HEALTH PROVIDER NEWS - DECEMBER 20, 2019

NATIONAL

- Where the AMA stands on 7 of the year’s biggest health care issues
- Why digital health has been such a disappointment, and how to change that
- 106 hospitals, health systems that launched telehealth services in 2019
- 64 hospitals that planned, opened or broke ground on ASCs in 2019
- CMS to Repay Site-Neutral Payments to Hospitals, Appeal Case
- CMS overpaid hospitals $94M in EHR incentive payments, OIG says
- IT experts urge stronger oversight of patient data in the Wild West of consumer apps
- 13 hospital leaders talk 2020 goals
- Urgent care centers multiply, reaching 9,200+ in 2019
- Healthcare’s digital transformation: 5 predictions for 2020
- House passes bill funding HIT-enabled medical research
- 3 must-haves to hit telehealth’s tipping point
- Total U.S. healthcare costs hit $3.6 trillion in 2018
- Hospital group cheers CMS move to pay back outpatient payment cuts
- Judge refuses to strike down 2020 site-neutral plan — but chides CMS

NORTHEAST

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

CONNECTICUT

- How Connecticut reached a $1.8 billion hospital settlement
- Advocates want to recycle CT’s wasted prescription drugs. The state says it’s already doing that.
- Starling Physicians Appoints New Chief Executive Officer
- How they came to a $1.8 billion hospital settlement
- CT hospital settlement gains unanimous approval
- Error rate rises 7% at Connecticut hospitals

MAINE

- Maine Med’s new $8 million helipad saves time - and likely lives
- Regulators focus on Lewiston’s Marshwood nursing home as problems mount
o Health centers in Cumberland, Piscataquis counties get $2.1M
o Lewiston home care service to deploy telehealth systems with $254K grant
o Stonington man awarded $850,000 in medical negligence suit
o Rural Hospitals: The Challenges Maine's Hospitals Face in Delivering Care to Rural Communities

MASSACHUSETTS

o Hospital Eyes Land in Edgartown for New Nursing Home
o Partners HealthCare launches five-year $100M digital health initiative
o Massachusetts hospital settles false billing case
o Boston Heart settles kickback allegations with $26.7M payment
o Inside A Boston OR, Surgery Shows Hospital's Steps To Reduce Its Carbon Footprint
o Hospital-Level Care in Your Home? It Could Be the Future
o Southcoast Health announces new Board Chair, annual award winners
o New president tapped for Nantucket Cottage Hospital
o Roberta Herman, MD to become new Joslin Diabetes Center President and CEO

NEW HAMPSHIRE

o Hospital CEO tapped as N.H. health commissioner
o New medical co-op aimed at saving health care costs
o New Hampshire has received millions in federal funding to tackle the opioid crisis. What has it accomplished?
o Dover Doorway makes impact on opioid crisis, but Seacoast needs more
o Judge dismisses Littleton hospital's suit over walk-in clinic

NEW YORK

o NYU Langone opens biotech incubator with 22 industry members
o River Hospital and Upstate Medical University to pursue clinical affiliation
o Schedule work to start new $ 305 million Stony Brook Southampton Hospitals
o NYU Langone Health opens biotech incubator in Manhattan
o Brooklyn nursing home will serve patients on site of closed St. Mary's Hospital
o VA Buffalo readies for $180 million in projects through 2025
o New York hospital to end lung program after Catholic Health layoff announcement
o Kaleida responding to union’s job cut claims

RHODE ISLAND
Despite financial turmoil, Providence leaders expect Lifespan to pay up
Horowitz to retire after 35 years of leading Saint Elizabeth Community
The Miriam Hospital wins national honor

VERMONT

Vermont hospital extends OR closure into 2020 as sickening smell remains unsolved
SVMC earns 'A' rating for safety from Leapfrog
Vermont's 'all-payer' model aims for patient accountability
Vermont hospital extends operating room closure for odors

MID-ATLANTIC / EAST

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

DELAWARE

32 Delaware organizations will share $2 million in effort to improve health
ChristianaCare, Medtronic join on new project to target technologies, therapies
ChristianaCare community grants support variety of organizations
Delaware attorney general loses appeal bid in opioid lawsuit

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

University sues majority GW Hospital owner for breaking funding agreement
Mental Health Help Expanding at D.C. Schools
What A School Nurse Shortage Means For D.C.-Area Schools
D.C. Council seeks to lower maternal mortality rate in District

MARYLAND

LifeBridge Health's stroke software initiative grew intervention services by 400%
U of Maryland Medical System board routinely lobbied execs to promote business interests, probe finds
U. of Maryland medical system report shows how board members pushed for deals to benefit their businesses
Atlantic General among top-performing hospitals
LifeBridge Health gives Bon Secours Hospital a new name
Luminis Health CEO Victoria Bayless Names Sherry Perkins President of Anne Arundel Medical Center
D.C. Council aims for more accessible prenatal care

NEW JERSEY

Medical Care at NJ Hospital Disrupted by Ransomware Attack
Hackensack Meridian paid ransom for cyberattack that shut down computer network

Regional health care provider rebrands and expands in New Jersey

New Jersey Hospital to Use Telehealth to Improve Pre-Op, Post-Op Care

Saint Peter’s signs LOI to join with RWJ Barnabas Health

Shore Medical Center announces partnership with Penn Cancer Network

Saint Peter’s University Hospital adds telehealth services to surgery recovery program

PENNSYLVANIA

Tower Health clashes with nurses as it takes over St. Christopher’s

Amid Ellwood City Hospital closure, UPMC holding hiring event

Tower Health and Drexel University Finalize Acquisition of St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children

Nurses at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children fight for contract changes

More help being offered to Ellwood City Medical Center workers

New St. Luke’s Hospital officially open

Capital Health opens new pulmonary rehabilitation program for residents of Bucks, Mercer counties

Philadelphia hospital sells for $50M

Behavioral health startup NeuroFlow raises $7.5M

Allegheny Health Network Unveils New McCandless Neighborhood Hospital

Failure to pay doctors’ malpractice insurance lands Hahnemann, St. Chris owner in bankruptcy trouble

Pennsylvania hospitals made $136.1B impact in FY2018

Former Penn Health System CEO lands a new job

VIRGINIA

Virginia could see its biggest-ever jump in spending on mental health treatment

Chesterfield-based home healthcare provider acquires South Boston company

Virginia health care facilities see quality scores improve

WEST VIRGINIA

Camden Clark Medical Center boots up minimally invasive spine operating robot

Camden Clark Medical Center announces ENT specialty service

From surprise billing to nursing education, W.Va. Hospital Association outlines 2020 legislative priorities

Telehealth in West Virginia: Many doors still left to open

West Virginia University Researchers Study Effects of New Opioid Law

West Virginia health system now live on Meditech EHR
Mountain Health wins naming rights to West Virginia arena

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

IOWA
- Rural Iowa’s dwindling options for maternal care
- Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation equips 143 more schools
- Optimae LifeServices to expand services to Marshalltown
- U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst asks DOJ for updates on investigation into Iowa facilities after ‘disturbing reports’

KANSAS
- First patients treated in robotic arrhythmia treatment at Kansas hospital
- Feds say failures at Kansas mental health hospital could delay patient recovery
- Horton Hospital sold to Atchison healthcare organization at auction

MINNESOTA
- Mayo's approach to patient data management, security and digital health: Key thoughts from CIO Cris Ross
- HealthPartners to close home care unit — third round of layoffs in six weeks
- Bright Health raises additional $635 million for expansion
- BCBS of Minnesota whistleblower warns of 200K ‘critical’ vulnerabilities
- Grant helps Essentia fight opioid use disorder in Virginia and Ely
- Does Abu Dhabi hospital serve Mayo's mission, or its bottom line?
- Staffing changes won't cut services at Hutchinson Health
- Prime Therapeutics welcomes Christine Bent as new Chief Operating Officer
- VC-Funded Payer Bright Health Secures $635M in Series D Round

MISSOURI
- Ascension’s revenue climbs 5% as it narrows loss
- Missouri reimagines rural health care
- Policy recommendations look to address rural health care problems
- BJC HealthCare integrates Sectra imaging software with Epic EHR
- Stolen laptop potentially exposes 114,000 Missouri hospital patients
- Stolen Truman Medical Center laptop holds 114,400 patients' health data
- BJC outsources some IT positions, cutting 200 jobs
Clarkson Eyecare parent is acquired

NEBRASKA
- CHI Health Saint Francis' Cancer Center starts new clinical trial
- Nebraska Health System Completes Epic Systems EHR Implementation
- Unapproved cell-based therapy causes serious illness in Nebraska
- Great Plains Health first in Nebraska to receive Leapfrog Top Hospital Award

NORTH DAKOTA
- Altru Health System scales back plans for its new Grand Forks hospital
- HHS awards nearly $1.4 million for health services

SOUTH DAKOTA
- Here are five building projects that sparked Avera Health's rise
- Problems plague South Dakota hospital that churned through 6 CEOs in 3 years

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

ILLINOIS
- Community operators, employees part of ‘abhorrent cover-up’ of alleged $700,000 theft from resident, lawsuit claims
- Eight Illinois hospitals named among best in nation. You might be surprised who didn’t make the cut.
- Shawnee Health nurses honored for excellence
- Our View: Thumbs up to HSHS St. John’s Hospital renovation plan
- Quorum may sell shuttered MetroSouth hospital to consulting firm for $1
- North Side hospital called ‘house of horrors’ in lawsuit over treatment of DCFS children
- Chicago hospital CEO credited with helping save stroke patient

INDIANA
- Facing Healthcare Staffing Shortages in Rural Indiana
- Physician wins award for compassionate work with trauma patients
- North Point Orthopaedics breaks ground on $10 million medical office that quadruples its space
- Indiana orthopedics group to open $10M MOB, quadrupling in size
- IU Health Names VP & Chief Pharmacy Officer
- IU surgery center to break ground
- Aspire Indiana Health completes $1.35M renovation
Justice Department Awards Funding for Opioid Crisis

Precision Health Grand Challenge Leads to Discovery

VA Announces Plans for New Veterans Clinic in Terre Haute

Indiana Leads Charge for HIE Consolidation

KENTUCKY

Ky. Gov. Beshear signs executive order to end work requirement for health care

St. Claire employees elected as president and secretary to Kentucky Rural Health Association

U of L Health – Jewish Hospital recruits a new leader for its organ transplant program

Kentucky hospital supply manager charged with stealing supplies, selling them online

Humana CEO, other execs offload $38M in company shares

Humana announces hospice pharmacy acquisition

Health Foundation Advisory Council gains 4 new members

Health Kentucky | Nation’s first state cancer registry

MICHIGAN

Medical startup receives FDA clearance

Ciena Healthcare opens new $16.5 million nursing facility in Westland

McLaren Central Michigan receives gold seal for hospital accreditation

BCBS of Michigan cuts new value payment deal with 7 major systems

Beaumont, UHS break ground on new mental health hospital

Sparrow Health System given OK to build facility in Portland

DCHS named a top rural hospital in Michigan

Beaumont, UHS Break Ground on Mental Health Hospital in Michigan

‘Curious’ hospital employee improperly accessed thousands of medical records

DMC CEO to retire, replaced by downtown hospital CEO

Ascension Borgess plans new cancer center in WMU business park

OHIO

How Summa Health kindled a cultural turnaround

Cincinnati hospital gets top-tier maternity ranking

Dayton Children’s Hospital sees uptick in patients

Ohio psychiatric hospital CEO departs as state threatens to revoke hospital’s license

New bill called Esther’s Law would allow surveillance cameras in nursing home resident rooms
Scholarships for Butler Tech EMT students underline need for more life-savers
Cincinnati doctors rank among highest compensated in U.S.
UTMC employees, South Toledo community voice concerns over hospital's future
Ohio bill banning mandatory nurse overtime at hospitals passes House
How this Cleveland Clinic hospital is accommodating patients with autism
Mercy Health announces partnership with Nationwide Children’s Hospital

WISCONSIN
- Monroe Clinic names new president
- Boldt gives $1 million to Children’s Wisconsin to help train therapists for children
- SSM Health moves forward with new clinic project
- SSM Health details proposed $75 million, 5-story clinic on Fish Hatchery Road
- Gundersen, Marshfield Clinic to remain independent
- Barnes & Noble in Greenfield will close; Ascension Wisconsin micro-hospital to move in
- UW Hospital Nurses Announce Union
- See construction progress on ProHealth Care’s $55 million Mukwonago hospital project

SOUTH / SOUTHEAST
(ALABAMA, FLORIDA, GEORGIA, MISSISSIPPI, NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH CAROLINA, TENNESSEE)

ALABAMA
- American Family Care names new CIO
- USA Health neurologist first in the state to perform new aneurysm procedure
- Encompass Health names new chief HR officer

FLORIDA
- Mayo Clinic, Ascension among healthcare giants investing in Northeast Florida
- Florida VA hospital employees, supply companies indicted in kickback scheme
- First look: See inside this $85M AdventHealth expansion
- 21st Century Oncology acquired by Australia-based GenesisCare
- Krounda Medical fined $85K for failing to give patient access to EHR data
- Florida Doctor Groups Push Back Against Giving Advanced Nurses Their Independence
- Florida medical group to pay $85K for not providing medical records to patient
- UF Health to Acquire Central Florida Health's Hospitals
- Gulf Coast Medical Center gets top hospital honor
AdventHealth campus plans 2nd expansion this year

Tampa Lawmaker Files Legislation To Reform Prescription Drug Industry In Florida

Moffitt Cancer Center shakeup: CEO and others resign over China ties

Ascension recognized for cardiovascular care

West Volusia Hospital Authority will be audited

Orlando Health scoops up more land near downtown campus

Living Like a Leader: A day with Cleveland Clinic Florida CEO Dr. Wael Barsoum

FHA hospitals provided $4.1 billion in community benefits last year

GEORGIA

State of Emergency declaration will ease burden at Grady Hospital

Report Raises Concerns About Georgia Hospital Tax Credit

Georgia officials: Neediest hospitals not guaranteed most funds under tax law

State regulators approve hospital transparency rules

Study: Selby General Hospital best for orthopedic surgery

Georgia finalizes hospital financial disclosure requirement

Georgia hospitals get new transparency rules

Grady to accept certain trauma patients as hospital recovers from burst pipe

MISSISSIPPI

Nurse Practitioners filling the state’s gap in health care

Hospital unveils marker

Medicaid Expansion ‘On the Table,’ Says Incoming Lt. Gov. Hosemann

NORTH CAROLINA

UNC Health Care integrates CarePort Health platform for data-driven care coordination

Duke Clinical Research Institute lands $100M+ federal contract

North Carolina hospital misses payroll

Atrium, Novant compete in public hearing on ‘desperate need’ for more hospital beds

5 North Carolina hospitals rank among best in the country, watchdog group says

Cone Hospital To Become More User Friendly

Women’s Hospital team practices moving ‘patients’ ahead of new facility opening in February

Mission patient placed call that caused lockdown

UNC Rex Healthcare cracks ‘Top Hospitals’ list – and tech is a driver
Two Novant facilities in the Triad named 'Top Hospitals'

- Atrium to post $1B profit, says it keeps small-town hospitals afloat, changes Cone Health ties
- Rural-urban divide continues to widen, report finds

SOUTH CAROLINA

- Grand Strand Health expands behavioral services
- South Carolina Gets Green Light To Impose Medicaid Work Requirements
- CMS approves South Carolina's Medicaid work requirements
- South Carolina medical center cuts 12 positions
- South Carolina hospital alerts 2,550 patients of data breach

TENNESSEE

- Nashville heart surgeon makes history in midtown hospital
- Council approves $16M in emergency funds for Nashville General Hospital
- St. Jude recruits doc from top children's hospital to lead clinical trials research
- Sen. Chuck Grassley wants a hospital system that sued poor patients to explain itself
- Tenet sells two Tennessee hospitals to Methodist Le Bonheur
- Nashville’s Charity ER Has Been Suing More Patients Than Anywhere Else In Town
- CHS’ chief financial officer stepping down
- Report: Vanderbilt, VUMC have $11.9B economic impact on state
- Nashville General negotiates $35M settlement with Momenta Pharmaceuticals
- Nashville executive lands head job at CMS innovation center
- 16 East Tenn. healthcare professionals disciplined
- State health department names CMO
- Admissions suspended at West Tennessee assisted living home

SOUTH-CENTRAL / SOUTHWEST

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

ARKANSAS

- A close look at the opioid issue
- UAMS Doctor Named to National Committee
- Community Clinic appoints new CEO

ARIZONA
AI-powered virtual clinics open in Arizona supermarkets

Banner Health names CEOs to oversee 5 Valley hospitals

Abrazo West Campus expands hospital capacity to 200 beds

Arizona hospitals have $30 billion economic impact

Arizona hospitals have far-reaching effect on state's economy, report says

LOUISIANA

LHC Group and Ochsner Health System announce acquisition expanding partnership

LHC Group, Ochsner to expand joint partnership to acquire five Louisiana-based home health locations

Ochsner becomes 1st provider partner of telemedicine startup Hims & Hers

New Orleans health department's access to data is limited following cyberattack

Our Lady of Lourdes opens free-standing emergency room in Scott

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico awarded $3.5M to help fight opioid crisis

Are New Mexico's hospitals shortchanging community health?

Medical insurance bypasses Native Americans in New Mexico

Navajo Nation to Create Its Own Managed Health Care Entity

UNM team aims to improve migrants’ health care

Percentage of New Mexicans without health insurance less than U.S. average

OKLAHOMA

Pharmacists say monitoring has curtailed opioid epidemic

New executive director appointed to Oklahoma City-County Health Department

Western Oklahoma receives millions to fight opioid crisis

OU Children’s Hospital receives baby-friendly designation

Oklahoma appeals judge's $465 million order in opioid case

TEXAS

Texas ortho surgeon to pay $300K to settle kickback allegations

Tenet Healthcare Soars 117.1% YTD: Will Growth Continue?

Memorial Hermann, Cigna to end contract

Dallas-based Tenet Healthcare sells two Memphis area hospitals for $350 million

Presbyterian Hospital Overcharges Medicare Over $10 Million, According to Audit
Tenet Sells 2 TN Hospitals in Latest Healthcare Acquisition Deal

Texas Health Presbyterian incorrectly billed Medicare more than $10 million, audit finds

Christus Texas hospital gets new president

Texas Health to Increase Graduate Medical Education Commitments

Cigna to end contract with Memorial Hermann; 178,000 customers affected

Here’s how Texas Health Frisco put stakeholder input into action

Christus forms timeline for St. Mary demolition

**NORTHWEST**


**ALASKA**

- Anchorage hospital honored with prestigious distinction
- Alaska one of three most improved states in America’s Health Rankings 2019 report
- Dozens of patients at Alaska’s only state-run psychiatric hospital have been arrested this year for assaults inside the facility. Is there a better way for authorities to react?
- Anchorage’s Alaska Native Medical Center honored with prestigious distinction
- A breakdown of health care funding in Dunleavy’s budget proposal

**IDAHO**

- A Look At Dental Health In Rural Idaho
- Family Health Services begins construction on new Jerome facility

**MONTANA**

- Kalispell Regional names new chief physician
- The danger of distance: Here’s how a lack of EMS is hurting rural Montana residents

**OREGON**

- PhRMA sues Oregon over drug-pricing transparency laws
- 'Largest capital investment' in rural health care debuts in Southern Oregon
- Oregon State Hospital halts civil admissions
- Health system, nonprofit launch new approach to tracking needs of vulnerable clients
- Health Share contractor goes into receivership, will cease operations
- 5 Oregon universities grease the wheels for easier research collaborations

**WASHINGTON**
Federal government agrees to pay back OMC for 2019 Medicare claims

Washington hospital CEO likens role to a 'marathon that doesn't have an ending'

PeaceHealth Northwest network gets new CFO

CytoDyn signs deal to commercialize HIV drug

**WYOMING**

- Wyoming hospital alerts nearly 18,000 patients of data breach
- Wyoming requests Medicaid pay for all air ambulance flights
- Wyoming hospitals hit by cyberattacks almost daily, state hospital association says
- Data breach may have compromised patient info
- Wyoming Hospital Boosts Security, Issues Notifications After Breach
- Campbell County Health Announces New CEO

**WEST**

*(California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, Utah)*

**CALIFORNIA**

- What to expect as Kaiser's 4,000 behavioral health workers launch 5-day strike statewide
- Feds back lawsuit accusing Sutter Health of bilking Medicare for higher payments
- Gregory Adams Named Kaiser Permanente CEO
- UCSF and Washington Hospital look at Fremont for a new health center

**COLORADO**

- Loveland’s McKee Medical Center adds inpatient psychiatric unit for seniors
- Colorado report on rising prescription drug costs, possible fixes released
- East Morgan County Hospital updates community
- Colorado HIEs pool data-sharing services, expand reach to millions of patients
- DaVita Kidney Care Names New Chief Medical Officer
- Memorial Regional Health announces potential letter of intent with SCL Health amid financial turmoil
- Rural Colorado hospital looks to SCL Health for financial stability
- Health Care: Colorado Plains Medical Center’s Chest Pain Center accredited by American College of Cardiology
- HighPoint Resources supports Children’s Hospital Colorado with donation of custom handicap accessible van

**HAWAII**

- Ransomware Attacks Disrupt Patient Care at Hawaii, NJ Hospitals
$1.4M for Samuel Mahelona Memorial Hospital CT scan room

Cancer radiation treatment halted after ransomware attack at Hawaii center

Big boost for West Hawaii paramedicine program

NEVADA

The Ladder: Mark Pandori new head of state health lab

Saint Mary's CFO Alan Smith tapped for COO role

Optum's strategy in Las Vegas reveals how it plans to rapidly expand

Nevada Health to begin second phase in March

How much do businesses providing health care help Nevada's rural economies?