

HEALTH PROVIDER NEWS - JANUARY 5, 2018

NATIONAL

- [FDA chief: I'm surprised it took big tech this long to get into health care](#)
- [Will 2018 be the year of Catholic health care dominance?](#)
- [U.S. medical device tax back in effect after two-year pause](#)
- [13 healthcare M&A deals that made headlines in 2017](#)
- [CMS reaffirms its ban on texting physician orders, clarifies patient information exchange](#)
- [Kmart will pay \\$32.3M to resolve prescription drug fraud claims](#)
- [AHIMA names Texas health IT pro as next board president](#)
- [Jump-start the new year with MACRA: Looking ahead to 2018](#)
- [Alphabet chairman to step down, Theranos avoids bankruptcy & more — 5 health IT keynotes](#)
- [Anthem to cut pay for some same-day services by 25%: 4 things to know](#)
- [What Will Happen If Amazon Gets Into the Prescription Drug Business?](#)
- [Hospital groups press on with 340B lawsuit despite judge's decision](#)
- [6 Major Hospital Merger Deals Making Headlines in 2018](#)
- [CMS unveils new portal for MACRA reporting](#)
- [Trump offers new rule going after ObamaCare](#)
- [FCC proposes rule to lift \\$400M funding cap on rural telehealth program](#)
- [71% of physician practice revenue tied to fee-for-service in 2016: AMA](#)

NORTHEAST

(Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont)

CONNECTICUT

- [A tarnished hospital tries to win back trust](#)
- [Governor Malloy Signs Order Separating Whiting From Connecticut Valley Hospital](#)
- [Biostage closes \\$4.2M investment with Chinese group, Conn. hospital](#)
- [CT Children's invests in Mass. biotech company](#)
- [Horizon lends \\$12M to orthopedic startup](#)

MAINE

- [Mercy Hospital moving forward with relocation](#)
- [Two new Maine laws add protections for health care consumers](#)

- Hospital expansions on the horizon in Portland
- MaineMed expansion may close part of Congress Street for eight weeks

MASSACHUSETTS

- Massachusetts, Oregon could influence health care spending in Delaware
- Good Samaritan penalized over patient injury rate
- DPH to host hearing on proposed hospital merger
- Hearing in Newburyport on proposed hospital merger
- Anna Jaques Considers Merge With Lahey Health, Boston Hospitals
- New CEO picked at Martha's Vineyard Hospital
- State to discuss plan to merge 13 hospitals in Eastern Massachusetts
- HPC: Partners, Mass Eye and Ear deal could cost \$61M annually
- Westborough Health Care Center sells for \$2.4M
- eClinicalWorks hit with second class-action suit, charged with 'deceptive' practices
- Massachusetts could set patient assignment limits for nurses
- Atlas-backed biotech startup emerges with \$25M and a plan to perfect gene therapy
- Ex-Sarepta CEO takes helm of genetic disease startup Stoke
- State still won't back Partners deal to buy Mass. Eye and Ear, refers to AG
- Plotting its first drug trial, Cambridge's Scholar Rock bags another \$47M
- Growing ENT practice signs long-term lease in downtown Worcester
- Tufts nurses ratify new contract after nearly 2 years of bargaining
- Brigham and Women's reduces ED costs by 15% through care coordination program

NEW HAMPSHIRE

- 3 New Hampshire hospitals get 5-star score
- Public hearings set on hospital affiliation
- Exeter and Portsmouth Hospitals Hit With Medicare Penalty

NEW YORK

- Doctors sue Crystal Run Healthcare for striking deal to join Montefiore Health System
- Health care industry braces for state budget crunch
- 4 NY ASCs partner with Emmy for patient accompaniment
- First Hospital In Nassau/Suffolk County To Make Flu Vaccine Mandatory For Employees
- SJMH launches construction website
- Jones Memorial Hospital experiences computer downtime following cyberattack

- Niagara Falls Memorial dedicates new cardiac and stroke center
- Mather Hospital joins Northwell Health
- Kaleida nurses fight against proposed uniform change

RHODE ISLAND

- State: Memorial Hospital's emergency department can close
- Health care changes take place in wake of Memorial E.D. closing
- R.I. hospitals divert patients after ERs are swamped
- Rhode Island ACLU files suit over Medicare help denials
- Rhode Island hospitals forced to open after diverting ER patients

VERMONT

- Vermont Hospital to Bring Captive Insurance Firm to State
- Vermont ACO gets \$620 million
- Vermont's \$44 million health information exchange in trouble, facing overhaul
- Southwestern Vermont Medical earns Medicare's highest overall rating

MID-ATLANTIC / EAST

(Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia)

DELAWARE

- Massachusetts, Oregon could influence health care spending in Delaware
- Delaware aims to cut healthcare spending, looks to other states for inspiration

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- MedStar hopes its new hospital gowns will tie up an age-old problem
- How Washington-area health systems stack up financially

MARYLAND

- Longtime Elkton doctor to pay \$1.2M for false claims
- Maryland hospital sued after investigation finds doctor used fake name, stolen Social Security numbers
- Havre de Grace zoning changes leave open possibility for future regional hospital
- First project funded through \$65 million Hopkins, investment firm partnership

NEW JERSEY

- Philadelphia Hospital & Health Care Employees union alleges employers owe nearly \$40,000
- Medicare to lower payments to 15 New Jersey hospitals
- Medicare punishes 2 Jersey Shore hospitals over patient safety
- Penn Medicine, Virtua to bring proton therapy closer to South Jersey cancer patients

- It's official: JFK Health now part of Hackensack Meridian
- Saint Clare's Health moving to Hardyston
- Hackensack Meridian acquires another hospital and is now N.J.'s largest chain

PENNSYLVANIA

- Philadelphia Hospital & Health Care Employees union alleges employers owe nearly \$40,000
- Children's Hospital will use \$1M grant to expand cardiac ICU
- Gnaden Huetten and Palmerton hospitals officially become St. Luke's campuses
- Children's Hospital will use \$1M grant to expand cardiac ICU
- How nurses are improving healthcare through innovation: A Q&A with Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- Philly-based Spark Therapeutics unveils \$850k price tag for new gene therapy
- EDITORIAL New system at hospital gives parents peace of mind
- Hospital merger in Carbon County
- Real estate investment trust sells 20 Genesis facilities for \$103M
- 3rd Circuit: Proof of 'but-for' Causation Required in FCA Retaliation Cases
- Stolen computer at Penn Medicine compromises 1k patient records
- New deal between UPMC, Highmark extends in-network access
- Ronnie Ursin is Jennersville Hospital's new CEO
- Chester County medical center gets new president
- University City Science Center CEO stepping down
- Here's what is covered by the UPMC-Highmark agreement
- UPMC cardiologist named president of society

VIRGINIA

- Former CEO of Health Diagnostic Laboratory files \$150 million lawsuit against LeClairRyan law firm
- Local lawmakers file bills to help Pioneer Hospital
- Virginians urge legislators to expand Medicaid
- Virginia's hospital satisfaction rate trails the U.S. average by two percentage points
- Merrifield medical campus changes hands for \$62.5M

WEST VIRGINIA

- Officials quiet on sale of Williamson Memorial Hospital
- Hospital merger litigation continues
- West Virginia Supreme Court to rule on Cabell Huntington, St. Mary's Medical Center merger Jan. 23
- New Healthcare Facility to Serve North-Central W.Va.

CENTRAL

(Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota)

IOWA

- Iowa ASC sues physician group, physicians over building \$37M Nebraska ASC, allege non-compete violations: 6 things to know
- Grinnell Regional Medical Center affiliates with UnityPoint Health

KANSAS

- Kansas Blue to Get New President
- Norton County Hospital names CEO
- Nursing home alternative new to Kansas City area lets seniors live on their own
- New Russell Hospital CEO tackles new clinic, surgery project
- Local physician named KDHE's chief medical officer

MINNESOTA

- Congress' indecision leaves Minnesota safety net clinics paralyzed
- Regions Hospital in St. Paul looking to expand
- Deal that creates new Minnesota health system closes
- Need a knee replacement? It costs \$46,974 at one Minnesota hospital and \$6,186 at another
- Report: Minnesota hospital costs vary statewide for four procedures examined
- Fairview buys independent neurology group
- Deal that creates new Minnesota health system closes

MISSOURI

- SSM Health reports privacy breach of medical records
- A 2018 agenda for Missouri lawmakers: ethics reform, transportation, health care
- BJC gets green light to take over Memorial Hospitals
- Mercy Health builds out urgent care footprint with GoHealth pact
- 2nd accreditation agency to visit SLU medical school amid concerns over 'retaliation efforts'
- Dr. Anthony Tersigni: Alex Azar would serve the country well as the next HHS secretary

NEBRASKA

- Nebraska Total Care earns NCQA Accreditation
- State program can help with Medicare changes
- Iowa ASC sues physician group, physicians over building \$37M Nebraska ASC, allege non-compete violations: 6 things to know

NORTH DAKOTA

- New law looks to cut down on surprise ambulance bills

SOUTH DAKOTA

- [Lori Clausen named president of Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Dakota](#)

MIDWEST

(Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin)

ILLINOIS

- [University Of Chicago Medicine Opens New Emergency Department](#)
- [Massive, maligned Illinois Medicaid managed care expansion begins](#)
- [A Firsthand Account of Illinois' Home Health Care Fraud Debacle](#)
- [K-Mart To Pay Settlement For Overbilling Medicaid Customers In Illinois](#)
- [Illinois suspends Outcome Health's agreement for EDGE tax breaks](#)
- [Children's Healthcare Center at Maryville in Des Plaines expanding services](#)
- [BJC gets green light to take over Memorial Hospitals](#)
- [HSHS President to Chair State Board](#)
- [Rockford hospital designated as a pediatric trauma center](#)
- [Illinois Health and Hospital Association elects new board](#)
- [VillageMD gets \\$80 million financing](#)

INDIANA

- [2 ex-nursing home execs to plead guilty in kickback scheme](#)
- [OPTIMISTIC Program Drops Nursing Home Patient Hospitalizations](#)
- [6 GI doctors back with Lutheran](#)
- [How OurHealth pinpointed \\$150 million in ER savings by using Indiana Medicaid data](#)
- [New state-of-the-art ER opens](#)
- [Attorney General files for dismissal of suit claiming fraud against Indiana hospitals](#)
- [McLaren Health Care Completes Acquisition Of MDwise](#)
- [IU Health Bloomington Hospital to be demolished, city will buy property](#)
- [Return of medical-device tax dismays firms across state](#)
- [Goshen Health appoints new chief physician executive](#)

KENTUCKY

- [Major Kindred shareholder dubs \\$4.1B acquisition deal 'grossly inadequate'](#)
- [Kindred Healthcare shareholder opposes Humana, private equity deal](#)
- [Beshear: Kmart to pay Kentucky \\$415,000 to resolve medicaid fraud allegations](#)
- [Baptist Health Richmond selects Greg Gerard as interim president: 5 notes](#)

MICHIGAN

- Spectrum Health opens \$10M Ada facility
- McLaren Health Care Completes Acquisition Of MDwise
- UM dips toes in direct primary care with Victors Care clinic to open in April
- West Michigan nursing homes rate among 'best' in US
- Health system opening suburban integrated care facility

OHIO

- Ohio Medicaid examinations find over \$10.7 million in overpayments
- Anthem to begin denying Ohio customers coverage for ER visits it deems non-emergencies
- Firelands Regional Health System CEO to resign: 5 things to know
- Premier Health, UHC reach health insurance deal
- Premier Health, UnitedHealthcare end 7-month impasse; 200k members in-network
- Alliance hospital officially Aultman affiliate
- Anthem to begin denying Ohio customers coverage for ER visits it deems non-emergencies
- MetroHealth to open new Cleveland Heights hospital Jan. 4
- Christ Hospital ready to open massive medical center
- Proposed law would ban forcing Ohio nurses to work overtime
- MetroHealth closing clinic in downtown YMCA this month

WISCONSIN

- New Wis. law allows rural EMS providers to put advanced training to use
- Froedtert South, Anthem reach agreement
- Health Payment Systems names Terry Rowinski as new CEO
- Senior living campus planned in Cedarburg

SOUTH / SOUTHEAST

(Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee)

ALABAMA

- Hospital PUD request to be refiled
- Financial woes put Alabama's rural hospitals on life support
- Rural hospitals face decreasing revenue; Winston County soon to be without a hospital
- New Year, New Name for HealthSouth Corporation
- HealthSouth name change takes effect

FLORIDA

- Florida Hospital's Ken Bradley retiring
- University of Florida Health Continues Expansion into Northeast Florida
- Florida lawmakers poised to pass a low-cost healthcare solution
- Florida Seeks Big Changes To Children's Medical Services
- New CEO aims to expand Tampa General Hospital's reach
- Senator files 'certificate of need' repeal bill, identical to House priority
- Transparency Eyed To Hold Down Florida Health Costs
- Cold Snap, Holidays Deplete Some First Coast Hospitals' Blood Supply
- AHCA Extends Deadline On Database Rule
- Proposal Would Revamp Trauma Center Law
- 'Certificate Of Need' Repeal Proposed In Senate
- Appeals Court Overturns Trauma Center Injunction For St. Pete's Northside Hospital
- Florida Hospital's South/West market senior executive officer to retire
- Scripps Florida company spins off, raises more than \$55M

GEORGIA

- Matt Hasbrouck to step into COO role at Memorial Health: 4 things to know
- Medicare penalties for patient injuries to hit Georgia hospitals hard
- SGMC starts new cardiology program
- Tift Regional Health System CEO retires after nearly 30 years
- Brookhaven OKs big Children's Healthcare development

MISSISSIPPI

- Medicaid receives nation's first 10 year federal waiver
- CMS approves first 10-year waiver extension in Mississippi
- UMMC names Pittman department chair
- Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees Elects Officers

NORTH CAROLINA

- Carolinas HealthCare reveals nearly \$1 billion investment strategy for 2018
- Forsyth, Wake Forest Baptist draw Medicare penalties for second consecutive year
- Cone Health Hospitals Gets High Marks, Except For This One
- Churches and nonprofits worry charitable donations will plummet under new tax law
- Hospice services plentiful in Eastern North Carolina
- Morehead Hospital unveils new name: UNC Rockingham Health Care

- [Lawsuit: Duke, UNC agreed to not hire each other's doctors](#)
- [North Carolina Health News- Stories to Watch in 2018 - Part 2](#)
- [Eden hospital gains UNC-affiliated name change](#)
- [UNC Finalizes Purchase of Struggling Rockingham County Hospital](#)
- [Ex-director of finance accused of embezzling \\$3M from North Carolina hospital](#)
- [Mission Hospital's Super Utilizers Contributed 43% to the Hospital's Total Readmission Rate](#)
- [TRH Strengthened By Mission Health Membership - Brevard, NC](#)
- [Carolinas HealthCare expands urgent-care offerings with 24/7 facility](#)
- [INC Research/inVentiv Health reveals new name](#)
- [Merz bases new global medical affairs chief in Raleigh](#)
- [Lawsuit: Pharma company with N.C. ties breached contract for store-brand drugs](#)

SOUTH CAROLINA

- [New leader at RMC after longtime CEO removed](#)
- [Company that runs 13 Upstate nursing homes beset by financial woes](#)
- [Trident Health CEO questions how MUSC will pay for new \\$325 million hospital off Nexton Parkway in Berkeley County](#)
- [One of rural South Carolina's last independent family doctors struggles to find replacement](#)
- [Grand Strand Health names new chief operating officer](#)

TENNESSEE

- [Inpatient care could end at Nashville's safety net hospital](#)
- [Mayor's office presses Nashville General Hospital for more specific financial information](#)
- [Deadline to finalize MSHA / Wellmont merger delayed until January 31, 2018](#)
- [Baptist hospital in West Memphis reaches construction milestone](#)
- [Franklin-based medical coding company names new president](#)
- [Baptist hosts 'topping out' ceremony for new West Memphis hospital](#)
- [Dermatology practice opens second location in Collierville](#)

SOUTH-CENTRAL / SOUTHWEST

(Arkansas, Arizona, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas)

ARKANSAS

- [New Children's hospital has a \\$350,000 month](#)
- [Hospital construction enters new phase](#)

ARIZONA

- [Supervisor wants answers about state contractor's slow payments to health providers](#)

- Maricopa Integrated Health System appoints Richard Mutarelli CFO: 4 notes

LOUISIANA

- New Orleans' only trauma and burn center to open at University Medical Center in early 2018
- Medicaid imbalance in Louisiana between home-based care and politically strong nursing homes
- New emergency hospital expands Christus footprint in Bossier
- Why Louisiana Has a Home Care Problem

NEW MEXICO

- Editorial: Is \$10M Health Connections sale the right Rx for NM?
- New Mexico gets mixed report card on public health
- Value-based healthcare: Evolent closes \$10m deal for New Mexico Health Connections assets
- Health care leader breaks ground on co-working space in Northeast Heights

OKLAHOMA

- New telemedicine law expands options but raises questions
- How nurses are improving healthcare through innovation: A Q&A with Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- Oklahoma health agency proposes hundreds of layoffs

TEXAS

- Methodist Health System to Build Midlothian's First Hospital
- More North Texas health care companies could be left in critical condition in 2018
- Partnership announcements, community efforts to fight opioid addiction among top health-related stories in 2017
- Article: Dallas Has Become a 'Major Center' For the Surrogacy Business
- Projecting the Shortage of Nurses in Texas by 2030
- North Texas Medical Office Building Lands \$3.9M Refinancing
- Freestanding ERs fill health care niche
- Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Fort Worth taps new president
- 4 questions with PotentiaMetrics CEO Robert Palmer on personalized healthcare
- Baylor Scott & White to lay off more than 700
- Kaiser CIO joins Parkland Center for Clinical Innovation's board of directors: 3 things to know

NORTHWEST

(Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming)

ALASKA

- Ketchikan considers ordinance on health care transparency

IDAHO

- [Syringa Hospital and Clinics taps new CEO: 6 notes](#)

MONTANA

- [More On Hospital CEO, Kevin Abel's Resignation And Move To Montana](#)
- [Federal Mediator Steps In To Healthcare Union Dispute](#)
- [Healthcare reimbursement cuts to Montana providers start Jan. 1](#)
- [Hospital employees want accounting of deal with Blue Cross](#)
- [Bozeman Health buys Big Sky medical clinics](#)
- [North Valley Hospital names Kevin Abel CEO](#)

OREGON

- [New SHS head brings health and law interests to post](#)
- [A healthy legacy: Outgoing Samaritan CEO reflects on 25 years of growth](#)
- [Massachusetts, Oregon could influence health care spending in Delaware](#)
- [Oregon health care tax proponents, opponents argue their cases](#)
- [Why one Portland primary care doctor dreads the FamilyCare shutdown](#)
- [OHSU husband-wife researchers get \\$5M grant to study brain circuitry](#)

WASHINGTON

- [Lake Chelan Hospital Announces Resignation Of CEO, Kevin Abel](#)
- [Providence St. Joseph Health CEO: 4 predictions on how the healthcare industry will change in 2018](#)
- [Providence St. Joseph Health's Top Health Care Predictions for 2018](#)
- [Andrew Tokar is Overlake Medical Center's permanent CFO](#)

WEST

(California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, Utah)

CALIFORNIA

- [Clinica Sierra Vista announces new CEO](#)
- [New firm takes over Molina Healthcare's 17 California medical clinics](#)
- [Sutter Roseville Medical Center CEO retiring; replacement named](#)
- [Longtime Marshall CEO thrives with a simple formula](#)
- [Kaiser CIO joins Parkland Center for Clinical Innovation's board of directors: 3 things to know](#)
- [California regulators demand 9 health plans terminate contracts with medical group](#)
- [Criminal probe targets Kaiser hospital following patient's death](#)
- [El Camino Hospital budgets \\$398M for multipart construction project](#)
- [Sutter Roseville Medical Center CEO retires](#)

- [Health insurance startup that got \\$130 million from Google is missing payments and upsetting customers](#)
- [Doctor-backed startup aims to bring blockchain to health care](#)

COLORADO

- [HCA/HealthONE's The Medical Center of Aurora Earns Five-Star Rating on CMS Hospital Compare](#)
- [Colorado medical group hit by two cyberattacks in a single week](#)
- [Ex employees of Montrose hospital draw settlements](#)
- [Colorado hospitals must begin posting prices for most common procedures on Jan. 1](#)
- [Colorado hospitals now required to post prices: 3 things to know](#)
- [Colorado Springs hospital named southern Colorado's first Comprehensive Stroke Center](#)
- [Denver's Digital Health Boom](#)
- [Longtime Kaiser Permanente executive in Colorado Springs retire](#)
- [UCHealth Memorial Hospital Central named comprehensive stroke center](#)
- [Colorado hospital agrees to pay \\$400k over alleged age discrimination](#)
- [Colorado diagnostics technology company raises \\$200 million round](#)
- [Hickenlooper chooses health-insurance veteran to oversee Colorado Medicaid program](#)

HAWAII

- [Hawaii doubles the number of advanced practice registered nurses](#)
- [Kmart to pay over \\$84K for overbilling Hawaii Medicaid customers](#)

NEVADA

- [New Nevada laws tackle day care, women's health issues](#)
- [Las Vegas hospital breaks ground on \\$130M expansion](#)

UTAH

- [Getting sick in the hospital: Five Utah medical facilities fined for higher rates of illnesses patients acquired while in their care](#)
- [Myriad Genetics Announces Expanded Research Collaboration with AstraZeneca](#)