

HEALTH PROVIDER NEWS - JULY 8, 2019

NATIONAL

- How to avoid the legal risks of telemedicine
- HHS OCR Clarifies When Health Plans Can Share PHI Under HIPAA
- Brigham and Women's, Emory and more join radiology AI pilot program
- Hospital groups argue CMS wage index proposal flawed
- How 4 health IT leaders balance strategy with execution: key thoughts from Ed Marx, Dr. Maia Hightower, Aaron Miri, Matthew Grob
- Google and University of Chicago sued over patient records
- 'Conscience rule' delay approved by White House
- Where is the payer-provider relationship headed? 17 healthcare execs weigh in
- 5 hospitals, health systems investing in express care
- Top 5 supply chain stories in June
- FTC seeks to determine if hospital monopolies help or harm patients
- Joint replacement bundles saved \$997 per patient
- Physicians overestimate time that translates to their Medicare payments, study finds
- Medicare outpatient claims-processing changes delayed till October
- CMS releases EMTALA guidance

NORTHEAST

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

CONNECTICUT

- Health care workers describe staffing crisis at Whiting
- Hartford HealthCare CEO Elliot Joseph, credited for building hospital network, to retire Sept. 1
- Stamford Health CEO: Business booming, but general health care landscape concerning
- Connecticut hospital cited after patient swallows batteries
- Manchester hospital appeals state's denial of cardiac care expansion

MAINE

- Maine Hospital To Discontinue Its Surgical Services
- Pen Bay to break ground on medical office building
- Maine doctors writing fewer opioid prescriptions

- Non-profit awards Maine Medical Center \$100,000 for pediatric cancer program
- Hospital CEO to lead rural care task force
- Maine Medical Center agrees to stop using live animals to train doctors
- Gov. Mills signs legislation allowing Mayo merger with Northern Light to go forward

MASSACHUSETTS

- Massachusetts health care system names new chief executive
- Mass. nursing homes penalized \$85,000 for wage theft
- Opioid-related ER visits decline in Massachusetts
- MassChallenge HealthTech accelerator awards \$220K to 5 digital health startups

NEW HAMPSHIRE

- New Hampshire lawmakers find agreement on healthcare bills
- Hospitals struggle for clean linens after abrupt Kleen closing
- New Hampshire Hospital Using New Tech to Improve Emergency Response Communication

NEW YORK

- New York hospitals fight physicians over payout from \$2.5B sale of malpractice insurer
- NYC Health + Hospitals help launch prenatal care program
- Why \$34M Wasn't Enough for Skilled Nursing Telehealth Provider Call9 to Survive
- Big changes approved at Massena Memorial Hospital
- New York hospital seeks to rezone medical center to build \$40M medical arts building
- Why New York's hospitals do terrible in federal rankings
- Niagara Falls Memorial announces major expansion in primary care & women's services
- NewYork-Presbyterian plans to expand telehealth services with new innovation institute
- Eastern Long Island Hospital, Stony Brook Medicine finalize merger
- Steven Safyer retiring as CEO of Montefiore Medicine

RHODE ISLAND

- R.I. Foundation awards grants to 5 nonprofit health-care groups
- General Assembly passes changes to strengthen Hospital Conversion Act
- Wood River Health Services to open Westerly location

VERMONT

- Vermont's Springfield Hospital Files For Bankruptcy
- Hospitals struggle for clean linens after abrupt Kleen closing
- Southwestern Vermont Health Care named One of Becker's 150 Great Places to Work in Healthcare for fourth straight year

- Vermont health system files for bankruptcy
- Column: Keeping health care accessible in rural Vermont

MID-ATLANTIC / EAST

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

DELAWARE

- Trending: Wilmington Hospital will add parking in two-year project that will raze current structure
- Bayhealth completes sale of former Milford Memorial Hospital property
- Medicaid provider, Christiana Care sign value-based payment agreement
- Delaware lawmakers soften push to split health department, agree to resolution
- Christiana Care signs Medicaid shared risk contracts

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- Prince George's health system names new interim leader
- Howard University Hospital opens center for low-income military families
- New Providence Urgent Care Center to open on July 9

MARYLAND

- Anne Arundel Medical Center to pay more than \$3 million to settle federal Medicare lawsuit
- Maryland health system agrees to pay \$3.2M in false claims case
- CarePort Health announces partnership
- Prince George's health system names new interim leader
- McCready Health, Peninsula Regional Health System Sign Merger Agreement
- Maryland hospital to cease inpatient care post-merger
- U of Maryland Capital Region Health names Dr. Joseph Wright interim CEO
- Hospitals pledge \$2M toward services for homeless
- Baltimore jury awards record \$229 million for brain injury during child's birth at Johns Hopkins Bayview

NEW JERSEY

- RWJBarnabas Health only NJ hospital to earn GAINS grant
- Judge OKs Virtua acquisition of Lourdes Health and its hospitals
- New Jersey selects nurse as new health commissioner
- RWJBarnabas Health names Moore to lead system wide pediatric service line
- Having a baby? New Jersey releases first report card on care at each hospital
- Virtua Assumes Ownership Of Lourdes Health System In Major South Jersey Health Care Shakeup
- RWJ Somerset holds ribbon-cutting ceremony for transitional housing program

- Newark Beth Israel, Children's Hospital of New Jersey names board chair
- New Jersey health systems complete merger

PENNSYLVANIA

- Reimagining Healthcare with Dr. Stephen Klasko, CEO of Jefferson Health
- For 300,000 Highmark members, no UPMC access is part of their plan
- UPMC Susquehanna to welcome new Chief Operating Officer
- Highmark Health, AHN subsidiary add virtual ICU services from Mercy
- Philadelphia hospital owner announces closure, citing losses
- Penn Medicine agrees to pay \$275,000 for allegedly submitting false reimbursement claims
- Allegheny Health Network to start building microhospital after 6-month delay
- Hospital says it will be diverting trauma patients elsewhere
- Hahnemann Hospital's closure is delayed 90 days — now what?
- Staying in a Pa. nursing home can cost \$10,000+ per month, and the prices keep going up
- Wolf signs \$34B budget, including state-run health care exchange
- Hahnemann no longer receiving trauma patients; ER to remain open
- St. Luke's residency expansion aims to prevent predicted doctor shortage in Lehigh Valley

VIRGINIA

- Sovah Health in Martinsville names Dale Alward as CEO
- Bass named CEO of Bedford Memorial Hospital
- Reston Hospital Center and Children's National Partner to Enhance Neonatology Services
- Richmond hospital now performs lower risk brain aneurysm surgery

WEST VIRGINIA

- CHS to sell West Virginia hospital
- Princeton Community Hospital to buy Bluefield Regional Medical Center
- Summersville Regional Medical Center becomes full member of the WVU Health System
- West Virginia hospital, med school file motion to dismiss allegations of sharing patient data

CENTRAL

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

IOWA

- Iowa Struggles To Fill Child Psychiatrist Shortage
- Sanford plans merger with Iowa group to form one of nation's 15 largest nonprofit health systems
- \$4 million expansion of Des Moines assisted living center announced

- Grassley has thoughts on Sanford merger
- MRHC Provides More Than \$8.5 In Economic Support To Region

KANSAS

- Mission Health Sets New Path for Once Struggling Kansas SNFs
- The End of an Era for Southeast Kansas Health Care
- Have Cancer, Must Travel: Patients Left In Lurch After Town's Hospital Closes
- Kansas doctor agrees to surrender his medical license
- 85% of Kansas nursing home residents satisfied with quality of life

MINNESOTA

- Sansoro Health and Datica Health Merge
- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, North Memorial Health launch joint primary care venture
- CMS OKs Medicaid demonstrations aimed at opioid abuse in Nebraska, Minnesota
- Minnesota health care providers to receive reports on their opioid prescribing practices
- More Minn. nursing homes are closing, and rural towns feel the pain
- Allina Health raises employee wage floor, benefits District One, Owatonna hospitals

MISSOURI

- 'Surprise' medical billing in Missouri among nation's lowest: Report
- University of Missouri receives \$8.6 million grant for new biomedical research center
- New pediatric specialty healthcare center opens in Ferguson
- Controversy, complaints about secrecy have followed Missouri's top health official
- Centene increases stake in Spanish health care company
- WashU medical school to help train doctors, design a hospital in China
- Ascension names chief clinical officer

NEBRASKA

- CMS OKs Medicaid demonstrations aimed at opioid abuse in Nebraska, Minnesota
- UNMC shares groundbreaking HIV cure research findings
- PatientPing and Nebraska Hospital Association partnership powers real-time care coordination for providers across Nebraska
- NU regents approve UNMC heart, vascular research center
- UNMC study looks to improve survival of older patients with leukemia

NORTH DAKOTA

- Federal grant will allow Essentia Health and NDSU to provide NPs to rural hospitals in North Dakota
- AMA Lawsuit Targets ND Laws, Defends Patient-Provider Relationship

SOUTH DAKOTA

- Sanford plans merger with Iowa group to form one of nation's 15 largest nonprofit health systems
- Complaint alleges neurosurgeon, Sanford Health defrauded Medicare with spine surgeries
- SD Sanford Health & Surgeon Accused Of Fraud, Kickbacks
- Physicians accuse Sanford Health of defrauding Medicare

MIDWEST

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

ILLINOIS

- Celebrating 100: Hospital completes 100 minimally invasive heart valve replacements
- Google and University of Chicago sued over patient records
- Illinois ranks 14th in hospital safety analysis
- NorthShore Reveals Agreement To Acquire Swedish Covenant
- Illinois pharmacies support bill for oversight of pharmacy benefit managers
- Illinois owes \$4 million to feds following Medicaid missteps, audit shows

INDIANA

- IU Health LifeLine now calls New Castle home; why the change?
- IU Health offers career ladder for medical assistant job growth
- Indiana now eligible to join 30 others in interstate nursing license compact
- IU Health to place surgical center across from hospital
- Community Howard opening behavioral health center in Tipton
- IU Health rolls out star ratings for 450 facilities
- Franciscan Physician Network Begins Construction

KENTUCKY

- Employees claim hospital cheated them of health insurance
- Forbes names Appalachian Regional Healthcare among top 10 Kentucky employers
- What Happens To Patients If Louisville's Jewish Hospital Closes?
- Trilogy Health Services CEO Randall Bufford Transitions to Chairman of the Board
- What Happens To Patients If Louisville's Jewish Hospital Closes?
- Patients in Kentucky can now teleconference with doctors from home
- Can Jewish Hospital be saved? Prospects gloomy at Louisville's 3rd largest medical facility

MICHIGAN

- Michigan hospital CEO Luanne Thomas Ewald on the 'alarming' dearth of pediatric mental healthcare

- DCHS sets Sept. 30 goal for \$26M loan
- Ciena Healthcare opens 146-bed skilled-nursing center in Michigan
- Religious discrimination suit involving flu shot is settled
- Hospital settles lawsuit filed over the flu vaccine
- Healing Juggernaut: Munson Healthcare Tackles Integration Across Its Nine Hospitals
- BCBS of Michigan creates new Medicare business
- CMU, Covenant HealthCare announce long-term agreement
- Michigan Hospital to Pay \$74.4K to Settle Religious Discrimination Lawsuit
- Pontiac hospital executive honored for leading medical campus growth

OHIO

- Ohio bill would bar hospitals from firing employees who decline vaccines
- Roe Green gives University Hospitals \$14 million for global health
- MetroHealth to launch local radiology centers, expand telehealth to college students in 4 states
- More than 500 Summa Health patients' information at risk after possible data breach
- Cleveland Clinic uses AI, medical records, scans to personalize radiation therapy
- MetroHealth Medical Center announces plans to build 3 housing developments
- Hospital systems lead the way in job advertising
- Health system CEO named board chair of local university
- Ohio SNFs No Longer Bill Room & Board for Hospice Patients
- MetroHealth to extend telemedicine services to college students
- Union goes to the feds over UC Health's firing, discipline of nurses
- UH Samaritan Medical Center appoints new Chief Medical Officer
- St. Vincent nurses approve tentative labor agreement with Mercy Health
- Ohio Health Centers Use New Screening Tool to Improve Patient Health

WISCONSIN

- Sansoro Health and Datica Health Merge
- ProHealth Care purchases Pewaukee building for corporate HQ
- Teen's idea leads to surgical innovations at Aurora St. Luke's
- Health screenings at Wisconsin hospital up 35% after implementing telehealth program

SOUTH / SOUTHEAST

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

ALABAMA

- Encompass Health to pay \$48 million to resolve False Claims Act allegations: DOJ
- UAB Health System responds to possibility of UnitedHealthcare cutting ties
- UnitedHealthcare may cut ties with some Alabama hospitals

FLORIDA

- Florida hospital's Medicare contract in jeopardy
- Florida repeals CON law, and one hospital CEO cheers
- Proton therapy coming to Mayo Clinic, new patient tower to Orange Park Medical Center
- Florida hospital challenge state funding cut
- Baptist Health Care unveils plan for \$550M Florida replacement hospital
- Englewood Community Hospital's CEO Michael Ehrat meets community leaders
- New Florida law to aid hospitals build facilities without 'certificate of need'
- Florida hospital challenging state funding cut
- Broward's public hospital systems look to form partnership for transplant divisions
- Nicklaus Children's CEO resigns after 11 years that saw expansion, financial hurdles
- Florida hospital designed for resiliency
- Covenant Care, West Florida Hospital Open New Hospice Care Center
- AdventHealth Ocala to shift millions to upgrade, expand main campus
- Florida passes overnight stays for ASCs, mandates child safety rules
- Hospitals could multiply in Florida as state cancels certificate-of-need requirement
- 3 local women's biotech firms chosen for 2 new accelerator programs
- Boca Raton Regional Now Part Of Baptist Health South
- Baptist Health merges with Florida hospital expanding orthopedic, sports medicine services

GEORGIA

- Abrams says waiver effort won't fix Georgia's health care problems
- Georgia clinic selects Epic EHR
- Piedmont's new payment plan: 25% upfront for some patients
- UnitedHealthcare may cut ties with some Alabama hospitals
- Georgia Hospital Association to Launch Statewide Patient Tracking and Alerting Service
- Keefer named CEO at Augusta University Health
- Memorial Health names new chief nursing officer
- Georgia Hospital Association Initiative to Improve Interoperability

MISSISSIPPI

- Mississippi Hospital Association introduces new healthcare proposal
- Mississippi, 41 states accuse generic drug makers of price fixing
- Kingsport doctor indicted on fraud charges in Mississippi
- Judge gets challenge to Mississippi mental health system

NORTH CAROLINA

- Revolving loan fund for rural hospitals pitched in Senate
- Physicians group will participate in state-health plan reform
- North Carolina Gov. Cooper: Ashe Memorial Hospital Calls on Lawmakers to Close the Health Coverage Gap
- David Kilarski Bids Farewell as FirstHealth CEO
- Senator Perry discusses future of ECU, Vidant
- Nursing home complaints, staffing issues prompt CBS 17 investigation
- UNC Hospitals' CFO signed off on mistaken dark money contribution
- North Carolina rural hospitals loan program passes Senate
- Not All Triad Hospitals On Board With 'Clear Pricing Project': Here's What You Should Know

SOUTH CAROLINA

- South Carolina ranks 12th in hospital safety analysis
- Trident Medical Center moving care for women and children to Summerville
- Robocalls are 'potentially dangerous' threat to hospitals, including MUSC
- Trident Health consolidates obstetric, neonatal services next week

TENNESSEE

- A Tennessee Hospital Sues Its Own Employees When They Can't Pay Their Medical Bills
- Tennessee lawmaker calls for prosecution after hospital abruptly closes
- CHS to sell West Virginia hospital
- Saint Thomas partners with Contessa on home care
- Ascension Saint Thomas to launch in-home acute care services
- Methodist CEO promises review of policies following critical report

SOUTH-CENTRAL / SOUTHWEST

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

ARKANSAS

- Arkansas Children's Hospital nationally recognized in 5 categories
- University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences launches digital health spine clinic
- University of Arkansas Digital Health Program Helps Patients Statewide

ARIZONA

- Lyft partners with Medicaid in Arizona to offer non-emergency rides
- 'Bullish' health systems building ASCs, microhospitals in Arizona catch broker attention
- Dignity Health, Ooda grow pilot to streamline payer-provider payments
- PE platform buys \$17.75M Arizona medical office building with surgery center
- First cancer center opens on Native American reservation
- Industry trends are taking shape in this Arizona town with 300+ healthcare establishments

LOUISIANA

- Ochsner CEO Warner Thomas on healthcare in the 2020 election, price transparency & innovation
- Our Lady of the Lake to open \$230M children's hospital Oct. 5
- Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady acquires St. Dominic Health Services
- As opioid lawsuits balloon in Louisiana, potential settlement dollars face these complexities

NEW MEXICO

- Four Corners hospital layoffs 5% of staff amid cuts
- UNM's ECHO to assist with migrant health
- New Mexico hospital lays off 78 employees

OKLAHOMA

- Oklahoma Health Care Authority approves \$6 billion budget
- SSM Health launches new web-based diagnosis, treatment service
- Miami hospital marks anniversary with community party
- Point of View: Oklahoma's poor health outcomes tied to low access to primary care
- Report says Oklahoma has more medical marijuana patients than any other state
- Oklahoma rests case in opioid trial against drugmaker Johnson & Johnson

TEXAS

- HCA's Woman's Hospital of Texas hires CEO from San Antonio hospital system
- \$125M UTHealth psychiatric hospital breaks ground near Texas Medical Center
- Dell Children's opens first dedicated pediatric cardiac care unit in Central Texas
- Texas ranks 9th in hospital safety analysis
- Third Houston Hospital Gets Sanctioned For Insufficient Care
- Dallas County, Parkland plan to open full-service health clinic at old Red Bird Mall
- Dell Children's opens new cardiac care unit, heart transplants soon will follow
- Leading Houston healthcare executive named one of America's top CEOs

- HCA Healthcare buys 24 urgent care clinics in Texas
- St. David's HealthCare Buys 9 Urgent Care Sites In Central Texas

NORTHWEST

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

ALASKA

- Assembly approves hospital budget, takes action with local brewery

IDAHO

- St. Alphonsus launches new program to help veterans with health care
- University of Idaho program aims to fill Idaho's rural doctor shortage
- This old Nampa hospital sits vacant. What Saint Alphonsus now plans to do with it
- Kootenai scores kudos on workplace rankings

MONTANA

- Kalispell Regional Healthcare opens first pediatric hospital in rural Montana
- Medicaid report highlights ways to reduce health care costs in Montana for homelessness
- Montana hospital launches telemedicine services for neurology, stroke care
- City approves Montana hospital, USPI's \$20M surgery center project
- Doctors, advocates raise concerns about end-of-life care at Montana State Hospital

OREGON

- Peacehealth names vice president of operations
- Local Councils Help Steer Future of Oregon's Health Care
- OHSU says burnout, staffing shortage led to heart transplant program closure
- Tuality Healthcare to open geriatric psychiatric hospital unit
- OHSU will reactivate heart transplant program in August

WASHINGTON

- Seattle hospital closes main operating rooms to remove mold
- Seattle Children's Hospital operating rooms shut down after a patient dies of mold infection
- Lawmakers, doctors and patients in Seattle voice support for Affordable Care Act
- Veterans' mental health needs are central to Seattle VA's design
- Health care consultant Eleven8 grows from humble start
- Seattle hospital workers possibly exposed to dangerous bacteria Brucella

WYOMING

- Cheyenne nursing home sued for wrongful death

- St. John's Medical Center raises prices by average of 8%

WEST

(California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, Utah)

CALIFORNIA

- Dignity Health, Ooda grow pilot to streamline payer-provider payments
- 2 neurosurgeons at same hospital rank in California's top 10 highest county earners
- California hospital showcases virtual reality technology for neurosurgery
- How CancerIQ helps Adventist Health identify high-risk patients to reduce hereditary cancer deaths
- Here is the newest class of startups in Cedars-Sinai's accelerator
- City officials: 23 patients abused at San Francisco hospital
- Nurse says he was fired for whistleblowing in lawsuit against Calif. hospital
- California hospital delays \$4M Meditech EHR implementation

COLORADO

- Colorado seeks 5,000 adults for health care apprenticeships, thanks to \$12 million federal award
- UHealth's new Northern Colorado CFO David Thompson on the value of listening, embracing the new
- Summer a stressful time for UHealth's Loveland-based medical helicopter crews
- SCL Health cuts collections costs by 26% with patient collections tech
- Hospital staff rises to occasion after I-25 bus crash
- Amid Provider Shortage, California Doctors Oppose Expanding Nurse Practitioner Abilities

HAWAII

- Hawaii Hospital Dispute Could Prove Costly For Patients
- Hawaii Pacific Health opens new clinic in Kapolei

NEVADA

- Las Vegas hospital chain welcomes first crop of medical residents
- Nevada Health Study Using Genetics To Fight Disease Statewide
- UHS' Prominence Health Plan names CEO

UTAH

- Intermountain Healthcare Receives Top Accreditation Signifying Commitment to Patient Safety in Clinical Research Studies
- Intermountain reduces carbon footprint
- U of U Health abolishes heavy-handed billing policy after Get Gephardt investigation
- U of Utah Health will no longer bill patients' surviving spouses for medical debt