HEALTH PROVIDER NEWS – OCTOBER 11, 2019

NATIONAL

- What 'Significant' AseraCare Ruling Means for Home Health Providers
- State-by-state breakdown of new ASCs in 2019 so far
- Is Walmart Setting Its Sights on the Healthcare Market?
- Researchers tackle data breaches that threaten healthcare
- 25% of total US health care spending estimated to be waste
- HHS releases regulations to overhaul the Stark Law to entice value-based payment arrangements
- CMS unveils new alert system for nursing home abuse
- Medicare overpays hospitals $1B each year for graduate medical education, study finds
- Mandatory Radiation Oncology Payment Model on Horizon
- Health systems pioneering price transparency
- After delay, CMS says physicians can expect payments for advanced APM bonuses soon
- Small and large hospitals continue merger race
- 1.5 million patients' data exposed in September-reported healthcare breaches
- HHS' massive Stark overhaul prompts optimism for value-based care models

NORTHEAST

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

CONNECTICUT

- Connecticut officials to launch medical cost comparison tool
- With outlook bleak for public option, lawmakers shift to new 2020 health care agenda
- 26 Hospitals Penalized By Medicare For High Readmission Rates
- Ascension sells Connecticut hospital

MAINE

- Hospital staff made 'wall of shame' with medical records of patients with disabilities, report finds
- Business forum: How health care investments impact real estate
- Southern Maine Health Care kicks off $34M expansion in Sanford
- MaineHealth launches oncology practices in Biddeford, Saco
- Maine's 'death with dignity' law is in effect. Here's how the rollout is going.

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MASSACHUSETTS

- Healthcare merger mania strikes again in Boston
- Massachusetts kept health care cost growth to 3.1% in 2018
- Tenet Appoints Brendan Strong as its Massachusetts Market Chief Financial Officer
- South Shore Health says CEO Gene Green, now on leave, is out for good
- Out-of-pocket healthcare costs in Massachusetts climb 6.1 percent in 2 years
- Massachusetts hospital to close ED in November, shut down in 2020
- James Lyons recalled as architect of Cape Cod Healthcare
- BCBS of Mass. CEO: Global payment success 'shows we don't have to wait for political consensus to act in healthcare'

NEW HAMPSHIRE

- Inaugural Walk for Hope will benefit Elliot Cancer Center expansion
- Two Upper Valley Midwives Plan To Open Birth Center
- Partners' plan to buy New Hampshire hospital blocked by AG
- New Hampshire AG Rejects Proposed Mass. General Affiliation For 2 Hospitals
- Dartmouth-Hitchcock, GraniteOne to merge, consolidating Vermont, New Hampshire providers

NEW YORK

- Nursing Home Workers Rally Against Loss of Health Benefits
- Audit Reveals Shortage Of Ombudsmen In New York Long-Term Care Facilities
- NYC Announces Guaranteed Health Care Access Program
- New York BCBS plans allegedly overpaid hospitals by $85M
- State health care costs rise amid report of pay-to-play allegations
- HealthNow sued in whistleblower case for millions in overpayments

RHODE ISLAND

- R.I. team researching novel therapy for spinal-cord injuries
- New Lifespan Urgent Care to open in R.I.
- Rhode Island Hospital Pension Cleared for $12 Million Settlement

VERMONT

- Brattleboro Retreat appoints Gaurav Chawla as Chief Medical Officer
- Vermont health care employers seek solutions to workforce shortage
- Marathon Health teams up with private equity firm to expand footprint

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MID-ATLANTIC / EAST

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

DELAWARE

- eBrightHealth sees success in cutting Medicare costs in First State
- Christiana Care announces rebranding
- EbrightHealth makes headway in trimming Medicare costs

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- DC hospital to regain running water by Friday
- DC hospital to go 3rd week without running water
- DC expands mental health support as part of opioid fight
- D.C. to Move Disabled Medicaid Patients Into Private Managed Care Plans

MARYLAND

- Gaithersburg cancer therapy company raises $85M
- Women’s health, by the numbers: How Maryland stacks up
- UM receives $3.75 million to study LGBTQ health issues
- Building a team based future for health care

NEW JERSEY

- Horrific abuse at N.J. hospital demands investigation | Editorial
- RWJBarnabas Health CFO focuses on strategy in industry under 'economic siege'
- Looking for a nursing home in N.J.? This tool gives you much-needed information.
- Patients were left to swelter in the summer heat. Now N.J. seeks big fines against nursing home they had to flee.
- Two New Jersey doctors charged in multimillion-dollar health care fraud scheme

PENNSYLVANIA

- Hospital where 3 preemies died seeking source of bacteria
- UPMC Susquehanna providers recognized for quality by Medicare, Medicaid
- Central Pa. surgeon to pay $4.25 million in false billing, kickback case
- Report: 100,000-Plus People Admitted Into Pa. Hospitals Last Year For Mental Health
- Pennsylvania says changes to Medicaid program will yield $85 million in savings
- 130 workers at Pennsylvania hospital get new contract

VIRGINIA

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- Virginia ambulance service owner gets prison in fraud case
- Ballad to open urgent care in Southwest Virginia Wednesday
- Virginia task force on Ballad oversight begins work
- Lee County Urgent Care opens Wednesday, hospital on track for late 2020
- Virginia county without any hospital may get 1 next year
- Virginia gets 'A' grade on National Palliative Care report card
- 2 outpatient surgical hospitals proposed in Virginia
- VCU Health halting patient lawsuits that affected 56,000 over 7 years
- Virginia ASC proposes 1-OR expansion

WEST VIRGINIA

- West Virginia hospital closure shutters 3 residency programs
- Northern panhandle hospitals bracing for closures
- WVU Medicine unveils Medicare Advantage product through planned merger
- Registered nurses at Cabell Huntington Hospital announce plans for a union
- Raleigh General appeals decision on BARH heart certification

CENTRAL

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

IOWA

- Costs forcing some hospitals to stop delivering babies
- Why Rural Hospitals Keep Closing Maternity Wards
- 12 local newsrooms, seven states, one big problem: How an INN collaboration is nationalizing the rural healthcare crisis
- Wayne County Hospital's fellowship program equips doctors for rural medicine
- University of Iowa receives grant to improve statewide maternal health
- Seeking a cure: Hospital sees future in hard decisions for customers

KANSAS

- Kansas hospital acquires minority stake in surgical hospital & more
- Kansas City Company Makes Bid To Acquire Rural Kansas Hospital Out Of Bankruptcy
- New children's psychiatric hospital in Wichita lands $75,000 city grant
- They Enrolled In Medical School To Practice Rural Medicine. What Happened?
- Program allows KU Health System workers to earn GED on job

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MINNESOTA

- Mayo Clinic's legal tussle over $11.5M tax refund drags on
- Minnesota healthcare provider selects Cerner EHR
- US appeals Mayo Clinic's $11.5M tax refund win
- UnitedHealthcare issues layoffs in Minnesota
- Meet M Health Fairview, a new brand linking 13 hospitals in Minnesota

MISSOURI

- Kansas City Company Makes Bid To Acquire Rural Kansas Hospital Out Of Bankruptcy
- Kansas City firm makes $6.9M bid for rural Kansas hospital
- Missouri hospital in danger of closing over $3M tax bill
- Boone Hospital trustees making progress on management transition

NEBRASKA

- Public Pulse: Nursing home closings
- Statewide Initiative Improves Stewardship in Nebraska Long-Term Care Facilities
- Lawyer says state settling lawsuit over breast cancer care
- Nebraska gets $6.5M in grants to fight opioid abuse
- County, Nebraska Medicine agree to explore mental health service partnership

NORTH DAKOTA

- Sanford announces new heart hospital in downtown Bismarck
- Heart hospital to expand care for the region

SOUTH DAKOTA

- 'Iconic' new Sioux Falls hospital, health campus opens this month
- Promoting health care careers in South Dakota through Scrubs Camps

MIDWEST

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

ILLINOIS

- As closure vote looms, MetroSouth operators say they are open to transferring hospital control to Blue Island
- CommonSpirit ends fiscal year with $582M operating loss, lays out plan for improvement
- $17 million upgrade proposed for adult intensive-care areas at HSHS St. John’s
- CMS terminates Illinois hospital's Medicare contract

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- Ex-nursing home workers scammed 98-year-old dementia patient out of $700K
- Illinois hospital sends patient wrong medical records
- After U of Chicago strike, nurses at affiliated hospital vote for unionization
- OSF HealthCare to merge with Chicago-based medical center

INDIANA

- 'If there isn't a seat at the table, bring your own chair': How IU Health is giving nurses a voice in leadership decisions
- New facility offers long-term care for people with traumatic brain injury
- As the nation faces an OB-GYN shortage, Indianapolis is among the top cities least at-risk
- Some nonprofit IU Health board members paid $40K+ for 6-hour work weeks, report says
- Patient says Indiana hospital wrongly shared records with employer
- Grant Creates IU Alzheimer's Center
- Warsaw Company to Expand
- IU Celebrates Hospital Construction Milestone
- Indiana health system alerts 68,000 patients of data breach
- Memorial Hospital recognized by Wellness Council of Indiana
- Indiana's Hospital Association responds to study critical of Indiana hospital system
- Indiana hospital alerts 9,100 patients of data breach
- Who Owns IU Health? Officials Say, No One
- Rural communities at risk of health care coverage shortages

KENTUCKY

- Study: 16 rural hospitals in Ky. at high risk of closing; 35 in poor financial health
- Data continues to paint bleak picture for rural hospitals in Kentucky
- WellCare, Kentucky Homeplace Partnership Reduces Emergency Room Use
- New Methodist Health CEO Linda White focusing on people, purpose
- Jewish Hospital partner gives University of Louisville its $16 million interest in Cardiovascular Innovation Institute
- Highlands ARH Regional Medical Center names new Community CEO
- New Imagine Health and St. Elizabeth partnership offers employers savings on healthcare
- U of L Takes Full Ownership Of Cardiovascular Institute
- Pikeville Medical Center receives grant for Children's Hospital
- Humana-backed study highlights major waste in health care spending
- Humana realigns C-suite responsibilities

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- Lexington company wants to snap up four local health facilities, filings show
- St. Elizabeth's in Kentucky gets record-breaking donation

MICHIGAN

- Doctor launches the first online clinic dedicated to using common drugs for a different purpose: to slow aging
- Michigan hospital restructures board about a month after CEO's firing
- More Michigan hospitals want private rooms, not shared rooms
- Michigan's Medicaid program may fire its PBMs
- Ascension St. Mary’s Hospital in Saginaw breaks ground on $17.6 million expansion
- New Sparrow CEO On Challenges, Health Care Debate
- Saginaw’s Ascension St. Mary’s Brings Advanced Emergency Treatment Facility To Area

OHIO

- Cincinnati Children’s to serve as NIH rare disease data center
- Former owner of Horn Nursing Home building pleads guilty in Medicaid fraud scheme
- Ohio rehab center owner pleads guilty to $48M Medicaid fraud scheme
- How Cleveland Clinic applies telemedicine for patient, clinician communication
- Cincinnati Children's receives NIH grant renewal on eosinophilic disorders
- Mercy Health-Cincinnati CFO on competition in Ohio market
- Trilogy Health Services Expands Senior Health and Hospitality Services in Ohio
- One Doctor. 25 Deaths. How Could It Have Happened?
- Ohio Senate passes bill to allow patients to learn hospital costs in advance
- Celebrating the life of East Ohio Regional Hospital

WISCONSIN

- Here are the first four investments from Venture Investors' new $75M health VC fund
- A hospital saved amid rural health crisis in Wisconsin
- Doctor's office brings new healthcare model to Janesville
- In a rural Wisconsin village, the doctor makes house calls — and sees some of the rarest diseases on Earth
- Wisconsin health insurance rates increase by smallest percentage in a decade: Survey
- Fresenius buys most of UW, Meriter's Wisconsin Dialysis

SOUTH / SOUTHEAST

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

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ALABAMA

- Alabama hospitals pay hackers in ransomware attack
- Digestive Health Specialists to construct 22,000 square-foot surgery center, new office building on Dothan's east side
- Alabama hospital offers patients waiting room survival kits
- West Alabama's DCH hospitals accept new patients after paying hackers in ransomware attack
- Walker Baptist Medical Center

FLORIDA

- Several Orlando hospitals get Medicare penalty for high readmission rates
- Lakeland Regional Health first in Florida to hit analytics milestone
- Five Florida Hospitals Face Maximum Medicare Readmission Rate Penalty
- How one medical group uses 'extenders' to improve patient engagement
- Personnel note: New leadership at Department of Health
- Florida's health care cost markup among nation's highest
- Financial turnaround: how Baptist Health South Florida saved $28M with rev cycle JV
- Lawmakers call for probe into length of stay concerns at Florida psych hospital
- Orlando staffing firm to expand after health care acquisition
- Halifax Health is one of 27 Florida hospitals suing opioid manufacturers

GEORGIA

- Atlanta VA hospital has hard time finding doctors
- Emory Healthcare breaks ground on new Executive Park medical facility
- Atlanta medtech startup raises $15M for medical device launch
- Piedmont Healthcare, Aetna ink new contract
- Study finds Georgia and South Carolina nursing homes among worst in the country
- Emory Healthcare's new Musculoskeletal Institute groundbreaking ceremony marks step forward for long-term plan in Executive Park
- Emory Healthcare starts building $1B 'health innovation district'

MISSISSIPPI

- Readmission initiative pushes hospitals to improve
- Mississippi city rejects mental health facility despite need
- Mississippi audit finds 'disregard' for cybersecurity across state
- Zimmer Biomet to open new facility in Mississippi

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NORTH CAROLINA

- Emergency Department to open in Mission Hospital's North Tower
- Triad health system CEO: Diversity results in improved efficiency, effectiveness
- UNC system, Vidant Health settle spat over who oversees ECU hospital
- HHS Awards Major Funding Award to WFIRM
- Pinehurst Gives Final Approval for FirstHealth Cancer Center
- Ocracoke & Hatteras locals pull together to continue health care delivery post-flood
- Grants to improve oral health care access in the Carolinas spread smiles

SOUTH CAROLINA

- Charleston women’s health startup closes a $5M investment round
- SC lands $5.7 million for biomedical research
- HopeHealth named top performer
- Senior-focused medical center opening in North Charleston
- Study finds Georgia and South Carolina nursing homes among worst in the country
- MUSC plans to build new emergency department near Seabrook Island

TENNESSEE

- CHS' shrinking hospital portfolio: 12 latest divestitures
- Tennessee health care modernization task force's proposals won't include 'Band-Aid fixes or political talking points'
- Change Healthcare CEO Says Leadership Actions Will Bring Change to U.S.
- Former LifePoint CEO to co-chair Tennessee's healthcare modernization task force
- Survey findings offer critical insights into Nashville’s health

SOUTH-CENTRAL / SOUTHWEST

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

ARKANSAS

- Conway Regional breaks ground on $13 million building
- Arkansas Colleges of Health Education donates land for planned Mercy rehab hospital
- Arkansas Takes Over 3 More Nursing Homes After Complaints
- Mercy Rehab in works at Chaffee Crossing
- Arkansas Children’s boss talks leadership, moving the needle on healthcare
- Voters OK tax for county hospital

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ARIZONA

- Phoenix VA director resigns
- Flagstaff Health Care Provider Settles Discrimination Lawsuit
- Phoenix Children's earns highest-achievable 3-year accreditation

LOUISIANA

- Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital Opens Doors Oct. 5
- New children's hospital aims to serve kids statewide
- Baton Rouge bishop blesses new OLOL Children's Hospital before grand opening
- New children's hospital aims to serve kids statewide
- BR General starting construction on new outpatient surgery center next week

NEW MEXICO

- Could this new model end rural specialist wait lists?
- NMSU School of Nursing to tackle opioid epidemic in NM with $1.35 million HRSA grant
- San Juan Regional Medical Center CEO is chairman of New Mexico Hospital Association board
- True Health New Mexico to offer individual, family plans in 2020
- World Rural Health Conference Comes to New Mexico
- BCBS of New Mexico addresses health care needs in Doña Ana County
- New Mexico State school gets grant to tackle opioid epidemic
- Roosevelt General Hospital in Portales earns Quest for Excellence honorable mention
- County to talk to UNM about hospital plan

OKLAHOMA

- Oklahoma health center to serve Cherokee Nation's citizens
- Oklahoma hospital lays off most employees, partially shuts down
- OU Medicine named age-friendly health system

TEXAS

- Nursing home chief accused of pocketing $350K; Plea hearing slated for former administrator of local Alzheimer's facility
- San Antonio long-term acute care hospital changes ownership
- Everest Rehabilitation Hospitals aiming for new heights in physical rehab
- This startup just raised $8 million to help busy doctors assess the cognitive health of 50 million seniors
- Dental Practice Pays $10,000 to Settle Social Media Disclosures of Patients' Protected Health Information

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- Meet the First Woman To Be President of a North Texas Health System
- McCombs Launches First-in-the-Nation Health Care Cybersecurity Leadership Program
- Texas Medical Center enters into health innovation partnership with Denmark
- Steward Has Lost $592 Million in Two Years, but Revenue is Up
- This Startup Raised $3 Million to Staff Hospitals With Robots: Brainstorm Health
- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas and Sanitas Medical Center Unveil New Medical Center to Advance Primary and Value-Based Care
- Parkland Hospital Saves $17M With AI-Powered Predictive Model to Prevent In-Hospital Adverse Drug Events

NORTHWEST

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

ALASKA

- Opioid crisis still cuts deep in Alaska
- Alaska nurse practitioner, doctor charged in opioid distribution scheme
- High hurdles remain on efforts to control health care costs

IDAHO

- Pullman Regional Hospital asks voters to back $29 million bond
- Saint Al's in Nampa and Boise get national recognition
- Air St. Luke's gets highest ranking in the nation
- First phase of three phase construction brings new helipad to Minidoka Memorial
- $3.4 million research award granted to St. Luke's for suicide study

MONTANA

- 9 Montana hospitals to see reduced Medicare payments
- Nine Montana hospitals dinged by Medicare
- Medicare penalizes KRMC for rate of readmissions
- Montana hospitals receive healthcare quality awards
- St. Luke earns patient care award

OREGON

- Vancouver, Portland and Seattle 'need to improve health care access': UBC study
- Trillium and 7 other CCO applicants have more time to sign up providers
- Portland health care nonprofit gets shoutout in national report
- Two new hospitals could be coming to Portland area

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- Oregon considering a switch back to state-based health insurance exchange
- Ashland Asante Hospital Leads Oregon In Penalties For Health Care Quality
- What 8 Oregon Bioscience Companies and 8 Life Science Researchers Have in Common

WASHINGTON

- Seattle Families One Step Closer to More OB Care Choices with New Virginia Mason Birth Center with CHI Franciscan
- U.S. News ranks Puget Sound region's best hospitals
- Vancouver, Portland and Seattle 'need to improve health care access': UBC study
- Settlement erases $50 million in medical debt for thousands of former patients at Deaconess, Valley hospitals
- UW names population health building after Swedish physician and ‘very serious possibilist’ Hans Rosling

WYOMING

- Mental health, access to care top residents' health-care priority lists
- Air ambulance company blasts Wyoming's attempt to temper costs
- Cheyenne Regional Medical Group Partners with Bright.md to Offer Convenient Virtual Care to Patients in Wyoming

WEST

(California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, Utah)

CALIFORNIA

- Antitrust case against Sutter Health due to begin this week
- Physicians, medical group CEO pay $6.7M to settle billing fraud case in California
- State Sues California Nonprofit Health System, Alleging Illegal Pricing
- Halsen Healthcare Finalizes Purchase of Watsonville Hospital
- Santee Nursing Home Named Best In California
- Physician sues Kaiser Permanente over opioid-related patient satisfaction scores

COLORADO

- Colorado Springs hospitals prepare for more expansions across high-growth areas
- Children’s Hospital Colorado shakes up traditional messages
- Why Colorado hospitals are getting into the housing business
- Craig Hospital Invests in Employees, Raising Minimum Wage to $15.34
- Synergy Medical to deliver mixed-use development to Swedish Medical Center campus
- Opinion: Hospital celebrates 2-year anniversary of merger with UCHealth
- UCHealth building new medical complex in East Colorado Springs

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- U of Northern Colorado receives $1M grant to evaluate digital health tool
- Colorado attorney general approves sale of state hospital
- Colorado doctor challenges firing by Centura Health over assisted suicide
- In a plan to set hospital prices, Colorado could see the mother of all health care battles

HAWAII

- Column: How to reverse loss of Hawaii's primary care doctors
- Legacy Hilo files for bankruptcy; Nursing facility also being sold

NEVADA

- Nevada hospital inks 3-year contract with nurses
- Carson Tahoe Health CEO seeks 'grassroots community focus'
- Carson Tahoe Health CEO: Industry must figure out how to reduce costs
- Sunrise Hospital opens 2nd burn center in Las Vegas Valley
- Las Vegas hospital opens burn and reconstructive care center

UTAH

- Viewpoint: Thank Intermountain for Utah's lack of rural hospital closures
- James 'Cid' Seidelman: How Utah has avoided the loss of rural hospitals
- Utah Health Department Takes Next Step Toward Full Medicaid Expansion

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