



Cash-strapped for-profit/nonprofit hospitals try and lure patients back

From [Politico Pulse](#):

HOSPITALS' RECOVERY PLANS CLASH WITH COVID INFECTIONS — Cash-strapped hospitals are sending emails and buying ads to coax patients back from Covid-19 lockdowns with plaintive reminders: Don't delay care.

But the effort to recover some of the tens of billions of dollars the industry says it lost from the cancellation of elective surgeries is [colliding with a burst of new coronavirus cases](#) across the country, Rachel reports.

— That's again put economic recovery in conflict with disease prevention. Hospitalizations [are where they were in](#) late April, according to the Covid Tracking Project. Bans on elective surgeries were reimposed in the past month in more than 100 hard-hit Texas counties and all of Mississippi.

Meanwhile, National Nurses United is urging a nationwide pause in non-emergency procedures, citing shortages of tests and protective gear that's exposing its members and patients to unnecessary risks. But hospitals say those decisions should be left to local leaders, arguing that delaying care could be detrimental to Americans' health.

Suicide Prevention during COVID-19

From the [Vantage Point blog](#):

[Watch](#) leaders at the United States Concealed Carry Association (USCCA), National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), and VA's suicide prevention program discuss strategies to protect your family and prevent suicide during the novel coronavirus outbreak.

This important webcast provides expert answers on topics such as:

- How VA, USCCA and NSSF are working together to help Veterans and non-Veterans with mental health challenges and prevent suicide
- How to take care of your mental health during stressful times
- Warning signs that someone may be at risk
- Ways that the firearm industry, gun owners and their families can help

VA launches new appeals decision tool

The VA has launched the [Appeals Modernization Decision Review Quick Start Guide](#) (QSG) provides clear and concise information for the next steps a Veteran can take when they disagree with the decision VA made on their disability compensation claim. This is one of the ways the VA is conducting outreach to veterans after [controversially ending Veteran Service Organizations' review](#), increasingly putting pressure on veterans to navigate the benefits process on their own.

Big Stories, Short Links

- [VAntage Point Blog](#): After his Traumatic Brain Injury, an Army veteran joined the VA's Veteran Engagement Group to help guide the VA's research team
- [VA Press Release](#): VA expands programs to aid veterans who are at risk of homelessness during COVID-19

- [VAntage Point Blog](#): VA social workers arrange a final goodbye for a veteran with his wife while both were fighting COVID-19
- [VA Press Release](#): VA suspends certain debt collection activities for veterans
- [Minnesota Star Tribune](#): Minnesota Legislature works to expand veterans' courts
- [Stars and Stripes](#): VA plans rapid expansion of WalMart partnership
- [CBS Roseburg, Oregon](#): Roseburg VA issues urgent call for medical providers
- [Arkansas Online](#): COVID-19 uptick forces Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System to return to allowing visitors on an exception-only basis
- [Becker's Health IT](#): A timeline of the over-budget and delayed Cerner Electronic Health Record project for the VA
- [Military.com](#): National Defense Authorization Act may expand the list of Agent Orange-related illnesses
- [Politico Pulse](#): More than 5 million Americans have lost their health insurance

The VA's 'Circle of Health' philosophy

From the [VA's Whole Health website](#):

If you have read about Whole Health, you may have come across the term, "Circle of Health." But what does it mean? And how can it help?

The [Circle of Health](#) is an important part of the Whole Health approach to care. [Whole Health](#) puts you at the center of your care. Instead of focusing solely on medical care—such as check-ups or prescriptions to treat illness or injuries—a Whole Health approach looks at your overall well-being. This means in addition to medical care, you may use self-care and complementary therapies like acupuncture, massage, or yoga, to help meet your health goals.

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The Circle of Health graphic shows you in the middle of the circle with your care options surrounding you. This helps you explore connections between important aspects of your life and your health and well-being.

Think about your exercise routine, diet, sleep patterns, and relationships. Your physical, emotional, and mental health are connected. Improving one area can benefit other areas and

influence your overall physical, emotional, and mental health. The Circle of Health helps you see these connections and offers you tools to address a range of issues.

There are four key elements in this circle:

- **Me:** You are at the center of your care. What matters most to you? Do you want to be able to dance again, or keep up with your grandkids? The answer to this question will shape your approach to care.
- **Self-care:** Each of us has the power to impact our well-being. Whole Health offers the skills and support you need to make the changes you want.
- **Professional Care:** Your health team is there to help with the prevention and treatment of disease and illness.
- **Community:** Just as there is a “Me” at the center of the circle, there is a “We” that enfolds it. Your Community is the people and groups you connect with.

Research Roundup

From [OPEN MINDS](#): “Between 2007 and 2017, the Veterans Affairs Health Care System (VAHCS) and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reported similar reductions in 30-day readmission rates for heart failure. Readmission rates were examined using VAHCS and CMS fee-for-service categories in Inpatient Prospective System hospitals during the Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program (HRRP).”

Women’s Health Transition Training Pilot works to connect with women veterans

From [NPR Station KPCC](#):

Military health experts say that under-enrollment is not good for women, whose health needs could fall through the cracks as they transition to civilian life and assume responsibility for their own health care, sometimes for the first time in their lives. The VA says women face greater health-related challenges after military service compared to their male counterparts, including chronic pain, depression and suicide.

To convince women that the VA is capable and equipped to meet their healthcare needs, the agency's Women's Health Transition Training Pilot began offering interactive seminars for female troops about to separate from the military. The sessions are led by female veterans who themselves get healthcare through the VA.

"(Women) do think that the VA is only for men," said Nancy Maher, who oversaw the creation, implementation, and delivery of the pilot. "They don't think that VA is a quality place to get care. And they're just very unaware of all the health care services that the VA has for women."

- [Related:](#) Watch how leading veteran advocates believe is the best way to address women veterans' needs
- [Related:](#) How the Roseburg VA is addressing women veterans' needs

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