HEALTH PROVIDER NEWS - MARCH 2, 2018

NATIONAL

- CMS moves forward with new voluntary bundled payment
- AMA seeks MAT changes to combat opioid crisis
- 35 hospital groups urge court to halt $1.6B in Medicare payment cuts
- 20 states file lawsuit against federal government calling the Affordable Care Act unconstitutional
- Moody's warns hospitals to beware of payer growth strategies on margins, bargaining power
- Apple Is Joining Amazon and Warren Buffett in the Health Care Business
- Four New Skills Sought by Managed Care Organizations
- Healthcare Execs Call Telehealth a Priority, But Are Still Reluctant
- DOJ chucks most of UnitedHealth false billing lawsuit
- Fierce flu season to buoy for-profit hospital operator results
- 13 healthcare privacy incidents in February
- DOJ aligns with states in opioid lawsuit, increases scrutiny on drug companies
- CMS seeks physician participants for study on quality reporting burdens

NORTHEAST

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

CONNECTICUT

- Wallingford-based Masonicare is selling Newtown facility
- Hartford HealthCare, Tufts Health Plan Join Forces To Create Insurance Company
- Lifespan joins merger talks with Care New England, Partners
- Masonicare, Hebrew Senior Care form senior-based hospital alliance
- St. Francis parent’s operating income up 62% in first half of fiscal '18
- MedExpress opens Middletown urgent care, third in CT
- Bristol Hospital to debut $3.4M senior behavioral care unit
- Middlesex Hospital uses temporary ER in wake of crash

MAINE

- Lovejoy Health Center celebrates completed expansion with open house
- MaineMed, ambulance provider settle civil lawsuits for $1.4M
DHHS to outsource Medicaid staff

MASSACHUSETTS
- Shattuck Hospital to relocate to Boston Medical Center campus
- Nurses and hospital continue bargaining with strike still looming
- Massachusetts hospital to close, transition inpatient services to Boston Medical Center
- Partners HealthCare adds Lifespan to Rhode Island expansion plans
- Steward Health Care to move top executives to Dallas
- Boston Children's joins research network to gain access to patient data
- Doctor pleads guilty as part of Aegerion drug misbranding probe
- Fallon, Tufts finish 2017 in the black
- Fallon's new CFO joins Health Foundation committee
- Shrewsbury home health firm acquired for $2.1M

NEW HAMPSHIRE
- Planning Board grapples with hospital project
- New Hampshire woman sues state hospital and health services over patient assault

NEW YORK
- Nomad gets $12M to scale up, improve healthcare job portal
- Biotech startup Kallyope raises $66M to study the gut-brain connection
- NYC H + H's CEO Looks at Primary Care's Role in Healthcare Reform
- New York hospital sheds $2.34M of expenses in 2-day cost purge
- 38 New York hospitals get $24.2M in quality payments from Excellus BCBS
- Former nurse claiming retaliation wins lawsuit against Queen’s Medical Center
- Patients Are More Likely to Survive at These 4 Tri-State Hospitals: Report
- Albany Med buys two buildings totaling $4.95 million

RHODE ISLAND
- Lifespan joins merger talks with Care New England, Partners
- Partners HealthCare adds Lifespan to Rhode Island expansion plans
- Lifespan reports increased operating income, strong overall results in FY17
- South County Health and Yale New Haven Health end R.I. merger talks

VERMONT
- BMH settles false claims allegation
- New health care tech leader says staff is up to challenge
CEO of 2 University of Vermont Health Network hospitals to retire

MID-ATLANTIC / EAST

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

DELAWARE

- Kent County takes aim at ‘Big Pharma’
- New advisory group seeks to reign in health care costs

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- New turnaround operator to start Monday at United Medical Center
- Company charged with DC hospital’s turnaround to focus on RCM as part of first efforts
- D.C. public hospital board plans to go to court to avoid releasing meeting records

MARYLAND

- Ambulance service faces whistleblower suit over Medicaid billing
- Lawsuit says Maryland ambulance company overbilled Medicare
- Havre de Grace council member also sits on state hospital licensing board
- Gov. Hogan’s budget plan delays funding for the new Capital Region Medical Center
- St. Joseph Medical Center in Towson plans $100 million renovation and facility upgrades
- Kennedy Krieger CEO Gary Goldstein to retire after 30 years
- Baltimore medical device firm Sisu Global Health launching first product, raising money for growth
- Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center plans $469M expansion
- MedStar Health grows Q2 net income by $62M

NEW JERSEY

- SNF aims to cut ER visits with telemed
- Children’s Regional Hospital at Cooper University Health Care Opens New Pediatric Infusion Center
- Patients Are More Likely to Survive at These 4 Tri-State Hospitals: Report
- Atlantic Health expands ambulatory care

PENNSYLVANIA

- Penn State Children’s Hospital expansion project advanced by board committee
- Mercy Philadelphia Hospital embarks on $15 million ER expansion
- UPMC Pinnacle replaces managers at former Carlisle Regional
- Why Health Care Systems Are Building Micro Hospitals
- Penn State Health and Highmark advance their partnership
- Many hospitals phasing out nurseries in favor of ‘rooming in’
Management shake-up at Hahnemann University Hospital

3 Highmark Health officials join Penn State Health board

Genesis Healthcare gets some debt relief

Cooper opens pediatric infusion center in Camden

Hahnemann’s new owners to replace hospital’s top execs

Geisinger names Kevin Roberts new CFO

Medtronic and Lehigh Valley Health Network Sign Strategic Partnership Agreement Focused on Delivering Value-Based Healthcare Programs

UPMC reports $1.3 billion profit, touts insurance growth

Penn State Children’s Hospital is one of 7 in nation with pediatric surgery verification

Canonsburg hospital launches heart-related rehab programs

Geisinger more than doubles net income in first half of FY18, but sees operating margin slip on health plan

UHS Q4 earnings jump to $220M

VIRGINIA

Health care crisis persists in rural areas of Virginia

Hundreds of Virginians Rally for Medicaid Expansion

The Future of Health Care Delivery: Homes not Hospitals

WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia drops lawsuit against DEA

Urgent care centers represent entrepreneurial opportunities, positive health outcomes in Appalachia

CENTRAL

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

IOWA

Iowa physician’s license to practice indefinitely suspended for providing inappropriate pain management

New NIACC, University of Iowa nursing partnership aims to curb state, national shortages

KANSAS

Karren Weichert, CEO of Midland Care, honored as ABWA chapter’s Woman of Distinction

Kansas agency inadvertently shared personal health information of 11,000 people

CEO will depart one of KC’s biggest health systems

Olathe Medical Center wraps up $100M expansion with new cancer center

MINNESOTA

Adverse health report includes Albert Lea, Austin
Mayo Clinic spinoff lauded for innovation

Minnesota hospital errors rose slightly over past 4 years

Staff Shortages Have Become a Fast-Growing Concern, Hospital CEOs Say

MISSOURI

Telemedicine to allow SSM to remotely link to patients, hospitals

Hospital taking steps to resolve billing issues

Rural Missouri hospital files for bankruptcy

Tenet values Des Peres Hospital assets at more than $40 million

Local exec ranks among top minorities in health care

Dr. Anthony Tersigni: Virtual care is transforming our healthcare system one visit at a time

Ascension to enter physician practice revenue cycle agreement with R1

NEBRASKA

Nye Health announces Harris promotion

Beatrice Community Hospital’s CEO looks to the future

Methodist Hospital in Omaha to close home health and hospice program in March

NORTH DAKOTA

Altru Health System CEO to resign in 2019, COO to succeed

SOUTH DAKOTA

$10 million health care building is open to the public

Regional Health Rapid City Hospital verified as Level II Trauma Center

MIDWEST

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

ILLINOIS

Loyola's purchase of MacNeal Hospital could take away Berwyn's biggest source of property tax revenue

Loyola’s Pending Purchase Of Berwyn Hospital Worries Taxpayers, Union

Illinois lawmakers to finalize hospital assessment program

Another Chicago hospital plans pediatric unit closure

Outcome Health lays off 20 more employees

How Rush hospital is working to tackle Chicago's 'death gap'

Meet the new interim CEO at St. Elizabeth's Hospital

Rockford hospital partners with Chicago children’s hospital

Illinois House approves plan for Medicaid hospital financing
Tenet continues hospital sell-off spree with deals in Illinois, Texas

INDIANA
- IU Health operating earnings climb on strong patient volumes
- IU Health Touts ‘Substantial Progress’ in 2017
- Franciscan hospital in Dyer to close its birthing center
- New Community East is big bet as industry revenues slow
- Judge says Bauer can work for IU Health
- Developer proposes $1B Indiana hospital
- Making Indiana One of The Healthiest States in America
- More Than a Hospital
- Community Health Names COO of North Region
- Assisted Living Community Opens in Muncie
- Pain Management Business Poised For Midwest Expansion
- Franciscan Health names new corporate SVP, hospital CEO

KENTUCKY
- How lay-health workers are reducing readmission rates at a rural Kentucky hospital
- Kentucky Medicaid will penalize patients for unnecessary ED visits
- Emergency Or Not? Ky. Medicaid Changes Will Penalize For Unnecessary ER Visits
- With Amazon looming, Humana digs heels into senior care management
- Long-time Louisville pediatrician practice files for Chapter 7 bankruptcy protection
- Kindred Healthcare reports 4Q loss
- UofL receives nearly $2 million from HRSA to better meet older adults’ behavioral health needs
- Health care collections company to lay off 150 in Louisville
- Humana execs pick up more than $12 million from stock sales

MICHIGAN
- Hospitals cut costs as revenue squeezed
- Centria Healthcare accuser pleads no contest to contempt of court
- Michigan Veteran Health System names Laurie McCullough-Benner as new CEO
- Charlevoix Hospital welcomes new chief operating officer
- U.S. attorney investigating DMC over possible federal anti-kickback violations
- St. Mary Mercy Livonia hospital appoints new chief medical officer
- Beaumont expanding pediatric network
HMC announces new president/CEO
- Western Michigan medical school gets $2M bequest from Upjohn heir
- Days after CEO resigns, feds release investigative report on infection problems at Sparrow Carson

OHIO
- Cleveland Clinic's London hospital to open in early 2021
- Independent physicians say they're getting squeezed out of business
- Crystal Clinic Orthopaedic Center plans new, $100 million hospital in Fairlawn
- Akron Children's Hospital appoints chief quality officer
- Auditor: Hamilton County healthcare providers have overbilled Medicaid for over $6M
- Local hospital to expand emergency department
- Ohio AG targets 4 drug distributors in second opioid lawsuit
- Toledo Hospitals to Use Telemedicine For ED Psychiatric Consults
- One of Greater Cincinnati's largest hospitals changes name, logo
- Ohio lawmakers consider banning tax breaks, state contracts from Anthem over ED policy
- Mercy Health hiring 60 at Dayton-area hospital
- Cleveland Clinic finances rebound in 2017
- Premier Health to partner on $24M rehabilitation institute near Miami Valley Hospital
- Grandview Medical Center to undergo expansion as nearby hospital closes
- TriHealth fills new senior leadership post with Cincinnati Bell veteran
- HealthSpan integration, community expansion help drive MetroHealth's strong 2017

WISCONSIN
- Aurora Health Care switches sites for $130M ASC, physician office
- Wisconsin Attorney General Leading Federal Lawsuit Against ACA
- All work, no pay: Area home health care provider shuts doors as payments for services rendered fail to come
- Gateway to help fast-track training for nurses aides
- Local nursing programs take on nationwide shortage
- Marshfield Clinic: $17M operating loss dragged by federal health plan changes
- Walker moves to stabilize health care insurance

SOUTHWEST
- State board approves request for cancer center in Florence
Medical Properties Trust promotes senior executives

FLORIDA

- 2 families accuse Kindred Hospital North Florida of neglect
- State rejects Munroe’s plan for new hospital
- Florida regulators reject Munroe Regional's proposal to construct $102M hospital
- $22M Nursing Home Rejected in Florida, Masonicare Sells $13M SNF
- GuideWell adds health care facilities in Winter Haven, Lake Mary
- Hospital seeks state approval for 160-bed tower
- Millions at stake for South Florida safety-net hospitals as budget negotiations begin
- Sanford Burnham agrees to return $12.3 million to state
- Tallahassee’s Heritage Healthcare fined $25,000, scores near bottom
- Florida Hospital executive overseeing women’s and children’s services resigns
- 500 children may need revaccination; Orlando doctor arrested, officials say
- Labor market report shows growing shortage of workers in health care, retail
- Lee Health makes new push for Estero hospital
- Pensacola Naval Hospital becomes outpatient only, will no longer deliver babies
- Assisted living generator rule stalls in Florida House
- Jury Enters $2.85 Million Verdict In Whistleblower Trial Against Florida Hospital
- No more baby deliveries: Rural hospital affected after state’s Medicaid cuts
- Cleveland Clinic takeover of Indian River Medical Center expected to close by Aug. 31

GEORGIA

- GE and Navicent Health enter 6-year partnership
- Georgia AG Signs Off on Piedmont-Columbus Deal
- CHI Memorial Hospital: Erlanger surgery center would hurt North Georgia
- Georgia doctor to plead guilty to disclosing patient info to Aegerion
- South Georgia in need of nurses at hospitals
- WellStar more than doubles net income in Q2: 4 things to know
- Georgia Legislature revisiting rural hospital tax credit
- Clinch Memorial Hospital ending affiliation with South Georgia Medical Center
- Piedmont Healthcare enters into service agreement with Atlanta Brain & Spine Care
- Grady Hospital Keeping Mobile ER Open For Another Month
Why this Georgia health system is transitioning into a nonprofit
Navicent Health Baldwin taps Judy Ware as interim CEO

MISSISSIPPI
University of Mississippi Medical Center names interim CEO for 2 hospitals
Mississippi House Kills Bill Targeting Hospital Problems

NORTH CAROLINA
Vidant’s new health model helps patients take charge of care
30,000 people work at UNC Health Care. Its potential partner is cutting jobs.
Charlotte hospital giant plans to slash labor costs across the region, documents show
What did Atrium Health’s top execs earn last year?
Duke providers remain at cardiology clinic
Southeastern Health welcomes new VP
Atrium Health’s cost-cutting strategies do not concern UNC Health Care execs ahead of planned merger
Cone Health posts slight decrease in first quarter excess revenue
Is security at Charlotte-area hospitals adequate?
Why UNC Rex just paid $5.1M for more land in Holly Springs
Novant ends fiscal 2017 with 5 percent increase in excess revenue
Wake Forest Baptist excess revenue more than doubles in first half of 2017-18
Ease rules on nurses to counter shortage
Some doctors leaving Atrium Health amid new compensation contract

SOUTH CAROLINA
MUSC terminates employees who ‘snoop’ in patients’ medical records
What Greenville Health sale could mean for patients
St. Francis names new chief medical officer
Greenville Health System withdraws application for new psychiatric hospital
Mary Black Spartanburg names new CEO

TENNESSEE
Rural Tennessee Hospital May Sidestep Closure Thanks To Nashville Investors
Vanderbilt University Medical Center partners with nationally recognized health system
CHS names division president

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Physician advocates: CHS should ‘return to the business of healthcare excellence’

Nashville General CEO Dr. Joseph Webb on hospital’s future, fiscal stability: ‘Nash Gen should remain intact as a full-service hospital’

HealthStream CIO preps exit

St. Jude building Memphis research facility, part of $1B hospital expansion

Wayne Smith says CHS to sell more hospitals in 2018

CHS’ shares plummet after reporting $2B loss

SOUTH-CENTRAL / SOUTHWEST
(Arkansas, Arizona, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas)

ARKANSAS
- ACH Opens Emergency and Inpatient Services
- Arkansas Children’s Northwest Set To Open
- UAMS to cut 124 additional jobs; positions will be eliminated through attrition, not layoffs, exec says
- Arkansas academic health center to cut 130 additional jobs through attrition

ARIZONA
- Arizona physicians work to keep residents and economy healthy
- Audit: Arizona did not collect about $40M in drug rebates
- Maricopa Integrated Health System to pay $59M to buy Maryvale hospital
- Taxpayer-funded health district to buy, reopen Maryvale Hospital in $60 million deal
- Shuttered Hospital in West Phoenix Sold; Will Reopen in 2019
- Bill would allow Arizona pharmacists to tell patients about cheaper prescription drug options
- Phoenix Children’s Hospital wins battle against Irish hospital over similar names

LOUISIANA
- A hospital group in New Orleans is working with Microsoft to help predict patient emergencies
- Ochsner, Chamberlain University partner to curb nursing shortage
- Louisiana joins multi-state lawsuit to toss Affordable Care Act

NEW MEXICO
- Why New Mexico struggles to rank higher in Best States ranking
- Addus to Buy New Mexico Home Health Provider for $40M
- Judge dismisses Molina’s lawsuit over New Mexico Medicaid contracts
- Alta Vista Regional Hospital names Caleb O’Rear permanent CEO

OKLAHOMA
Health providers working to make medical care accessible
MRHC CEO details next steps to building new cancer center
Funding Cut For All Oklahoma State Agencies

TEXAS

Hospital added new medical doctors, technologies
Free-standing emergency rooms taking off
That freestanding emergency room is probably not in-network, no matter what the website says
Medical City Plano and Medical City Frisco Name New CFO
Tenet Posts $230M Loss in Q4, Continues Hospital-Selling Spree
Steward Health Care to move top executives to Dallas
Northwest Texas Hospital partners with Sound Physicians
Hendrick CEO Lancaster brings hospital award back home to Abilene
Children's Hospital reports $3.7 million loss in first quarter
Tenet says it's on schedule to bring in $1B in proceeds through divestitures
Longview Regional parent reports widening losses
One of Frisco’s largest employers faces uncertainty as Tenet Healthcare reworks its business
Addus to Buy New Mexico Home Health Provider for $40M
Jon Alford to serve as CFO of Medical City Plano, Medical City Frisco
Cook Children's Hospital to transition to an ASC, affecting 150 jobs
Baylor Scott & White closes 113-bed Texas hospital
Tenet continues hospital sell-off spree with deals in Illinois, Texas

NORTHWEST


ALASKA

Alaska is insurance company’s testing ground for health portal

IDAHO

Idaho House panel kills health care alternative plan
Telemedicine improves medical care in eastern Idaho
Idaho Governor Butch Otter Meets With HHS Secretary Azar Over Controversial Insurance Plans

MONTANA

Does Missoula need two neonatal ICUs? Community hospital execs concerned as St. Pat’s opens its own
Gallatin health advocates say they feel disjointed from the state
OREGON

- CareOregon absorbs 78K new members, dozens of employees from FamilyCare
- Prescription drug bill passes Oregon House, moves to Senate
- Oregon voters won't get to decide whether health care is a universal right

WASHINGTON

- Warren Buffett wants big results from Amazon health care partnership
- This Seattle hospital aims to get sepsis patients on antibiotics within 3 hours — here's how
- Vera Whole Health Receives Seattle Business Magazine's Innovation in Healthcare Delivery Award
- Trios Health selects another new interim CEO, CFO

WYOMING

- Medicaid work requirement faces third Wyoming Senate reading
- Does A Larger Role For Midwives Mean Better Care?
- Bill to privatize 2 state facilities moves through Senate
- South Big Horn County CEO resigns
- Wyoming health system loses up to $200k to surgery center billing delays

WEST

(California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, Utah)

CALIFORNIA

- Adventist Health promotes Fuentes to president of Sonora hospital
- Anthem Blue Cross accuses California hospital of $13.5M billing scheme
- At Some California Hospitals, Fewer Than Half Of Workers Get The Flu Shot
- Hospital leaders pick Kaiser as top healthcare organization
- U.S. Office of Personnel Management accuses Health Net of obstructing federal IT audit
- Catalina Island Medical Center adding services
- Nurses to St. Joe CE: 'respect nurses and other health care workers'
- New CEO appointed at North County Health Services
- El Camino Hospital taps new CIO
- Drs. Kirk Clifford, James Gebhard to build spine surgery program at Colorado hospital

COLORADO

- Ten ERs In Colorado Tried To Curtail Opioids And Did Better Than Expected
- 10 Colorado EDs cut opioid use by 36% in 6 months
- Grant for $500K from Colorado Health Foundation supports new medical office building in Craig
- Damage limit in local medical malpractice case goes to appeal, could set new law
- Fewer Colorado hospitals make Healthgrades' 2018 'best hospitals' list
- Kansas City-area hospital CEO to become metro-Denver health-care exec
- Colorado sees record-breaking number of flu hospitalizations

HAWAII
- Supporters lobby for bill that would help Hilo hospital treat heart attacks

NEVADA
- Northeastern Nevada Regional Hospital taps Steven Simpson as CEO
- UNLV Medicine's New CEO Eyes the Details
- Alta Vista Regional Hospital names Caleb O'Rear permanent CEO

UTAH
- Intermountain Healthcare upgrades digital care for Utah patients with a new, more centralized ‘virtual hospital’
- Intermountain Healthcare launches virtual hospital
- Why Intermountain Healthcare is making generic drugs
- Strategic Student & Senior Housing Trust Acquires Portfolio of Three Salt Lake City Assisted Living Communities