

HEALTH PROVIDER NEWS - JUNE 28, 2019

NATIONAL

- Lawsuit sheds light on Amazon's pharmacy strategy
- CMS' first health informatics chief out after 4 months on the job
- Deals by UnitedHealth, other health giants draw antitrust scrutiny in D.C.
- Supreme Court to hear insurers' bid for \$12 billion in Obamacare money
- FDA must guard against bias in AI, focus on patient outcomes
- FCC considers \$100 million for rural telehealth program
- Creative solutions to patient care from top US healthcare leaders
- Trump signs order that aims to reveal real health care costs
- Nonprofit hospitals more likely to garnish patient wages to pay medical bills
- Why physicians are pursuing MBAs after their MD
- CMS issues FAQs on BPCI Advanced model

NORTHEAST

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

CONNECTICUT

- Inbox Health raises \$4.4M seed round to modernize healthcare billing
- Connecticut Valley Hospital, Whiting Forensic workers denounce unsafe staffing
- Flaks to succeed Joseph at Hartford HealthCare
- Healthcare workers describe staffing crisis at Whiting
- Middletown doctor admits to Medicaid fraud

MAINE

- By the numbers: Maine ranks third best in hospital safety analysis
- Pen Bay to break ground Wednesday for new medical complex
- Maine Medicaid expansion not moving as quickly as expected
- Pen Bay Medical Center to begin construction of new health center at hospital campus
- Northern Maine Medical Center breaks ground on historic expansion

MASSACHUSETTS

- Partners creates new role for adding outpatient sites

- Partners HealthCare appoints first-ever female CEO
- Mass. diagnostics firms sign M&A deals worth \$500M
- Mass. company acquires Colorado-based pharmaceutical business, renames it Azurity

NEW HAMPSHIRE

- New Hampshire lawmakers find agreement on healthcare bills
- By the numbers: New Hampshire ranks 32nd in hospital safety analysis
- Tenet's Conifer Health enters RCM agreement with New Hampshire hospital
- New Hampshire lawmakers find agreement on healthcare bills

NEW YORK

- On-site 3D printing facility breaks ground at Hospital for Special Surgery
- Northwell Health taps social determinants to improve patient care
- Syracuse hospital fights its top doctors for \$1.3 million windfall
- Northwell Health partners with NowPow to address social determinants among Medicaid patients
- N.J. could make it harder for patients to transfer to hospitals in New York and Philadelphia
- New York Medicaid Change Could Cut Nursing Home Payments by Millions
- St. Peter's Health Partners offers voluntary buyouts
- Mount Sinai partners with LabCorp on AI

RHODE ISLAND

- Tufts Health Plan to reward members for choosing lower-cost providers
- Southcoast Health awards \$150K in grants to local nonprofits

VERMONT

- Southwestern Vermont Medical Center announce child cardiology and urology care
- Task Force On Struggling Rural Healthcare System Begins Work
- House approves Welch bill combating elder abuse in state Medicaid programs
- Springfield hospital, health centers, file for bankruptcy

MID-ATLANTIC / EAST

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

DELAWARE

- Maryland hospital announces intent to join Christiana Care Health System
- This Christiana Care OR will allow doctors to perform surgery, stent procedures at once
- Bill to lift barriers to medicated-assisted treatment for opioid abuse
- Beebe Healthcare kicks off national search for CEO

- [Christiana Care enters talks to acquire Union Hospital in Cecil County](#)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- [Providence's urgent care center is coming](#)
- [Sibley, Unity team up on Northeast D.C. cancer clinic](#)

MARYLAND

- [Johns Hopkins CTO Dwight Raum: Why patient data privacy should drive vendor, hospital relationships](#)
- [Ambulance company that won big Baltimore contract to pay \\$1.25 million to settle Medicaid fraud case](#)
- [Maryland Ambulance Company To Pay \\$1.25M After Being Accused Of Filing False Medicare Claims](#)
- [Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital moving to Epic EHR](#)
- [Maryland hospital announces intent to join Christiana Care Health System](#)
- [EMR provider alerts 2 Maryland medical groups of data breach that may have affected 3,000 patients](#)
- [Maryland health system launches LGBTQ health task force](#)
- [Ambulance company settles billing fraud allegations for \\$1.25M](#)
- [Novavax selling manufacturing business amid good news for flu vaccine](#)
- [Cecil County's Union Hospital signs letter of intent to explore merger with Delaware health system](#)

NEW JERSEY

- [Shore Medical Center nurses picket for new contract](#)
- [NJ considers giving patients more choices when being transferred to other facilities](#)
- [Nurse who exposed problems at state's only public hospital will be N.J.'s next top health official, sources say](#)
- [N.J. could make it harder for patients to transfer to hospitals in New York and Philadelphia](#)
- [NJ hospitals receive \\$5.4M to prep for emergencies, outbreaks & natural disasters](#)
- [RWJBarnabas Health names Moore to lead system wide pediatric service line](#)
- [Cooper University Health Care to launch program to treat pulmonary issues](#)
- [NJDOH hospital maternity care report card provides interactive facility data](#)
- [Rafael Pharmaceuticals enters out-licensing agreement with Ono Pharma](#)

PENNSYLVANIA

- [Allegheny Health Network to implement ICU telehealth model](#)
- [Hospital CEO: Commonwealth Health hospitals not being sold to UPMC](#)
- [Washington Health System's CEO retiring](#)
- [Greater Philadelphia's life sciences are having a moment | Opinion](#)
- [Geisinger's new CEO maintains a fundamental focus](#)
- [By the numbers: Pennsylvania ranks 18th in hospital safety analysis](#)

- Study: Ellwood hospital one of highest in state on revenue gap, Medicare use
- Wolf, Shapiro announce 10 year contract for Highmark-UPMC
- Drexel sues to block threatened closure of Hahnemann University Hospital
- Hospital administrator Don Owrey leaving for new UPMC position
- N.J. could make it harder for patients to transfer to hospitals in New York and Philadelphia
- Philadelphia hospital to close
- Penn State Health names CFO for Hershey Medical Center, Medical Group

VIRGINIA

- Ballad 'cautiously optimistic' about Lee hospital reopening in 2020
- Fredericksburg area schools and hospitals work to cure nurse shortage
- New grants kickstart planning for new medical school
- George Mason University to study the feasibility of a medical school
- Nonprofits hospitals in Virginia garnish more wages than for-profit counterparts, study says

WEST VIRGINIA

- New management agreement, CEO for West Virginia hospital
- WVU Medicine to manage Wheeling Hospital
- Wheeling Hospital names Douglass E. Harrison CEO
- Weirton Medical Center Suing Compliance Consultant
- Wheeling Hospital lawsuit transferred to West Virginia federal court
- West Virginia Hospital Association getting ready for 2020 legislative session
- West Virginia hospital now live on Meditech HER

CENTRAL

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

IOWA

- Ex-Iowa hospital CEO charged with theft after auditor's investigation
- \$4 million expansion of Des Moines assisted living center announced
- University of Iowa Children's Hospital makes gains in national rankings
- Healthiest State launches 5-2-1-0 program for workplaces

KANSAS

- Atchison hospital leader passes torch
- HRMC launches One-Call Access Center
- KC pharmacist is sentenced for health care fraud

- [Mission Health Sets New Path for Once Struggling Kansas SNFs](#)
- [The End of an Era for Southeast Kansas Healthcare](#)

MINNESOTA

- [2 Minnesota hospitals end merger talks](#)
- [Mayo Clinic putting \\$233 million into proton beam therapy for Florida cancer center](#)
- [BCBS of Minnesota buys joint ownership of hospital's 20 clinics](#)
- [Minnesota Cup winner MicroOptx raises \\$13.8 million](#)
- [UnitedHealth buys PatientsLikeMe, the startup forced by Trump administration to find a buyer](#)

MISSOURI

- [Mercy Health to lay off workers amid reimbursement decline](#)
- [Mercy hospital system announces restructuring, job cuts](#)
- [SSM Health launches virtual visits in 4 states](#)
- [New St. Mary's Hospital president has broad view of health care](#)
- [Missouri legislators target 'never events' at hospitals](#)
- [MU Health grows pipeline of new employees](#)
- [A rural Missouri hospital has a plan to stay alive, but the federal government is objecting](#)
- [KC pharmacist is sentenced for health care fraud](#)

NEBRASKA

- [Omaha-area health systems make progress in reducing opioid prescribing](#)
- [Norfolk hospital cuts inpatient opioid use by 30% by changing pain assessment strategy](#)
- [Nebraska slowly rolls out voter-approved Medicaid expansion](#)
- [Ex-pharmacy director sentenced to 4 years for embezzling \\$4M from Nebraska children's hospital](#)

NORTH DAKOTA

- [North Dakota becoming last state to create unit tackling Medicaid fraud](#)
- [Online petition seeks removal of top North Dakota State Hospital administrators](#)
- [Eleven assaults reported this year at North Dakota State Hospital](#)
- [New North Dakota hospital takes shape with ideas from the community and staff](#)

SOUTH DAKOTA

- [Six months after Good Sam merger, Sanford brings together employees](#)
- [Corner Office: Sanford Health's CMO Dr. Allison Suttle on the importance of storytelling](#)
- [Cigna to close South Dakota site](#)
- [Native American Health Board to Operate Most of Hospital](#)

- UnityPoint Health may merge with Sanford, a larger hospital system based in South Dakota

MIDWEST

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

ILLINOIS

- Patients of Illinois eyecare, ASC business notified of malware attack
- Obstetrics unit closing at South Side hospital
- 40,000-square-foot medical building planned for Chicago suburb
- SSM Health launches virtual visits in 4 states
- Inspector general challenges Illinois health system's budget practices
- Illinois home health care workers get back pay this week
- Lurie Children's Hospital is creating a new outpatient clinic and lounge
- Amita Health St. Joseph Hospital Chicago selects John Baird as CEO

INDIANA

- Northwest Indiana medical lab installs 'transformational' technology
- IU Health holds ceremonial groundbreaking for fourth local facility
- Specialty pharmacy is first of its kind in Northwest Indiana
- Lutheran network CEO aware of job ahead
- 2,200 patients' data breached, Franciscan Health investigation finds
- Life Sciences Growth Key for New BioCrossroads CEO
- Franciscan Health Details Data Breach
- Good Samaritan Approves Purchase of Former Eye Center

KENTUCKY

- Milestone for new \$130m St. Elizabeth Cancer Center; sign the special topping-out beam by June 24
- Meet Your Neighbor: Clark Regional CEO shares plans for hospital
- Forbes names Appalachian Regional Healthcare among top 10 employers in Kentucky
- Markey Cancer Center at Lexington Clinic Begins Providing Services
- Kentucky Health News: Rural hospitals continue to be at risk of closing; federal policy complicates pay
- Baptist Health Floyd Launches Multi-Million Dollar Epic EHR System
- Kentucky hospital to unveil \$10M ASC
- Kindred Healthcare, Mercy Forth Smith Announce Plans For Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital
- Methodist Hospital in Henderson responds to 'F' safety rating
- Federal loan allows TJ foundation to build hospice facility in Glasgow

- Kentucky hospital faces class action after workers' health plan canceled
- U of L, Norton Healthcare in talks to combine pediatric operations
- Surprise medical billing in Kentucky among lowest in nation
- Humana could get \$600M+ if Supreme Court rules favorably on ACA suit
- Kentucky Hospital Incorporates Location Technology

MICHIGAN

- Michigan Medicine said it expects year-end 3.8% operating margin
- Henry Ford Allegiance Health picks next president, CEO
- Paula Autry named president, CEO of Henry Ford Allegiance Health
- Provider to pay nearly \$1M to settle meal break, shift violation claims
- Michigan Medicine reports \$178 million surplus for 2019
- Opioid prescriptions down 15 percent in Michigan
- Forward Focus: Healthcare shortage areas revealed in southwest Michigan
- Health systems form partnership
- The Latest: Health-care provider to appeal \$3M verdict
- Aspirus UP hospitals, clinics receive 2019 Governor's Award of Excellence for quality, patient safety
- Top Children's Hospitals In Michigan: U.S. News & World Report

OHIO

- Atrium Health, Cleveland Clinic join latest funding round for startup Xealth
- Nurses, physicians spar over Ohio deregulation bill
- Cleveland Clinic taps Dr. Teresa Dews as Euclid Hospital president
- Physicians Endoscopy converts Ohio GI hospital outpatient department into ASC
- Amid growth of assisted living, some renew calls for federal oversight
- Employees get notice, lose pay and save the day as nursing home abruptly closes
- Northeast Ohio health care workers benefiting from increasing minimum wage
- Ohio Health System Launches EMS-Based Accountable Care Network
- Health care price transparency a sticking point in Ohio budget negotiations
- Bon Secours Mercy Health to add 500 jobs in Bond Hill 'hub'
- Piedmont Hospitals Dramatically Cut Patient Infection Rates
- Mercy Health adding 500 jobs to HQ

WISCONSIN

- Advocate Aurora Health's Wisconsin expansion plan advances

- Beaver Dam Community Hospital exploring opportunities with acquisition
- Coalition seeks binding community benefits agreement with Ascension for St. Joseph hospital
- SSM Health launches virtual visits in 4 states
- St. Clare Hospital in Baraboo expands orthopedics services
- Marshfield Children's Hospital NICU celebrates 50 years
- Updates on Marshfield Medical Center-Neillsville's New Facility
- Ascension lays off employees in Wisconsin

SOUTH / SOUTHEAST

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

ALABAMA

- Hospital groups argue CMS wage index proposal flawed
- On this day in Alabama history: Children's Hospital was founded
- Alabama hospital lays off 8 employees
- 20 doctors beginning residencies in north Alabama

FLORIDA

- Morton Plant North Bay Hospital welcomes Brandon May as president
- By the numbers: Florida ranks 17th in hospital safety analysis
- Broward Health must pay six-figure fine to government
- Baptist Hospital announces new hospital at Brent Lane
- St. Pete nursing school and hospital team up to tackle nursing shortage
- 'Con' repeal, telehealth teed up for DeSantis
- Mayo Clinic putting \$233 million into proton beam therapy for Florida cancer center

GEORGIA

- WellStar West Georgia breaks ground on cancer center renovation, expansion
- How Georgia's Health Systems Rank In The U.S.
- Phoebe Health System recognized as part of Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative
- Piedmont Hospitals Dramatically Cut Patient Infection Rates
- By the numbers: Georgia ranks 15th in hospital safety analysis
- Sundance Hospitals Acquired by Georgia's Perimeter Healthcare
- Georgia's Rural Center to study health care simulation center for south Georgia
- Georgia, Cisco to expand statewide telemedicine clinics

MISSISSIPPI

- Baptist North Mississippi receives Chest Pain Center accreditation
- Mississippi fights lawsuit over reliance on mental hospitals
- Baptist North Mississippi receives Chest Pain Center accreditation
- Mississippi Hospital Association introduces new healthcare proposal
- Mississippi hospital patient lights fire in room, prompting evacuation
- University of Mississippi Medical Center officers suspended after releasing man who dies in traffic

NORTH CAROLINA

- Certificate-of-need language pledged to be pulled from Senate health care bill
- Atrium Health, Cleveland Clinic join latest funding round for startup Xealth
- Mission Health's new leaders look to spend millions and grow; system has 700 job openings
- Clock ticking on SHP contract deadline for providers, hospitals
- Atrium Health forming nonprofit group for nursing homes
- New General Assembly budget includes many health care features, but no Medicaid expansion
- UNC Health Care Launches Innovative Fully Integrated Epic Telehealth Solution
- Birthing center to open next month at Baptist
- Randolph Health CEO presents need to find partner 'in the next few months' while detailing rural hospital struggles
- State budget compromise includes \$15M for autopsy center at Wake Forest Baptist
- Triad health system reveals state-of-the-art NICU
- Legislators offer lifeline to rural hospitals drowning in debt
- UNC Hospitals contributed to dark money group in 'administrative oversight'
- North Carolina hospital reopens

SOUTH CAROLINA

- The executive in charge of operating MUSC's hospitals is leaving for Emory University
- Five MUSC Children's Hospital programs named as part of annual U.S. News & World Report's Best Children's Hospitals
- Regional Medical Center in South Carolina names Nicole Hendricks COO
- MUSC is suing Medicare over money it lost to do training at its pharmacy school

TENNESSEE

- Staff of shuttered Tennessee hospital say they can't collect unemployment because operator didn't pay taxes
- Nashville General Recognized as Innovative Healthcare Provider
- VUMC launches new public health, informatics center
- Friction between Erlanger doctors and CEO comes to a head
- Medical monopoly in rural Appalachia: 6 things to know about the Ballad Health merger

- Saint Thomas proposes \$48M rehab facility
- Xtend Healthcare to expand Tennessee headquarters
- New \$45M rehab hospital serving Knoxville trauma patients approved
- Saint Thomas seeks approval for \$48 million rehab facility

SOUTH-CENTRAL / SOUTHWEST

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

ARKANSAS

- Kindred Healthcare, Mercy Forth Smith Announce Plans For Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital
- Former Arkansas hospice owner ordered to pay \$579,972 for scam

ARIZONA

- Arizona physicians taking new course on opioid prescription guidelines
- By the numbers: Arizona ranks 34th in hospital safety analysis
- Banner Health's CEO among list of highest-paid hospital executives
- Carondelet Health Network raises 92,000 servings of break foods for “Healthy Over Hungry”
- Transwestern Expands Arizona Healthcare Team
- New Navajo Nation cancer center cuts patients' travel time

LOUISIANA

- CHRISTUS Shreveport-Bossier Health System announces new CEO
- By the numbers: Louisiana ranks 11th in hospital safety analysis
- Ochsner Health System unveils the Innovation Hub
- Viamed Healthcare Expands Lafayette, Louisiana, Headquarters

NEW MEXICO

- Only nursing home serving southern NM community set to close
- Health-care field growing; hospital adding services, tech
- NMSU mental health clinic's renovations should help it expand service
- Two NM heart foundations merging
- Hospital to install tracking system to monitor employees' hand hygiene
- Scores of layoffs hit San Juan Regional Medical Center staff

OKLAHOMA

- Appointment scheduling system saves Oklahoma Heart \$980,000 annually
- SSM Health launches virtual visits in 4 states
- Oklahoma judge OK's \$85 million settlement with Teva Pharma over opioids

- [The Surgicalist Group Announces Partnership with Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City](#)
- [Stephenson Cancer Center physicians present research](#)

TEXAS

- [St. David's HealthCare Names New Chief Financial Officer](#)
- [Texas Health Sports Medicine Breaks Ground in Collin County](#)
- [Twin Sister Doctors Combine Specialty Practices to Grow Health Care Options in Houston](#)
- [3 Texas clinic leaders indicted in \\$16M healthcare fraud scheme](#)
- [Healthcare company's first two acquisitions helped revenue surge to \\$122 million in 2018](#)
- [Nationwide doctor shortage can be felt in El Paso](#)
- [McKinney's new federally qualified health center breaks ground on Virginia Street](#)
- [New rehabilitation hospital brings 145 jobs to Longview](#)
- [Texas Children's Hospital again ranks among the best children's hospitals nationally by U.S. News & World Report](#)
- [Texas ranks last in U.S. health care access study](#)
- [CHI St. Luke's Health-Memorial merger, refinancing options pending](#)
- [Everest rehab hospital on track for completion](#)
- [Advocate aims to open micro-hospital on the Island](#)
- [Texas' Impending Nurse Shortage Stems in Part From a Lack of Nursing Faculty](#)
- [Sundance Hospitals Acquired by Georgia's Perimeter Healthcare](#)
- [Texas to face increasing nursing shortage](#)
- [Tenet, Aetna sign multiyear agreement](#)
- [HCA Houston Healthcare Names Elizabeth Ortega CEO of The Woman's Hospital of Texas](#)
- [Is Certificate of Need the Answer to North Texas Healthcare Prices?](#)

NORTHWEST

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

ALASKA

- [Health care group to rename 5 southeast Alaska facilities](#)
- [SEARHC renames hospital, medical centers](#)

IDAHO

- [EIRMC ER ranked #1 among 185 hospitals](#)
- [Doctors Learn The Nuts And Bolts Of Robotic Surgery](#)
- [This old Nampa hospital sits vacant. Here's what Saint Alphonsus plans to do with it](#)
- [St. Alphonsus launches new program to help veterans with health care](#)

MONTANA

- Kalispell Regional Healthcare appoints CFO, HR chief
- CEO: Union could threaten hospital's independence
- Montana Children's Center to provide more care for Flathead families

OREGON

- Health care bills advance in Oregon Legislature
- Oregon bill will attempt to slow rising health care costs
- Legacy Health's operating income rises 31.9% in FY 2019
- U.S. Supreme Court to hear Moda Health's \$249 million ACA appeal
- OHSU reports earnings at \$56 million over budget

WASHINGTON

- PeaceHealth, Mercy team for new housing
- Lake Chelan Community Hospital CEO Steve Patonai to retire
- A rash of nursing home closures in Washington sends families scrambling, industry sounds alarm
- Healthcare tech company Accolade to double headcount in Seattle with new HQ office
- Jefferson Healthcare forming partnership with cancer clinic
- Washington nurses prepare for possible strike
- Why this former spine surgeon built an incubator for healthcare startups in Seattle

WYOMING

- U of Wyoming health volunteer program helps rural patients manage their chronic conditions
- Wyoming Medical Center in active discussions with variety of 'incredibly well-known' hospitals for affiliation, board member says
- CRMC responds to Wyoming's low ranking in health

WEST

(California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, Utah)

CALIFORNIA

- Hollywood Presbyterian uses bundle management platform to succeed in value-based care
- California hospital fined after patient was injected with wrong drug
- Would you let a robot operate on your heart? It's now an option at Modesto hospital
- California fines 8 hospitals \$437K for patient safety issues
- California's 3 top paid county workers all made \$1 million last year – at 1 hospital
- California hospital's future depends on 'tower of shame'
- California hospital to keep labor and delivery service

- Hospital committee approves a very brief budget

COLORADO

- UnitedHealth's acquisition of DaVita physician group gets FTC approval
- New Medical Office Building Breaks Ground in Frisco
- Two dead after shooting at Colorado Springs' UC Health Memorial Hospital
- UCHealth Highlands Ranch Hospital opens
- Getting serious about mental health: Colorado Legislature passed nearly 30 bills in past two years
- Denver outpatient center tops out
- Colorado hospital to shutter crisis stabilization services
- AG strikes health care anti-trust pact

HAWAII

- Study: Hawaii has the best health system performance in the country
- Study: Hawaii ranks No. 3 for most expensive nursing homes

NEVADA

- Intermountain Healthcare Reaches Agreement to Acquire HealthCare Partners Nevada
- Study ranks Nevada health system in top 5 worst in the nation
- Nevada cardiology practice shells out \$2.5M to settle Medicare kickback claims
- CEO sees new opportunities for North Las Vegas VA hospital

UTAH

- Intermountain Healthcare Reaches Agreement to Acquire HealthCare Partners Nevada
- Jet A fuel spilled at University of Utah hospital
- Utah's Primary Children's Hospital ranks among top in nation
- Mother and daughter sue Utah hospital, claiming leaders failed to thoroughly investigate physician charged with sexual assault