

Thursday, July 25, 2024

Denver Health performs Colorado's first breakthrough aneurysm surgery



Denver Health's vascular surgery team performed the first GORE EXCLUDER Thoracoabdominal Branch Endoprosthesis (TAMBE) procedure in Colorado on **Thursday, July 18**. Led by **Vascular Surgeon Lisa Bennett, MD**, and **Anesthesiology Physician David Wiegmann, MD**, this life-saving, minimally invasive procedure treats complex aortic aneurysms near the heart without needing open-heart surgery, which reduces risks like high blood loss and potential fatalities.

Bennett is the first surgeon in Colorado to perform this minimally invasive technique outside of clinical trials and is among a small number of surgeons in the state trained using this technology.

"Having this new, minimally invasive technology is an important step forward in specialty care for patients," Bennett said. "Offering this cutting-edge technology at Denver Health reflects our commitment to providing state-of-the-art surgery options and high-quality care to all in our community when they need it most."

An aortic aneurysm is a balloon-like bulge in the wall of the aorta. If an aortic aneurysm bursts, it can cause life-threatening internal bleeding. Aortic aneurysms are often asymptomatic in patients until they rupture, at which point immediate treatment is required. The GORE EXCLUDER TAMBE procedure helps lower the risk of life-threatening tears or ruptures of the aorta and allows for rapid recovery from surgery.

EARNING TRUST

2024-26 STRATEGIC PLAN

Palliative Medicine initiative enhances care at Denver Health

The 411 is putting the spotlight on the incredible work throughout the health system focused on the 2024-26 Strategic Plan. Today we spotlight how Palliative Medicine is tackling advancing care and services.

The Palliative Medicine team at Denver Health has taken a proactive approach by engaging with patients admitted to the SICU for more than seven days. This initiative fosters interdepartmental trust, exemplifying how collaboration between Palliative Medicine and the SICU team benefits gravely ill patients navigating our health care system. Family meetings have been instrumental in enhancing clarity on hospital courses and treatment plans. Families commend Denver Health for the collaborative care, feeling better prepared for post-hospitalization caregiving or, in unfortunate circumstances, trusting that their loved ones received exemplary care. Nationally validated data confirms each Palliative Medicine consult saves \$3,237 in direct hospital costs per patient.

Division Chief of Palliative Medicine Kelly Ferraro, MD, shares, "I'm proud that our team continues to pioneer goal-directed, cost-saving, person-centered care aligned with Denver Health's mission."

If you know of any teams or individuals supporting our 2024-26 Strategic Plan, share their story with us at Denverhealth411@dhha.org to feature them in an upcoming 411.

STAY INFORMED

T: Drive downtime scheduled for maintenance

IT will be taking the T: Drive down to migrate to a new storage solution. This down time will occur this coming **Sunday, July 28** from **1:30 a.m.–3:30 a.m.** Access to the Department Shares on the T: Drive (including PHI folders) will NOT be available during this downtime window. This could impact files you have open or are working on when this downtime occurs.

IT will provide updates via DL_Everyone prior to the downtime, as well as once the downtime is completed. After the downtime is concluded, please log off and log back on OR reboot your system to connect once again to the T: Drive.

Denver Health IT team resolves CrowdStrike update disruption swiftly

As many of us started our Friday morning, our incredible IT team had already been hard at work for six hours, addressing a significant international computer crisis linked to a CrowdStrike software update. Working tirelessly from **11:35 p.m. Thursday** until **4 p.m. Friday**, they tackled problems affecting around 2,500 workstations with remarkable speed and efficiency. By **3 a.m.**, they had resolved issues with 108 servers and mobilized over 100 staff members to address affected workstations across various locations. Their relentless commitment ensured minimal disruption to patient care and kept our operations running smoothly. We also want to extend our gratitude to all Denver Health staff for their incredible support and patience throughout this incident.

"As of around 11 a.m. Friday morning, I had been getting reports of IT staff going floor to floor in OMC and Davis Pavilion fixing computers. A huge thank you to the quick mobilization of the IT staff! Our outpatient clinical areas in medicine were able to regain function thanks to the team," said **Anuradha Paranjape, MD, department chair of the department of medicine**.

Additionally, we would also like to congratulate our IT team for their outstanding efforts in maintaining a robust EPIC system, crucial to patient care and safety. Their dedication has resulted in Denver Health achieving a downtime of only 165 minutes for planned events in the past year, ensuring uninterrupted service for clinicians and staff.

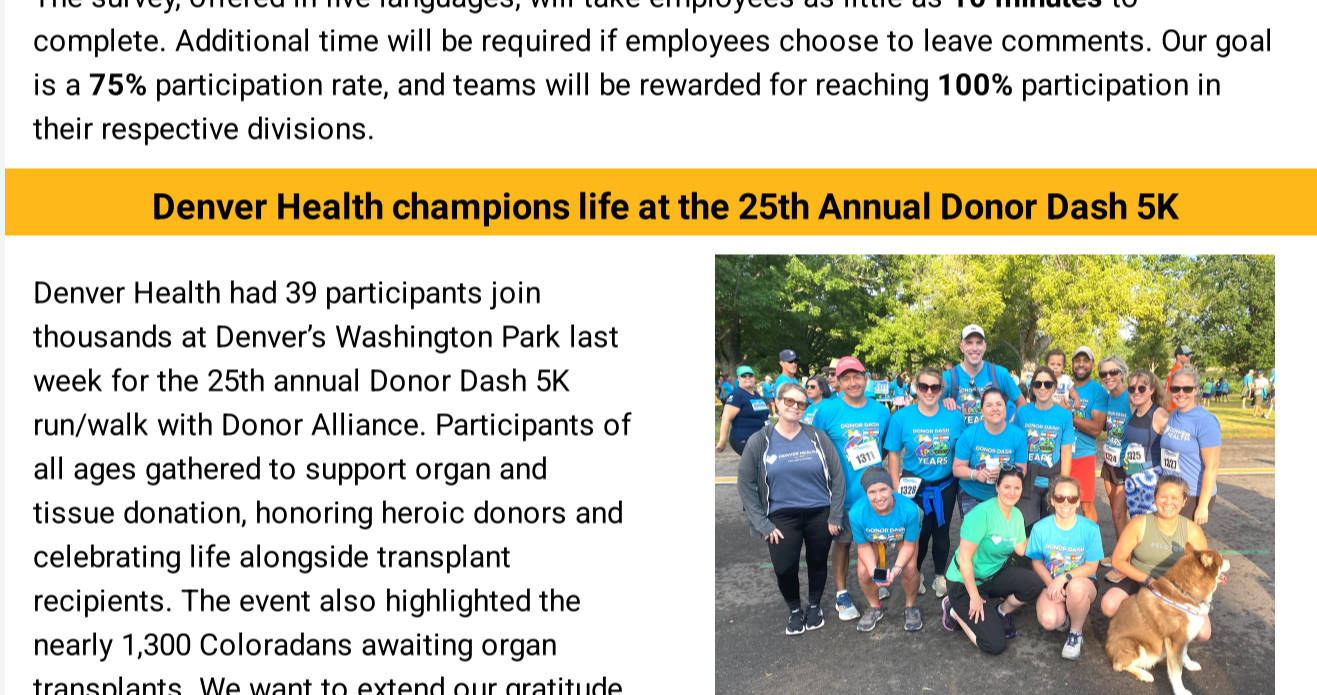
Thank you for your commitment to excellence in system reliability and uptime.

Employee Engagement Survey off to a flying start

We're off to an amazing start—maybe even sprinting! In less than 48 hours since the Employee Engagement Survey went live, more than **1,700** of you have already completed it. This is a fantastic beginning, but we need everyone's support to keep the momentum going. Encourage your colleagues to take the survey before it closes on **August 5**.

To add to the excitement, a group of employees and leaders from across the organization joined in Denver Health's own version of "Carpool Karaoke."

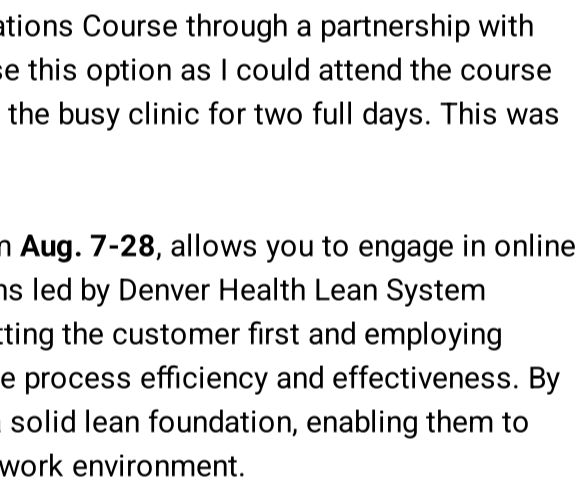
[Be sure to check out this fun video](#)—you won't want to miss it!



The survey, offered in five languages, will take employees as little as **10 minutes** to complete. Additional time will be required if employees choose to leave comments. Our goal is a **75%** participation rate, and teams will be rewarded for reaching **100%** participation in their respective divisions.

Denver Health champions life at the 25th Annual Donor Dash 5K

Denver Health had 39 participants join thousands at Denver's Washington Park last week for the 25th annual Donor Dash 5K run/walk with Donor Alliance. Participants of all ages gathered to support organ and tissue donation, honoring heroic donors and celebrating life alongside transplant recipients. The event also highlighted the nearly 1,300 Coloradans awaiting organ transplants. We want to extend our gratitude



to **Diana Lujano, RN**, for returning as our team captain and to **Saharai Jacquez, benefits analyst**, for once again volunteering at our booth.

Transform your approach with Lean Foundations courses this August

Have you ever wondered what's behind Denver Health's Lean approach? Each month brings a chance to learn more and there's still room in next month's Lean Foundations course, presented in collaboration with the University of Denver. As **Kiera Shaffer, RN nursing manager**, shares, "I recently took the Lean Foundations course through Denver Health and the University of Denver. I chose this option as I could attend the course virtually over my lunch hour and not be away from the busy clinic for two full days. This was the best option."

This hybrid format course, running Thursdays from **Aug. 7-28**, allows you to engage in online self-guided modules alongside interactive sessions led by Denver Health Lean System Improvement experts. The course emphasizes putting the customer first and employing systematic problem-solving techniques to improve process efficiency and effectiveness. By completing the course, participants can develop a solid lean foundation, enabling them to enhance quality, safety and efficiency within their work environment.

"I have taken Lean classes before at other organizations but this course was exceptional," continued Shaffer. "The facilitators provided real-life application for the content. I appreciated the feedback I received from other students which helped me more thoughtfully consider how to apply Lean to my clinic. I encourage everyone, no matter the department or discipline, to take this course."

Registration is now open through the University of Denver Office of Health Informatics [Professional Development Platform](#). Denver Health employees, please contact the Lean Academy at leanacademy@dhha.org for your discount code and reserve your place in this course.

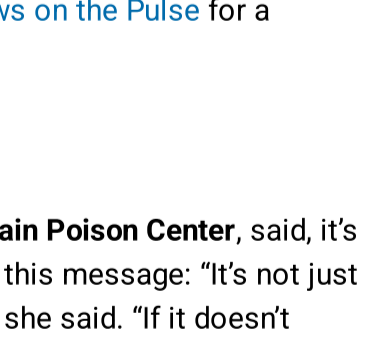
Denver Health expands virtual therapy access for employees and family members

Denver Health's Employee Assistance Program (EAP), offered through Health Advocate, has partnered with Tava Health to provide expanded access to virtual therapy through their network of licensed professional therapists. Now, in addition to the convenience of locating mental health providers and self-scheduling appointments online, obtaining an appointment with a provider is also quicker. **Simply login to the Health Advocate website, select EAP: Life and Work Home and scroll to "connect to virtual therapy"** to begin the process. For more information, you can [view an informational flyer](#).

FEATURED JOBS

Explore Denver Health's latest career opportunities

This week's featured job is **CT Technologist**. Take advantage of our Employee Referral Program, refer a friend for one of our Featured Jobs for a chance to earn a referral bonus.



The referral incentive varies depending on the position referred, so don't miss out on this opportunity to help someone find their next great role while earning a reward yourself.

Employee referral incentives range up to \$5,000! Search your network to find top talent and earn cash. Login to your Workday, click on the "Jobs Hub". Under "My Referrals", click the "Refer a Candidate" button to send your prospects an application invitation email. A [quick reference guide](#) is available in the Workday Resource Hub. Additional details are available in the [Employee Referral Incentive Program](#) policy.

GRATITUDE

Winter Park Medical Center praised for excellent care

It is rewarding to hear from patients who have received outstanding care at Denver Health. This week, we're highlighting a patient review of our incredible team at the Denver Health Winter Park Medical Center.

"The doctors at the Winter Park Denver health have been really helpful with my medical care. They always have put my best interest to the forefront."

We encourage staff to ask patients to leave a positive review online, as a higher rating helps build trust in our community. Every star counts!

IN THE NEWS

The 411 highlights top stories of the week. Please visit [In the News on the Pulse](#) for a roundup of all recent stories featuring Denver Health.

Cayenne pepper powder trend on TikTok raises health concerns
July 24, *FOX21 (Colorado Springs)*
Either way, **Shireen Banerji, PharmD, director of the Rocky Mountain Poison Center**, said, it's not something people should be taking teaspoons full of and had this message: "It's not just a game, it's something that's affecting your health and your body," she said. "If it doesn't sound good and it doesn't sound normal, then it's probably not a good idea."

Health tips for when air quality is poor in Denver
July 24, *FOX31*
The air quality in Denver ranked among the worst of major cities globally this week. **Sarah Roark, MD, a pulmonary and critical care physician at Denver Health**, joined Fox31 to talk about the health impacts of poor air quality and what people can do to minimize those impacts.

Denver Health CMO: Downside of Noncompete Contracts Outweighs Benefits
July 23, *Health Leaders*
Satisfied Physicians provide the best care for patients, according to **Connie Savor Price, CMO at Denver Health**. "We want doctors who want to stay here, who want to practice here, and who are happy to practice here," Savor Price says.

Real-World Challenges of Psychedelic Therapies
July 11, *Lucid News*
In this interview, **Rick Dart, MD, director of RMPDS**, delves into the complexities of this emerging field, discussing the potential risks associated with the widespread use of psychedelics like MDMA and ketamine, the role of REMS (Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies) in mitigating those risks, and the crucial need for a comprehensive approach to data collection and analysis.

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Denver Health VALUES how we do it. RESPECT BELONGING TRANSPARENCY ACCOUNTABILITY

SUBMIT A REQUEST TO THE WEEKLY 411 Submit content for consideration in the Weekly 411 through the employee outreach request form here. Accuracy and quality matter, so please provide all material as early as possible. Your submission should detail who, what, when, where, why and how, with correct spelling and explanation of acronyms. We encourage you to include photos and any links or attachments that may help to communicate your message. Content received after noon on Tuesday will be considered for the following week's edition.

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