HEALTH PROVIDER NEWS - DECEMBER 21, 2018

NATIONAL

- Federal judge rules Obama's health care overhaul unconstitutional
- Amazon explored buying at-home medical test company
- Amy Abernethy to join FDA as principal deputy commissioner
- 4 biggest Anti-Kickback settlements involving hospitals in 2018
- 12 latest healthcare industry lawsuits, settlements
- Will interstate compacts turn into national licensure?
- What doctors need to know about MACRA’s new patient relationship codes
- State-by-state breakdown of 93 rural hospital closures
- HHS appeals risk adjustment court decision
- HHS Issues RFI for HIPAA Improvements, Care Coordination
- Farm Bill Includes Telemedicine Funding for Opioid Abuse Treatment
- Section 1557 Lawsuit Over Transgender And Abortion Protections Will Proceed
- Farm bill would allow rural hospitals to refinance debt
- Drug costs put squeeze on skilled nursing facilities
- Hospitalwide innovation through medication management: 4 ways hospitals are accomplishing it
- Judge requests CVS, Aetna keep some operations separate during antitrust review
- CMS probes potential conflicts of interest for accrediting groups

NORTHEAST

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

CONNECTICUT

- Health services access groups in Connecticut, Maine merging
- Stamford Hospital Fined $55,000 For Operating Blood Draw Facility Without Approval
- Cigna closes $67B Express Scripts purchase
- CT Children's to build dialysis center

MAINE

- Mills picks former Obama health care reform leader to run DHHS
- Portland Planning Board OKs 3rd and final phase of Maine Med expansion
Health services access groups in Connecticut, Maine merging
Mayo Regional Hospital launches integrated health record system
Mercy Hospital takes another step toward relocation to Fore River Parkway

MASSACHUSETTS
MassHealth taps vendors to provide technical assistance to new ACOs
Morton Hospital closes maternity unit permanently
State won't review Dana-Farber's Foxborough satellite facility
Hospital to adopt new security measures after data breach
Massachusetts workers at Steward Health Care hospital OK union
Novartis loses another executive to biotech
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute hires James Terwilliger as COO

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Digging Into the DHMC Expansion
New Hampshire health coverage sign-ups lag deadline nears
New Hampshire physician assistant guilty of Insys opioid kickback scheme

NEW YORK
A new kind of medicine makes its way to Albany
New York nurses unionize after state orders investigation of alleged threats at hospital
Catholic Health recruits c-level exec from N.C.
New York medical office building acquired for $48.1M
New York Hospital to Increase Emergency Department Security
Higgins: Almost $7 million for WNY health care centers
NYU Langone, healthcare workers reach contract agreement
NewYork-Presbyterian CIO Daniel Barchi on the strategic initiative he'll tackle in 2019
New York nurses unionize after state orders investigation of alleged threats at hospital

RHODE ISLAND
Hospital merger plan files for approval from Rhode Island
Newport Mental Health Center Gets $2 Million Federal Grant

VERMONT
Springfield hospital officials withheld financial woes from regulators
Dartmouth-Hitchcock researchers analyze Vermont's hub and spoke opioid treatment model
Vermont community hospital notifies 32,000 after data breach
Vermont hospital struggles to pay its bills
Springfield Medical Care Systems CEO Resigns

MID-ATLANTIC / EAST
(Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia)

DELAWARE
- Christiana Care CEO Janice Nevin says $15 hourly wage will not drive up health care costs
- Health care company founder shares $20M with workers
- Kentmere Healthcare Consulting helps Horizon Healthcare expand

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
- C. sues Ascension over hospital closure
- Ascension sued by city officials to keep DC health system open
- Confusion Turns to Compromise as the D.C. Council Moves Forward on the Construction of a New Hospital
- Maryland doctor to pay more than $3 million for alleged fraudulent Medicare, Medicaid claims
- GWU Hospital says it’s back in the game to work toward East End Hospital deal

MARYLAND
- New Upper Chesapeake medical center, now planned for Aberdeen, is welcomed by city audience
- Union Hospital, LifeBridge end merger talks
- Maryland health care aide charged with Medicaid fraud of almost $450K
- Meritus Health CEO retires

NEW JERSEY
- The Interview Issue: Barry Ostrowsky is making sure RWJBarnabas Health changes for the best
- HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital in Toms River changing names
- Troubled New Jersey hospital names successor 1 week after CEO resigns
- Hackensack Meridian gives nurses raises, pledges to hire more
- New Jersey hits health insurer with penalty over privacy breach
- Troubled New Jersey hospital awaits vote on interim CEO
- New Jersey nurses reach labor deal with future Salem hospital owner

Pennsylvania
- Pennsylvania hospital nurse strike looms
- Menno Haven unveils rehabilitation center
- New Hospital to Create 200 Jobs
- New Rhein Healthcare Investors moving headquarters to Philadelphia
Conemaugh Health System breaks ground on outpatient center

CHOP and Philly launch home repair program to prevent asthma

Wolf appoints advisory group to improve home health care working conditions

Geisinger looks to fill 200 jobs in new hospital

Pennsylvania health system, CEO will pay $12.5M to resolve billing probe

Negotiations between nurses, hospital ongoing

UPMC chief innovation officer to depart for North Carolina health system

Longtime UHS executive gets new job leading Acadia

Luke's University Health Network selects presidents for 2 hospitals

Council punts on pharma bill banning gifts to doctors

Hospice company paying $6M in fraudulent billing case

Former St. Joseph Hospital's closing creates uncertain future for employees, property

**VIRGINIA**

- Centra sees operating margin drop as electronic records rollout leads to increased costs
- Sentara mandates vaccines for all employees
- Valley Health announces layoffs as care costs increase
- Copper helps Sentara hospitals drop infection rates by 60%, study says
- Ballad Health, critics debate trauma plan

**WEST VIRGINIA**

- Deric Bryant named hospitalist director at Camden Clark Medical Center
- WVU Children's Breaks Ground on $150M Tower at J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital in West Virginia
- Healthy patients and a healthy economy: United Hospital Center takes care of North Central WV
- Overcoming barriers to advance regional healthcare

**CENTRAL**

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

**IOWA**

- Where It Takes the Longest to Get to a Hospital in the U.S.
- Iowa hospital seeks $500K from county as losses mount
- CHI Health Mercy Council Bluffs president to retire, ending 24-year tenure

**KANSAS**

- Kansas fixes Medicaid billing that cut pediatricians’ pay
- Where It Takes the Longest to Get to a Hospital in the U.S.
Kansas Hospital Association prepares for pushback on Medicaid expansion
Late paychecks hit ‘lives and livelihood’ of KC-based rural hospital chain’s employees
Pediatricians may drop Kansas Medicaid patients due to billing change

MINNESOTA

UnitedHealth Group will pay $500M less for Colorado-based physicians group
TreeHouse Health — an innovation hub for healthcare startups
Hennepin Healthcare cuts ties with sheriff, considers arming security force
Where It Takes the Longest to Get to a Hospital in the U.S.
Mayo Partners with MyMeds

MISSOURI

Foes of sale: St. Mary’s not closing
MU Health Care, SSM Health to host third forum on potential hospital merger
Where It Takes the Longest to Get to a Hospital in the U.S.
Report shows improved Missouri health ranking
MU Health CEO promises to sustain Audrain hospital
SSM Health leads the training to reduce the rate of women dying in child birth
Lawsuit against hospital clinic settled
BJC Health Care says online payments may have been hacked
Late paychecks hit ‘lives and livelihood’ of KC-based rural hospital chain’s employees
Kindred at Home offers ‘the right care at the right time’

NEBRASKA

Comprehensive genetics clinic now open at Gordon Memorial Hospital
Where It Takes the Longest to Get to a Hospital in the U.S.
State launches website to inform Nebraskans about Medicaid expansion progress
State dumps two major computer projects after spending $12 million on them

NORTH DAKOTA

Where It Takes the Longest to Get to a Hospital in the U.S.
Jamestown Regional Medical Center taps new CEO

SOUTH DAKOTA

Where It Takes the Longest to Get to a Hospital in the U.S.
Wave of nursing home closures hitting small South Dakota communities

MIDWEST
ILLINOIS
- Chicago hospital performs record 54 heart transplants in 2018
- Vibra Hospital of Springfield set to close
- Siteman Cancer Center plans 2020 opening at Memorial Hospital East
- HSHS St. Francis Hospital appoints CEO
- Brian Charlier to serve as CEO of HSHS St. Vincent, St. Mary’s hospitals
- Illinois long-term care hospital to close amid declining reimbursement

INDIANA
- Planning for 800-acre parcel to begin: Columbus Regional Health compiling land-use committee
- Columbus Regional Health Looks To Create Vision For Future Health Campus
- Nurse practitioner opens subscription-medicine clinic in Hebron
- IU Health West Hospital celebrates expansion
- Kelly Stanley: Looking back at IU Health, Ball Memorial Hospital merger, 10 years later
- Carmel City Council poised to reject proposed specialty hospital if it won’t commit to permanent taxes
- Lutheran Health Finalizes Plans For New Hospital
- Indiana University Health Blackford Hospital awarded Hospital Accreditation from The Joint Commission
- Franciscan Health Michigan City Prepares for Move to New Hospital
- IU Health West Plans ‘Crane Christening’

KENTUCKY
- Louisville gets $1.3M from state for new entrepreneur effort
- Kentucky grants $1.3 million for health care hub in Louisville
- Baptist Healthcare finishes fiscal 2018 in the black after a big loss for 2017
- Baptist Healthcare reverses $69M operating loss
- Kindred Healthcare and Netsmart Partner to Create Next Generation Post-Acute Platform
- Federal grant allows Northern Kentucky partners to build health innovation initiative
- Local hospitals put $97.2M into economy in 2016
- Passport West End HQ project gets $24M from national organizations
- Humana ranks high on new Forbes list

MICHIGAN
- Plans move forward on new $450 million health care campus in Michigan
- Centria Healthcare Reveals New Corporate Branding
Michigan state lawmakers have stamped out telemedicine — again
McLaren breaks ground on new $450 million health care campus
New hospital coming to MSU research park
McLaren Macomb hires new director for cardiovascular services

OHIO
Bellevue Hospital opens $7M Eagle Crest Health Park
Two Premier Health hospitals to have new leadership in the new year
Bellevue Hospital opens new Eagle Crest Health Park
Cleveland Clinic latest hospital to raise minimum wage to $15
Expansion spree: Cleveland Clinic is opening new facilities and buying others
Mercy Health puts St. Joseph’s planned move on hold
Sylvania ambulance company sued over potential billing issues
Miami Valley Hospital names new president
Kettering Health closer to adding more Middletown inpatient beds
Bellevue Hospital opens new Eagle Crest Health Park
Cleveland Clinic latest hospital to raise minimum wage to $15
Expansion spree: Cleveland Clinic is opening new facilities and buying others
Mercy Health puts St. Joseph’s planned move on hold
Sylvania ambulance company sued over potential billing issues
Miami Valley Hospital names new president
Kettering Health closer to adding more Middletown inpatient beds
Lakewood Mayor Mike Summers said healthcare-related projects dominated 2018
Hospitalwide innovation through medication management: 4 ways hospitals are accomplishing it
Mercy Health delays plan to build $250M Ohio hospital
Former Cleveland Clinic executive gets prison time in $2.7M fraud scheme

WISCONSIN
Aurora Health will pay $12M to resolve improper compensation claims
Vincent Lyles heads to Advocate Aurora Health
Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin to open outpatient facilities
Advocate Aurora Health to raise its minimum wage to $15 per hour over the next three years
Door County Medical Center CEO plans retirement
3 patients die after contracting Legionnaires' disease in Wisconsin hospital

SOUTH / SOUTHEAST
(Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee)

ALABAMA
Alabama hospitals above average in preventing HAIs
Hospital Busier Than Ever Since Move to New $230M Building

FLORIDA
NCH Healthcare System is recruiting hospitalists against backdrop of shortage
The Florida Hospital Nicholson Center Improves Instruction with Next-Generation Displays

Mike Griffin will lead USF’s consolidation push after resignation by All Children’s CEO

New BayCare Hospital to be Built Along I-75 Corridor

When he resigned, All Children’s CEO left more than the hospital

Expansion spree: Cleveland Clinic is opening new facilities and buying others

3 top execs resign from Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital

UM health system reports its ‘best financial year ever’ as cancer care and surgeries grow

Bill supporting Halifax Health’s Deltona expansion takes stage

UCF’s teaching hospital is born

Florida Hospital joins the fray to upend health care

Florida hospital CEO can sue CNN for defamation, appeals court rules

Florida children’s hospitals may have to post heart surgery death rates online

Bonita location of NCH emergency room prepares for grand opening

Florida hospital CEO: ‘Misunderstanding’ led to outcry over new policy

Polk County surgeon pays $2.2M to resolve false claims’ allegations

Florida’s head nursing home regulator Justin Senior contradicts his staff’s report on patient deaths

Florida’s best-ranked hospitals — and more health care briefs from around the state

From nurse training to practice: 6 thoughts on easing the transition from Memorial Healthcare’s 1st chief nursing executive

Delray Medical Center appoints COO

GEORGIA

Northside Hospital making moves even as Gwinnett merger has stalled

When Northeast Georgia Health System hopes to build Braselton surgery center

WellStar West Georgia Medical Center president to retire

Emory Healthcare’s eICU lets physicians in Australia monitor patients

With merger still pending, Northside Hospital applies for surgery center CON — 5 insights

Grady named state’s top small hospital

Georgia mothers are dying and Emory Hospital shares how they’re taking action to fix it

Effort to change Georgia’s CON laws gains more momentum

Southeast Georgia Health System selects COO

MISSISSIPPI

How will a recent ruling on the ACA affect Mississippi?

Hospital reaches surgery milestone with 1,000th robotics procedure
NORTH CAROLINA

- Rural areas push for more assurances in N.C. hospital sale
- UNC Health Care's new CEO is Dr. A. Wesley Burks
- WakeMed introduces a mobile app that allows you to access your medical records
- Folwell proposal worries hospital
- UPMC chief innovation officer to depart for North Carolina health system
- Novant Health breaks ground on new cancer center
- Atrium Health executive named Charlotte businesswoman of the year
- AG looks to protect WNC’s interest in Mission sale
- North Carolina hospital launches Excelsius GPS robotic surgery system
- Navicent Health now one step closer to deal with out-of-state hospital system
- Annual health rankings show mediocre results for overall healthiness in NC
- Ronald “Ronnie” Sloan Receives AHA’s Rural Hospital Leadership Award
- Pediatric researcher named CEO of UNC Health
- Under Siege
- Investment Trust buys Wake Forest Baptist Surgery Center
- North Carolina ASC sells real estate, financed at $5.7M+
- Wayne UNC Health rated among nation’s safest
- Mission Hospital one of first to use world’s smallest pacemaker

SOUTH CAROLINA

- South Carolina hospital closes after 63 years
- Collective Medical Partners with the South Carolina Hospital Association
- Select Health of South Carolina covers Paradigm Spine’s coflex device
- Board member chosen to lead South Carolina health panel

TENNESSEE

- Newport Medical Center’s new CEO is Matthew Littlejohn
- State wants more information about Ballad’s proposed NICU changes
- Baptist Memorial Health and Jonesboro DO school reach partnership deal
- Jacobs out at Acadia
- Acadia to owe Jacobs more than $10 million following ouster
- CHI Memorial-Chattanooga named Best Regional Hospital
- Metro Health Dept. receives $25K grant
- 4 hospitals in Oklahoma and Tennessee miss payroll
- Longtime UHS executive gets new job leading Acadia
- Sisters of Mercy honored before hospital closure
- Ballad Health, critics debate trauma plan
- CHS appoints new director
- Tennova Healthcare-Cleveland CEO resigns

**SOUTH-CENTRAL / SOUTHWEST**

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

**ARKANSAS**
- Baptist Memorial Health and Jonesboro DO school reach partnership deal
- Robotic spine surgery comes to Arkansas
- Arkansas Children’s names Dr. Greg Sharp as SVP and Chief Medical Officer
- Arkansas hospital threatens legal action over competitor’s orthopedic contract with university
- Arkansas surgeon used FaceTime to calm patient during brain operation

**ARIZONA**
- FastMed, NextCare announce merger
- Mayo Clinic Arizona CEO departs for exec role at Optum
- Arizona ranks 30th nationally in overall health
- $200M Valley medical project set to break ground early next year

**LOUISIANA**
- Louisiana cancer clinic opens state’s 1st musculoskeletal center
- Our Lady of the Lake Children’s Health announces new president
- Ochsner Health System and Geneva Health Solutions Partner to Bring Innovation to Louisiana Patients with Cardiac Device Implants
- Attorneys general: Settlement talks ongoing in drugs lawsuit
- Louisiana is one of 48 states taking generic drug companies to court

**NEW MEXICO**
- New Mexico to pay $63M more for Medicaid next year
- Lovelace Health System parent prepares to go public
- Hospitals in Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon and Utah Receive 2018 HealthInsight Quality Awards

**OKLAHOMA**
- Prague Hospital CEO Resigns After Announcement Of Possible Closure
- Oklahoma Rural Hospital Employees Concerned
Prague Community Hospital Employees Receive Paychecks, Hospital's Future Remains In Jeopardy

Blake Shelton establishes cancer research program at Oklahoma Children's Hospital

4 hospitals in Oklahoma and Tennessee miss payroll

CEO of Prague hospital steps down amid financial struggles

Oklahoma Hospital Association honors St. Mary's oncology head

Oklahoma falls to No. 47 in health rankings

Rural hospital employees in Oklahoma have not received paychecks

TEXAS

27 Dallas-Fort Worth hospitals earn A grades in new patient safety ranking

Jude latest hospital to raise minimum wage to $15 an hour

Medical City Fort Worth's new $65 million tower expands ER, intensive care unit

Little River Healthcare bankruptcy leaves Killeen staff without jobs

Spine Team Texas to anchor new medical building

Sundance hospital indicted on 11 more counts for allegedly holding patients illegally

Texas Hospital Discloses Third-Party Breach

The Dallas Companies Hoping to 'Uberize' the Healthcare Staffing

'Staffing situation' forces Baylor Scott & White hospital to suspend labor, delivery services

Waco urology clinic spared in Little River Healthcare closures

Dallas-based Tenet, other health care stocks fall as Obamacare ruling jolts investors

Deep in the troubled heart of Texas, health care suffers

California orthopedic device maker DJO to move headquarters, 200 jobs to Lewisville

Marietta to head CHI

Texas Hospital Association CEO encourages hospitals to unite in advocacy efforts

Baylor St. Luke's exaggerated quality of heart transplant program, lawsuit alleges

Kingwood Medical Center appoints new CEO

Report: Texas Hospitals are Becoming Less Profitable

NORTHWEST


ALASKA

Alaskans see extended health insurance enrollment period following November quake

Alaska ranks 32nd in comprehensive national health rankings report

Alaska's post-earthquake blanket waivers
Alaska’s mental health crisis: ideas and possible solutions
Earthquake anxiety overwhelms some Anchorage mental health clinics already stretched thin
Alaska projects massive nursing shortage

IDAHO
New cancer report on 2017 shows stable cancer trends for Idaho
The skybridge is up at St. Luke's
High-tech alternative medicine clinic Happy Whole You opens in Pocatello
Portneuf Health Partners makes large donation to Bannock Development

MONTANA
Pharmacy industry ‘middlemen’ settle Montana case
Fewer Montanans are signing up for Obamacare
Advocates push for statewide behavioral health plan
New partnership expanding pediatric mental health care
Prescription Management Company Reaches $375,000 Settlement With State Of Montana

OREGON
President and CEO of Bay Area Hospital announces resignation
Lori Coyner to return as state Medicaid director
Hospitals in Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon and Utah Receive 2018 HealthInsight Quality Awards
Zoom+Care to be acquired by Portland-area hospital giant
Nurses accuse Bend hospital of unfair labor practices
Oregon hospital association leader plans to step down
Bay Area Hospital CEO to retire in January
Southern Coos Hospital & Health Center names interim CEO

WASHINGTON
Microsoft Executive B.J. Moore Joins Providence St. Joseph Health as Chief Information Officer
PeaceHealth to acquire Zoom+Care
CHI slows work on Harrison Silverdale hospital
CHI Franciscan Health cuts workforce building $500M replacement hospital
AG Ferguson: $2.7M awarded in first-ever Washington Civil Medicaid false claims trial
Providence St. Joseph Health taps Microsoft exec as new CIO
PeaceHealth to acquire 37 clinics
Washington state ranks ninth in national health report
WYOMING

- MinuteClinic Launches New Virtual Care Offering in Wyoming
- How Wyoming's aging population impacts the state financially

WEST

(California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, Utah)

CALIFORNIA

- Adventist Health looking for 50 new nurses
- Molina Healthcare goes to war with its founding family, affecting coverage for 79,000 patients
- UCI Health Names COO
- Medsphere Systems gets $32M to address demand, mull acquisitions
- Dignity Health, GoHealth Urgent Care acquire 6 California urgent care centers
- California biotech industry group CEO leaving
- Hospital chain Dignity Health buys naming rights to Carson's StubHub Center
- California hospital won't reopen Jan. 1
- Molina Healthcare battles with founding family
- Dignity Health CFO Dan Morissette discusses CHI megamerger, Apple partnership

COLORADO

- UnitedHealth Group will pay $500M less for Colorado-based physicians group
- To Win Over FTC, DaVita Sale Price To UnitedHealth Drops To $4.3B
- MBRE Healthcare acquires Colorado medical office building with surgery center for $26.6M
- Thomas More Hospital CEO to depart
- 2 takeaways from Pagosa Springs Medical Center HIPAA settlement
- UCH Health Yampa Valley Medical Center provides $16.3 million in community benefits
- Children’s Hospital Colorado names 4 leaders for Southern region
- Sabin named president of southern region for Children’s Hospital Colorado
- UCH Health purchases $5.9M medical building in Woodland Park
- Pagosa Springs Medical Center settles with OCR over hospital's failure to terminate former employee's access to PHI
- UCH Health’s northern Colorado hospitals first in the state to electronically scan newborn footprints

HAWAII

- Preparing For Hawaii’s New Medical Aid In Dying Law
- Hawaii named healthiest state, Louisiana ranks last in new report
- Tripler Medical Simulation Center earns reaccreditations
NEVADA
- Las Vegas’ Sunrise Hospital still spreading its wings at 60
- Sandoval OK’s $3 million for med student fellowship programs
- Hospitals in Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon and Utah Receive 2018 HealthInsight Quality Awards
- Hospital wants spotlight on low Medicaid reimbursements
- New Nevada medical programs to get more than $3.3 million in grant funding
- Signups for Nevada health insurance exchange decline

UTAH
- Huntsman Cancer Institute plans to bring quality care to patients at home
- Revere Health’s new one-stop shop for health care breaks ground in Southern Utah
- Health-technology firm Collective Health to open a Utah office
- Hospitals in Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon and Utah Receive 2018 HealthInsight Quality Awards
- Balance billing issue gets packed hearing at Utah Health Reform Task Force