View a recording of that webinar [here](#).

### **View Recording of Recent Webinars in EMS Drug Kit Transition Series**

- The latest webinar in a series focused on the upcoming drug kit transition affecting Virginia's EMS agencies in 2025 was held recently – its focus was on hazardous medication waste and disposal; a recording can be viewed [here](#) and presentation slides are available through this [link](#). The webinar series is hosted by the **Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS)** in collaboration with the **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA)** and the **Virginia Society of Health-System Pharmacists (VSHP)**. A previous installment from the webinar series held in February included the **U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)** on use of the CSOS and Form 222, the **Virginia Board of Pharmacy** on EMS Audits, and the **Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services** on the decision by agencies on whether to carry medications. View a webinar recording [here](#) and presentation slides through this [link](#).

### **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 work is reflected in recent coverage from [Axios](#) and [Blue Virginia](#).

## **News Updates**

### **CDC Monitoring Measles Outbreak Across Several States**

The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC) is monitoring [an outbreak of measles cases](#), which number 164 across nine jurisdictions – Alaska, California, Georgia, Kentucky, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York City, Rhode Island, and Texas – according to a recent count. Texas recently [reported](#) a child death that has been attributed to measles. The CDC reports there three outbreaks (defined as three or more related cases) reported in 2025, and 93 percent of cases (153 of 164) are outbreak-associated. For comparison, 16 outbreaks were reported during 2024, and 69 percent of cases (198 of 285) were outbreak-associated. In addition to U.S. outbreaks, the [CDC notes](#) global outbreaks are also occurring.

### **Virginia Infection Prevention Training Center Shares Free On-Demand Courses**

The **Virginia Infection Prevention Training Center** (VIPTC) has released its latest round of free on-demand courses. The newest mini-course features five modules on infection prevention and control for dialysis settings and an additional bonus course focused on antibiotic stewardship in hemodialysis facilities. VIPTC courses specifically designed for long-term care settings include four modules: Infection Prevention and Control Strategies in Long-Term Care Parts 1 & 2, Isolation and Enhanced Barrier Precautions in Long-Term Care, and Antimicrobial Stewardship for Long-Term Care Settings. Visit this [link](#) to access courses.

### **Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation Recognizes Hospitals, Licensure Boards as 'Wellbeing Champions'**

Wellbeing First for Healthcare, a national coalition led by the [Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation](#), recently shared that as part of the coalition's [Wellbeing First Champion Challenge](#) program, which is focused on promoting better support for health workers' mental health and wellbeing, that 43 licensure boards and 521 hospitals have verified their licensing or credentialing applications are free from intrusive mental health questions and stigmatizing language. That includes the **Virginia Board of Medicine** and the 62 Virginia hospitals. Read more [here](#).

### **White House Issues Executive Order on Price Transparency for Hospitals, Payors**

**U.S. President Donald J. Trump** recently issued an [executive order](#) that directs the **Secretary of the Treasury**, the **Secretary of Labor**, and the **Secretary of Health and Human Services** to “take all necessary and appropriate action to rapidly implement and enforce the health care price transparency regulations issued pursuant to Executive Order 13877.” The initial executive order from June 2019 applies to the issuance of regulations that require hospitals and health plans to provide price information to consumers, including a requirement for hospitals to maintain a consumer-friendly display of pricing information for up to 300 shoppable services and a machine-readable file with negotiated rates for hospital services; and for health plans to post negotiated rates with providers, out-of-network payments to providers, prices paid by an insurer or pharmacy benefit manager for prescription drugs, and for health plans to maintain a consumer-facing internet tool for consumers to access price information. Within 90 days, the new executive order calls for required disclosure of actual prices for items and services, the issuance of updated guidance or proposed regulatory action regarding standardized price information that is comparable across hospitals and health plans as well as updated compliance enforcement policies.

### **VDH Seeks Survey Responses to Improve Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Awareness**

The **Virginia Department of Health** (VDH) is seeking survey responses to improve public health reporting and surveillance of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS), which is a condition that affects newborns exposed to opioids or addictive substances in the womb, causing them to experience withdrawal symptoms during their first few days of life. By participating in this brief survey, clinicians will help identify key areas where additional support or resources are needed. This survey will provide valuable insights into the challenges and barriers faced when reporting NAS cases, helping VDH develop better educational tools to support health care providers across the state. All responses will be used for VDH's evaluation efforts and any data shared will be reported in aggregate to ensure privacy. Survey questions may be sent to **Julie Keeney**, CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellow, at [juliana.keeney@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:juliana.keeney@vdh.virginia.gov) or **Dr. Dane De Silva**, Director of the Division of Population Health Data, at [dane.desilva@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:dane.desilva@vdh.virginia.gov). The survey is available through March 28. Access the survey through this [link](#).

## Events

### Register for VHHA Emergency Preparedness Summit on April 16

Registration is now open for the **2025 Virginia Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Summit** being hosted by VHHA and the **VHHA Foundation** on April 16 at The Westin-Richmond. "Today's Challenges, Tomorrow's Impact" is the theme for this in-person event, during which participants can engage with speakers, sponsors, and support organizations from across the Virginia health care community about opportunities to strengthen the Commonwealth's preparedness for threats to the health care delivery system including severe weather, active aggressor incidents, crisis standards of care, and special pathogens response. Participants will have an opportunity to earn EMT continuing education credits and up to five ACHE qualifying education hours toward initial certification or recertification of the **Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives** (FACHE) designation. Visit this [link](#) to register.

### VDH, VCU Health, MAATEC to Host March 18 Webinar on Congenital Syphilis Trends

With documented congenital syphilis rates elevated in Virginia and nationwide, the **Virginia Department of Health** (VDH) is partnering with **VCU Health** and the **MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center** (MAAETC) to hold a March 18 (noon-1 p.m.) lunch-and-learn webinar. As part of an MAAETC clinical series, the webinar will cover congenital syphilis trends and the important role providers play in prevention. Register for the webinar [here](#) to learn about best practices, prevention activities, and testing and treatment guidelines. Attendees may earn up to one hour of continuing education (CE) credits in medicine, nursing, or social work.

### ChartSpan to Host March 19 Webinar on the End of Billing Code G0511

[ChartSpan](#), a [VHHA Solutions](#) endorsed partner, will host a webinar on March 19 at 1 p.m. to discuss strategies for protecting care management programs and continuing to serve patients after the July 1 end of code G0511. The webinar will assist participants on how to decide between billing codes 99490 and 99439 for Chronic Care Management (CCM) and switching to Advanced Primary Care Management (APCM), as well as ask questions about how the end of G0511 could impact revenue, how CCM and APCM differ, and the new services APCM requires. Register for the webinar [here](#).

### VCCRN, VHHA to Host Biotech Networking Event March 27 in Richmond

The **Virginia Coordinated Clinical Research Network (VCCRN)** and VHHA are hosting a “Biotech and Beer” networking event from 4:30-6:30 p.m. on March 27 at VHHA offices in Glen Allen, VA. The event is presented in collaboration with the **VCU Office of the Vice President and Research and Innovation, Virginia Bio, and Activation Capital**. Register to participate [here](#).

### VACEP to Host March 14 Webinar on ‘Navigating ECOs and TDOs in Virginia’

The **Virginia College of Emergency Physicians (VACEP)** is hosting a free webinar on March 14 at noon to help enhance understanding of legal and practical considerations related to emergency custody orders (ECO) and temporary detention orders (TDO). The session will be led by **Dr. Joran Sequeira**, VACEP President-Elect and **Bon Secours Southside Regional Medical Center** Medical Director, and feature **Jonathan E. Green**, Director of the Department of Magistrate Services at the **Supreme Court of Virginia**. Register for the webinar [here](#).

## Podcast

### VHHA *Patients Come First* Podcast Features VCU Health Nurse, Dementia Clinical Researcher

This episode of VHHA’s *Patients Come First* podcast features **Hannah Khan**, a nurse and clinical research coordinator with the **VCU School of Nursing**, who joins us to discuss how she overcame her fears to pursue a health care career, a research fellowship at VCU focused on dementia patients, and much 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).



## Around the State

Two **Valley Health** hospitals – **Page Memorial Hospital** and **Warren Memorial Hospital** – have been named to the Chartis Group [Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals and Rural and Community Hospitals](#) lists for 2025. **Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital** has also been named to the Top 100 Rural and Community Hospitals list.

**Sovah Health** recently announced that **Jennifer Durham**, NP, has joined its medical staff and is offering cardiology services at Sovah Heart and Vascular – Danville. Durham earned her doctorate degree in Adult Gerontological - Nurse Practitioner and her bachelor of science degree in nursing (BSN) at UNC Greensboro.

