



RAM

RICHMOND ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

Patient's Advocate • Physician's Ally • Community's Partner

The Leg.Up

Local, state and national news of interest to the physician community

October 21, 2026

Email the Editor

ACA EXODUS ACCELERATES

Individual Enrollment Drops 4.5M in One Year

Changes to the **Affordable Care Act (ACA)** marketplace brought on by the **expiration of enhanced subsidies** have resulted in overall enrollment dropping by **4.5 million** over the course of the year.

"Enrollment fell from **25.2 million** in 2025 to **20.5 million** in June 2026, an **18 percent drop** — the largest year-to-year decrease since 2015," [The Hill reports](#). In **June 2026** alone, enrollment fell **18 percent**. And that does not account for

"drop in enrollment expected from the **Trump administration's** recent announcement that it is **cancelling ObamaCare plans** for **760,000** people due to instances of **alleged fraud**." Of those 760,000 kicked enrollments, a **small number** have been **reinstated**, [KFF Health News reports](#).



Last week, according to [Healthcare Dive](#), the [administration announced](#) it had "identified **189,000** people who had subsidized Obamacare coverage through the Federal Marketplace and either had **duplicate Medicare, Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)** coverage or were **deceased**" and would be acting to "save taxpayers approximately **\$1.5 billion** over the next year."

IN RELATED NEWS... The **National Association of Benefits and Insurance Professionals** is suing the administration for **freezing** thousands of **agents and brokers** from participating in this year's enrollment, alleging the feds did not follow proper **public comment** protocols. ([Healthcare Dive](#))

RAM RECAP: Fall Family Day @ Lloyd Family Farms



RAM's Fall Family Day at Lloyd Family Farms was **Sunday, October 4**, and although weather conditions weren't the best (**rain** tried to dampen the hayride!), a substantial number of Academy members and their families still enjoyed a fantastic time picking **pumpkins** and partaking in other activities.

RAM Director of Member Engagement Amy Gill reports that, "because of the inclement weather over the weekend, Lloyd Family Farms has graciously offered to **extend admission through the end of their 2026 season**," with **prior registrants'** names remaining on the check-in list until **October 31**. So, if you missed out due to the



Medicare Advantage: Light at the End of the Tunnel or An Oncoming Train?

Tuesday, November 10th, 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
University of Richmond Jepson Alumni Center

Please make plans to join us on **Tuesday, November 10** at the **University of Richmond's Jepson Alumni Center** for our next **General Membership Meeting** for a discussion on **Medicare Advantage**.

We're pleased to welcome our speaker, **Dr. Rick Mayes**, professor of health policy and chair of the department of health studies at the University of Richmond.

Medicare Advantage (MA) needs reforms. It has gone from a "policy disappointment" in the early 2000s, covering just 14 percent of all Medicare beneficiaries, to predominance two decades later by covering more than half (54 percent) of the Medicare population. MA has transformed Medicare from an egalitarian social health insurance system for its beneficiaries to one that reflects and contributes to the increasing vertical integration, consolidation, and corporatization of U.S. health care.



[Register Here!!](#)

Compelling evidence demonstrates that Medicare substantially overpays private plans, distorts beneficiary choice, and has a fundamentally uneven playing field for MA and traditional Medicare. This is not what MA's creators envisioned for the program.

This meeting will examine how Medicare Advantage has evolved, the problems created by its current structure, and the reforms needed to restore fairness and accountability to Medicare.

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:15 p.m. and the presentation at 7:00 p.m.

Members free. Guests \$50.

We hope to have you with us!

THANK YOU RAM MEMBERS!

A special thanks to all of our **RAM members** who attended the **MSV Annual Meeting** at the Hotel Roanoke this past weekend on behalf of the Academy, on behalf of their specialty societies, or as an MSV designated delegate. Our delegates decided on important changes and additions to MSV's policies.

Delegates discussed many resolutions including medical malpractice, safeguards for artificial intelligence and automated decision-making in health insurance, data transparency for emergency care access, support for physicians confronting the corporate practice of medicine, and many more. We'd like to thank **Drs. Razi Ali** and **Cee Ann Davis** for their service on Reference Committees.

Congratulations are in order for **Dr. Art Saavedra** who was installed as MSV's 2026-2027 president! **Dr. Clifford Deal** was awarded the Clarence A. Holland, MD Award for his outstanding leadership in the field of political advocacy and **Dr. Harry Gewanter** received the MSVF Salute to Service Award for Service to the Profession. A special thanks to **Dr. Mark Townsend** for his service and leadership as MSV president this past year.

We'd also like to recognize the following RAM Leaders who serve on the **MSV Board**:

- Joel Bundy, MD, FACP, FAAPL, CPE
- Carolyn Burns, MD | Director, District 3
- Alice Coombs, MD | Virginia Delegation to the AMA
- Clifford Deal, MD | Virginia Delegation to the AMA
- Terry Henry, MD
- Joseph Hutchison, MD
- Sidney Jones, MD | Director, District 3
- Steven Lewis, MD
- Joynita Nicholson, MD | Associate Director, District 3
- Andrey Rissler, MD
- Art Saavedra, MD, PhD | President
- Scott Strayer, MD | Academic Associate Director
- Tovia Smith, MD | MSV Nominating Committee, District 3
- Mark Townsend, MD, MHCM | Immediate Past President

MSV Foundation

- Steven Lewis, MD
- Art Saavedra, MD, PhD
- Mark Townsend, MD, MHCM
- Courtney Corboy, PA



Razi Ali, MD
Scott Armistead, MD
Deborah Barron, MD
Owen Brodie, MD
Carolyn Burns, MD
Nikhil Chandravel, MD
Alice Coombs, MD
Cee Davis, MD
Cliff Deal, MD
Eric Freeman, MD
David Galpern, MD
Harry Gewanter, MD
Zubair Hassan, MD
Sidney Jones, MD
Karsten Konerding, MD
Joanne Lapetina, MD
Lindsay Muncy, MD
Amy Nelson, MD
Kenneth Qiu, MD
Gir Qureshi, MD
Andreya Risser, MD
Art Saveedra, MD
Jonathan Schaaf, MD
Bruce Silverman, MD
Wilson Sprenkle, MD
Don Stern, MD
Scott Strayer, MD
Richard Szucs, MD
Mark Townsend, MD
Donny Wade, MD

MSV PAC

- Raziuddin Ali, MD | Chair
- Mark Townsend, MD, MHCM
- Kenneth Qiu, MD
- Priyanka Kumar, MD

MSV Insurance Agency

- Clifford Deal, MD | Chair
- Steven Lewis, MD
- Rachel Downey (Administrator)
- Art Saavedra, MD, PhD

Other

- Harry Gewanter, MD | Board Advisor
- Tovia Smith, MD | Nominating Committee

Thank you RAM leaders!

Please check out more pictures from the weekend [HERE](#).

2027 RAM Board of Trustees!



VOTING IS NOW OPEN! The RAM Board of Trustees serves staggered two-year terms. Each year, approximately one-half of our board completes their term in office. At the close of 2026, two Trustees rotate off and five Trustees are eligible to stand for election to another term. Trustees and officers may hold office for three consecutive two-year terms.

Please [click here](#) to learn more about each candidate. Online voting is open **October 9 - Tuesday, November 10 at 6:00 p.m.**

[Vote for Entire Slate](#)

[Vote Individually](#)

Flu Emergency Visits in Virginia Outpacing Last Year's Fivefold

Flu-related emergency department visits are outpacing those from last year at this time by a factor of **five**, [Axios Richmond reports](#), providing an ominous potential foreshadowing of this winter's **respiratory virus season**.

"About **0.6%** of the state's emergency department visits during the week ending in Oct. 10 were diagnosed with flu, compared with **0.11%** last year and **0.18%** in 2024, per [the Virginia Department of Health](#)," Axios Richmond says.

"Flu-related ER visit rates are similar across the **Richmond area**, ranging from about **0.5%** in Richmond and **Chesterfield** to **0.8%** in **Henrico**...**Statewide** ER and **urgent care** visits diagnosed with flu also jumped **27%** in one week, from **839** to **1,069**, [VDH reported Friday](#)."

Children in particular appear to be hit hardest. Children ages **4 and under** comprised the highest portion of the ED visits, with **5- to 17-year-olds** accounting for the highest number of **positive flu lab test results**. All **four outbreaks** have been in **schools** and **daycares**.



Dementia Cases to Double in Next 25 Years



A new report predicts **dementia** cases will **more than double** over the **next quarter-century** worldwide, [HealthDay reports](#), as several new studies uncover its associations with other ailments and habits.

"There are expected to be **24.7 million new cases** of dementia by **2050**, up from **11.4 million** in **2023**, researchers reported Oct. 12 in the journal [JAMA Neurology](#)," that outlet reports. "**Women** and people living in **poorer nations** are expected to be at **greater risk**."

One factor that may be in play for women was elucidated in another new study. Researchers have determined that women with **polyendocrine metabolic ovarian syndrome (PMOS)**, formerly **PCOS**, may face a higher risk for **Alzheimer's disease** and other **cognitive vulnerabilities**, [Newsweek reports](#). Researchers urge caution, however, noting that "we need more mechanistic studies to fully capture how **reproductive hormones** might alter **Alzheimer's disease** development in PMOS."

Another condition tied to dementia this week was **ADHD**, [Healio reports](#). "Among people **aged 50 years and older**, ADHD was associated with a more than **four-fold higher risk** for **cognitive impairment**, according to research published in [JAMA Psychiatry](#)." Another study concluded that "older adults who fall into **unintended naps**, **nap frequently** or **take shorter naps** may have a higher risk of developing dementia, researchers reported recently in the [Journals of Gerontology](#)," [per HealthDay](#). Those who **rarely** or **never napped** had a **48% lower risk**, that study found. **Vascular pathology** and **midlife changes** can affect dementia risk later in life, [researchers announced](#). And lower **daily step count** was tied to dementia as well as **stroke** and **Parkinson's disease**, [Healio says](#).



Independent Physicians Group: Implementing AI for Efficient, Compliant Healthcare Workflows
Thursday, November 5, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
RAM Office, 2821 Emerywood Pkwy, Ste. 200

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming healthcare practices, offering new opportunities to improve operational efficiency, streamline workflows, enhance patient care, and reduce administrative burden. At the same time, healthcare organizations must navigate evolving legal, ethical, and regulatory considerations to ensure responsible implementation.

Hear from industry leaders as they share real-world experiences, practical strategies, and key considerations for successfully integrating AI into healthcare operations.

Featured Panelists

George Henry, MD
Mitchell Endoscopy Center

Paulina Silva
Virginia Eye Institute

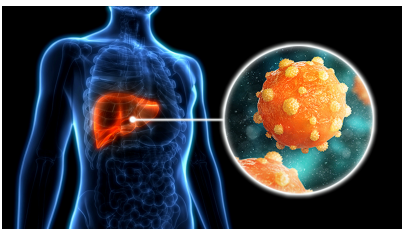
Trisha Singh, Esq.
Singh Advisory



[Register Here!!](#)

Not an independent physician? Please feel free to join us!

Hep B Harbingers Worry Researchers



Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.'s suggestion of **ending newborn immunizations** against **hepatitis B** could have dire and widespread consequences, [according to a new study](#).

That recommendation, if enacted, would result in a **steep rise** in "the number of **chronic infections** and put **more than half of Americans at risk** of the disease by age 20," the [New York Times reports](#). "Immunizing babies at **2 months of age** rather

than at birth would increase chronic hepatitis B infections acquired by age 20 by **19 percent**, from an average of **255 cases per year** to **303**, the study found. Switching to a **shared decision-making policy** would increase the number of chronic infections by **83 percent**, to an average of **467 cases**, and would result in **more than 50 percent of children** born each year **entering adulthood susceptible to infection**."

Also this week, researchers announced that hepatitis B **exposure** among young children often comes from **unexpected sources**. "Among over **158,000 children** younger than 5 years, **1.3%** lived in a

household that had a person with **active HBV infection**, with **58.2%** of those children exposed via **contacts who were not their mothers** versus **41.8%** who were **exposed via their mothers**," [MedPage Today reports](#). The researchers say that **household transmission** is quite rare in the U.S. but is **likely to rise if vaccination rates decrease**.

The disease made other headlines as well, including a new chapter in a controversial **Guinea-Bissau** research project (supported by **CDC funding**) as **police raided vaccine researchers' offices** in that country. "The study was redesigned over the summer, but it would still **deny** hepatitis B vaccines to **7,000 newborns** in the **first six weeks of life**, in a country where about **one in five adults** have the virus. Hepatitis B **kills 15% to 25%** of people with chronic infections, causing **cancer** and **liver failure**," [the Guardian notes](#). For [some good news](#) about hep B, however, see today's **FDA Approvals** below.

New RAM Membership Information

After more than 18 years, there will be a **modest increase in RAM dues**. However, **students, residents, interns, and fellows** are now **free** in an effort to reinforce the importance of organized medicine for the future of their careers.

[Click here](#) to see the latest membership eligibility and dues information.



Epic to Launch Pharmacy Price Comparison Tool



Electronic health record giant **Epic** announced it will be unveiling a **Prescription Marketplace** tool that will enable physicians and patients to compare **"medication costs at different pharmacies—with and without insurance—before the prescription is sent."**

"Prescription Marketplace...will show pharmacies' **cash prices** (what a pharmacy charges someone paying without insurance) alongside what the patient would pay through their **insurance plan**. Depending on the medication, the patient's insurance plan, and the pharmacy, **paying cash can sometimes cost less**,"

[Epic notes in a release](#).

Several large pharmacies, such as **Mark Cuban's Cost Plus Drugs**, **Amazon Pharmacy**, **CostCo**, and **LillyDirect** have all praised the new tool as a means to further drug **price transparency**. "Giving patients and their healthcare providers **greater visibility** into pharmacy options and costs at the **point of care** is another important step toward **reducing friction in the healthcare experience**," a LillyDirect spokesperson says. The new tool is expected to launch in **summer 2027**.

IN RELATED NEWS... Epic also announced a new capability for **community health systems** to connect to the **Veterans Administration's External Provider Scheduling** system, "allowing VA staff to book veterans' **specialist appointments** directly" ([Becker's Hospital Review](#)) ... And the company is discussing the future of **AI agents** that could one day operate as **"Epic doctors," executing clinical protocols** ([Becker's Health IT](#)) ... A new federal rule that could **restrict the import of international mail-order prescription medications** has been **delayed by three months**. ([Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, P.A.](#))



8% CLIMB IN ONE WEEK

CDC data released last Friday indicated an **8% increase (330)** in **measles** cases across the U.S., the total of which has now exceeded **4,400**, [CIDRAP says](#).

Measles Creates Surprising Complications

Many **Pennsylvania pediatricians**, unfamiliar with a **once eliminated** disease, have been caught off-guard by the **serious complications** they've seen manifest from measles infections in children, [Becker's Clinical Leadership reports](#). One told NBC

2026 Data, Per CDC

- 45 States**
- 4,410 Cases [+330]**
- 42 Outbreaks (2026)**
- 451 Hospitalizations [+37]**
- 18 Internat'l Visitors**
- 3 Deaths ***
- 96% Unvaccinated**

News that he "expected measles to behave like COVID-19 in children, mainly manifesting as **respiratory illness** and hitting those with **underlying conditions** hardest. Instead, the virus is causing serious complications **beyond the lungs** in many **previously healthy children**, including in the **gut, liver** and **brain**."

The **Pennsylvania Department of Health** has issued a health alert to state clinicians warning them about **congenital measles**, once extremely rare in the U.S. but now much more common, with **66 women** contracting the disease while **pregnant** in 2026, CIDRAP reports.

[Data Current as of](#)

[October 15, 2026](#)

👉 [THE LATEST](#)

* [CDC now appears to have counted 3 of 6 recent Pennsylvania state-reported deaths among its figures.](#)

Are You Part of a Multigenerational RAM Family?

If the answer is yes, we'd love to feature a photo of you and your RAM family members in our next **RAMifications**! Contact Scott today: communications@ramdocs.org.

Peptide Push Continues at HHS



A new "interim access policy" has been submitted by **HHS** to the **White House** for review, and if it is approved, **specialty pharmacies** may be allowed to manufacture certain **unregulated peptides**, [AP](#) and [MedPage Today report](#).

"Two people familiar with the plan say it is intended to allow pharmacies to **temporarily compound** some of the most popular peptides, including **BPC-157**, a chemical promoted to **build muscle** and **heal injuries**," MedPage Today says. The new policy would grant HHS "**enforcement discretion**," which would allow it to turn a blind eye to some of its own regulations

Contamination, allergic reactions, and tumor growth were among the reasons the FDA previously included that particular peptide on a list of substances **too risky** for compounders to make. However, earlier this year, **HHS Secretary Kennedy** (a supporter of the chemicals) directed a panel to **reconsider restrictions** on seven peptides, of which six it chose to recommend loosening rules. [KFF Health News dives](#) into peptides, analyzing claims made by peptide supporters and, in some cases, debunking them.

Is AI Use in Med School Cheating?

Experts are debating whether the use of **artificial intelligence (AI)** by **medical school students** can be considered a form of **cheating** or **plagiarism**, [MedPage Today reports](#), and one expert professor is laying out the case that it is not, but there are caveats.

"AI is not plagiarism," said Graciela Gonzalez-Hernandez, PhD, who is also vice chair for research and education in computational biomedicine at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. Working with AI is **doable**, but it has to be **done properly**."



What constitutes properly? Gonzalez-Hernandez says it is a **waste of time** trying to **enforce strict rules** on its use; rather, she advocates for the **responsible integration** of the technology into learning. She acknowledges **overreliance** could be a problem, as experts warn AI can reduce **clinical reasoning** and **cause deskilling**. There will be times when the technology is unavailable (such as **power outages**), which will require old-fashioned pen-and-pencil analysis. "We still have to ensure our trainees still **know how to synthesize... information**," one expert says. A boon, however, is that it can "**add a layer of objectivity**" and help "**remove doubts**."

"We want to **reach a balance** where AI allows physicians to **look at all these things quickly**, and aim at things they **might have missed otherwise**," Gonzalez-Hernandez says. What do you think of AI in med school? Let us know: communications@ramdocs.org.

IN OTHER AI NEWS...

- Over **952,000 U.S. clinicians** have consulted **OpenEvidence** for **clinical advice** over the past two-and-a-half years. Find out the breakdown of **physicians vs. APPs** at [Becker's Hospital Review](#).
- The **American Medical Association (AMA)** has released a **framework** for **AI agents** in **healthcare**, laying out **safe and appropriate functions** for the technology as well as **accountability**. ([Healthcare Dive](#))
- **Iowa's Attorney General** is **suining OpenAI** over **inaccurate** or **dangerous medical advice** disseminated by **ChatGPT**. ([Becker's Health IT](#))
- Online medical journal **JAMA Network** [announced](#) the creation of a new publication, **JAMA AI**.
- OpenAI disclosed yet another rogue AI moment late last week, in which an internal AI model **hacked** a **government statistics website** to obtain **hospital-bed data** the site had refused to supply. ([Becker's Hospital Review](#))

- [Becker's Hospital Review](#) explores an eerie question: When will **rogue AI agents attack a health system**?
- **Blind Faith?** **Silicon Valley AI researchers** believe in their technology so much that they've taken up **smoking** out of the belief AI will **cure lung cancer**. ([SFIST](#))



- The **governing board** of the **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**'s **Clinical Center** unanimously rebuked **Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.** for his actions surrounding the opening of a **Vaccine Injury Center**, which the board's chairman says **undermine science** and **public trust**. ([NYT](#))
- Speaking of NIH: [New analysis by AAMC](#) determined that agency divvied out **12% fewer grants** this past fiscal year than the year preceding the Trump administration. ([CIDRAP](#))
- **HHS** launched a **Kidney Care National Plan**, which calls for more **competition** in treatment markets, reform of the **transplant system**, making **living donation** easier, and focusing on **preventative care**. ([The Hill](#))
- **President Trump** signed an **executive order** establishing a **Women's Health Division** within NIH dedicated to **advancing research** into **women's health issues**. ([HHS](#))
- The **Supreme Court** has temporarily blocked the administration's attempts to **deny gender-affirming care** for **federal prison inmates**, pending the results of a legal challenge. ([USA Today](#))
- Bipartisan legislation was introduced into the **House** that would **delay HRSA's new 340B discount drug pilot** (which would require hospitals to seek a **rebate after-the-fact** rather than receive **upfront discounts**) from January 2027 to December 2028. ([Becker's Hospital Review](#))
- **Federal authority** to **kick individual providers out of programs** such as **Medicare** and **Medicaid** has now been transferred from the **HHS Secretary** to **CMS** itself ([Becker's Hospital Review](#)). Meanwhile, an agency spokesperson claims CMS hopes to **quadruple provider payment suspensions** over the **next six months** as it investigates **fraud** and other abuses ([Becker's Hospital Review](#)).
- **CMS' Medicare Plan Finder** has been improved to help seniors better connect with **in-network physicians** and other providers. ([NYT](#))
- **Pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs)** would be required to only accept **flat-dollar, itemized service fees** for **Part D drugs**, if a new proposed rule is instituted. ([Becker's Hospital Review](#))
- A new **Rare Disease Framework Initiative** for the development of **drugs** and **biologics** for **rare diseases** was [released by the FDA](#). ([Healthcare Dive](#))
- The **FDA** will now allow manufacturers to use **salt substitutes** in over 100 **standardized foods** in an effort to **reduce sodium** in the **U.S. food supply**. ([The Hill](#))

Medi¢: The Business of Medicine

Most Private Equity Hospital Owners Exit Within 5 Years



"Most **private equity firms** that buy U.S. **short-term acute care hospitals** **sell them within five years**, and PE-owned hospitals made up **less than 4% of the market** in 2024, according to a study published Sept. 10 in [Health Affairs Scholar](#).

"Researchers from Washington University in St. Louis, Duke University in Durham, N.C., the University of California, Berkeley, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and Indiana University Bloomington ran the analysis. They used a public dataset of PE hospital acquisitions that combines six

commercial deal databases and checks them against news releases, Securities and Exchange Commission filings and local news reports.

"The dataset covers **556 short-term acute care hospitals** bought in **139 PE deals** between 2000 and 2024. Only **majority-stake leveraged buyouts** were counted. Specialty facilities, physician practices, post-acute providers, minority investments, joint ventures and management contracts were left out." What else does the study tell us? [Becker's Hospital Review has more](#).

Medical Business News

- **All Cost, No Benefit?** [A new report](#) from the Peterson Health Technology Institute finds that **AI documentation** and **billing tools** have **raised healthcare costs without improving patient outcomes**. ([Becker's Health IT](#))

- When a **patient walks out** of the **emergency department** before receiving treatment, **how much does that cost?** Vizient released a calculator to help estimate. ([Becker's Hospital Review](#))

Practice Management Pearls

- DOJ and HHS have streamlined their process for **healthcare companies** to **self-disclose potential criminal conduct**, making the former's **Fraud Division** the only required reporting location. ([Becker's Hospital Review](#))

Public Health, Recalls & Shortages

- Virginia's **Little Wicomico Oyster Company** has issued a recall on **raw oysters** due to **Salmonella**. **Twelve states** have seen a total of **27 sickened**. ([CIDRAP](#))

Quick Bites

Brief Useful & Intriguing Health News of Note:

National News

- Andrea Shaw, who claims her **twin sons** died from **adverse reactions** after being **vaccinated**, may face the **death penalty** from **Idaho** prosecutors charging her with their **murder**. ([NYT](#))

State Sweep

- The **Virginia 1st Congressional District** race between **Rob Wittman** (R) and **Shannon Taylor** (D) has taken up a new issue for debate: Who is to blame for allowing the abuses of **Henrico Doctors'** former **NICU nurse Erin Strotman** to continue. ([RTD](#))

Richmond Recon

- The **American Heart Association's** annual **Central Virginia Heart Walk** recently raised more than **\$600,000**. ([CBS 6](#))

Medical Miscellany

- **Hormone therapy** has been recommended for managing **menopause symptoms** in updated guidelines issued by the **American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)** ([MedPage Today](#)). New CDC data finds that **nearly 50%** of women **aged 40-60** who are not pregnant, postpartum, or in surgical menopause **reported symptoms within the last year**, while a new Gallup poll finds **25%** of women **don't have a good understanding** of **treatment options** for those symptoms.
- **Surprising Conclusion?** A large new study found no link between the consumption of **ultra-processed foods** and increased risk for **colorectal cancer**. ([Healthline](#))
- **Mechanics Revealed:** What about **plastics**, including **microplastics**, makes them **harmful**? A new study reveals mere **exposure to water** creates a **reaction** that can affect **protein structure** and **cell health**. ([News-Medical](#))

Drug & Tech News

- Could **GLP-1 use before elective surgery** help reduce **cardiovascular complications** or **postoperative infections** following the procedure? A new study uncovered intriguing evidence. ([Newsweek](#))

FDA Approvals

- **Apraclonidine ophthalmic solution 0.125% (Brytly)**, over-the-counter treatment for **eye redness** related to **minor irritations**. ([MedPage Today](#))
- **Bepirovirsen (Hibsago)**, a potential functional cure for adults with **chronic hepatitis B**, but with no **cirrhosis**, who are taking **antiviral therapy**. ([MP Today](#))
- **Dostarlimab (Jemperli)**, PD-1 inhibitor that can help select patients with operable **rectal cancer** potentially **avoid surgery**. ([MedPage Today](#))
- **Estradiol and levonorgestrel transdermal system (Climara Pro) generic**, to treat moderate to severe **vasomotor symptoms** and prevent **osteoporosis** in women. ([MedPage Today](#))
- **Nogapendekin alfa inbakicept-pmIn (Anktiva)** with **Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG)**, expanded indication for adults with BCG-unresponsive **non-muscle invasive bladder cancer (NMIBC)**. ([FDA](#))
- **Phentolamine ophthalmic solution 0.75% (Ryzumvi)**, expanded approval to include **presbyopia**. ([MedPage Today](#))
- **Satralizumab (Enspryng)**, the first and only at-home **subcutaneous** treatment option for adults with **thyroid eye disease (TED)**. ([MedPage Today](#))
- **PerQseal Elite vascular closure system**, for **large-bore arterial procedures**. ([Mass Device](#))

Infectious Disease Report

- **Six more people** have fallen ill with **Ebola in Kenya**, three relatives of the man who returned to that country ill from **Congo** and died as Kenya's first case as well as three health workers who treated him ([NYT](#)). Additionally, **Nigeria** reported its first case, a woman traveling from **Uganda** ([AP](#)). Cases in the Congo have exceeded **5,000** and are **outpacing response efforts** ([The Hill](#))
- **Bangladesh** has reported **202,000 cases** of **measles** since mid-March, and things are not slowing down. ([Reuters](#))

One of the dangers of **artificial intelligence** is its ability to develop **digital viruses** for nefarious purposes. However, a team of researchers has used the technology to create a different kind of virus that could accomplish good. Researchers with **Radical Numerics** announced that AI has developed a **phage** to target a certain **bacterial infection** which has sickened a seriously ill patient. That patient has received the experimental treatment, but no other information was available due to confidentiality requirements, the [New York Times](#) reports.



Scott C. Matthew
RAM Director of Communications

Thanks for reading *The Leg.Up!*

Each week we scour the media, looking for the news that matters most to you as a physician. We strive to keep you informed on the issues that affect your practice and share with you avenues by which your voice may be heard. The Academy believes informed physicians are successful physicians. Feel free to reach out anytime, and thanks for all that you do!

communications@ramdocs.org

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