



# DENVER HEALTH'S WEEKLY 411

The week's most critical information delivered to your inbox.

Thursday, January 18, 2024

## New milestone for Bariatric Surgery Center

Denver Health's **Bariatric Surgery Center** marked a new milestone in the Center's six-year history this week when **Ann Kulungowski, MD**, director of adolescent bariatric surgery at Denver Health, performed a successful sleeve gastrectomy surgery on a 19-year-old patient. "This was a monumental day for our patient and their commitment to their long-term health as they transition from teenager to young adult after their bariatric surgery," said Dr. Kulungowski. "This is also an achievement for Denver Health's dedication to care for all patients, ages and stages along their health care journey."

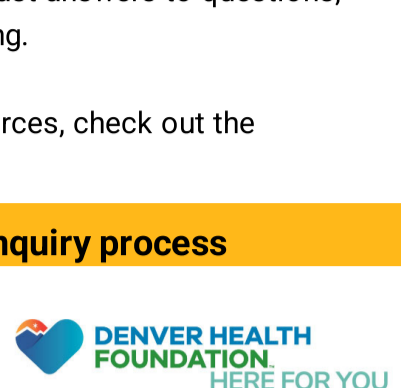


[Read more](#)

## STAY INFORMED

### Nursing Reference Center upgraded to Dynamic Health

Denver Health has upgraded the Nursing Reference Center Plus to EBSCO's newest product, Dynamic Health. Nurses and allied health staff can now automatically earn continuing education units (CEUs) every time you research a question or use materials in Dynamic Health to improve patient outcomes.

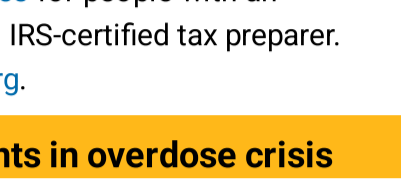


As with the Nursing Reference Center, Dynamic Health is an evidence-based tool designed to help nurses and allied health professionals master skills, obtain fast answers to questions, and foster a culture of evidence-based practice and critical thinking.

To see ways to access Dynamic Health and utilize its many resources, check out the [Dynamic Health Resources Hub](#).

### Denver Health Foundation updates formal inquiry process

Denver Health Foundation is revising its internal funding request process and philanthropic fund allocation to align with Denver Health priorities. The 2024 Impact System



facilitates directors of service in submitting department impact plans by a deadline of Jan. 31, 2024. This update enhances transparency and ensures timely consideration of impactful work, urgent needs and fund utilization, promoting effective support for Denver Health initiatives through strategic donor engagement. [Learn more here](#).

### Tax filing resources available for 2024 tax season

Get ready for tax season with the help of free resources from [Get Ahead Colorado](#). Tax Day is **April 15**, and depending on your income level, there are **three free and easy ways to file** your taxes, including in person at [Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites](#) for people with an income up to \$60,000. These sites offer free tax preparation by an IRS-certified tax preparer. Appointment slots fill quickly. [Learn more at getaheadcolorado.org](#).

### Denver Health researchers learn from youth patients in overdose crisis

With overdose deaths now the third leading cause of adolescent deaths in the United States, Denver Health doctors are conducting research that will enable our providers to treat and support patients in the most patient-centered way possible. **Christian Thurstone, MD**, director of service for behavioral health services, and **Sonja O'Leary, MD**, director of service for general pediatrics, have recently published two studies – one on effective interventions for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and another on the efficacy of school-based interventions through Denver Health's School-Based Health program. "Denver Health is at the forefront of addressing this important issue," Dr. Thurstone said.

[Learn more](#)

### Urology Department expands services

The Urology Department would like to welcome two new general urologists, **Sharon White, MD**, and **Kyle Szymanski, MD**, who will be joining Denver Health this summer. Their growing team also has expanded its services to meet the needs of the community. Among the new offerings:

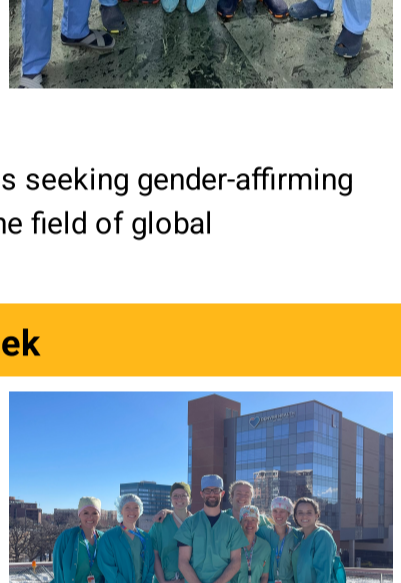
- Acquiring a surgical robot, with the first case anticipated for **March 1, 2024**.
- New contracts with CU Medicine urologic oncologists Janet Kukreja, MD, and Paul Maroni, MD, to provide comprehensive surgical care while mentoring Dr. White and Dr. Szymanski in developing a state-of-the-art robotic surgery program.
- New hire of gender affirmation/ reconstructive urologist **Liem Synder, MD**, who will join in the fall after completing a prestigious reconstructive urology fellowship. Dr. Synder will partner with **Jen Hyder, MD**, to expand access and services to our gender affirmation program.
- Creating an expert urology Advance Practice Provider (APP) workforce, led by **Ian McComb, PA**, which includes two new hires, **Kendra Boren, NP**, and **Tyler Scheer, PA**, and a recently posted position for a fourth APP to support gender affirmation and reconstructive urology.

### Denver Health welcomes new GI coordinator

Denver Health welcomes Gastroenterology (GI) coordinator **Jennifer Dozier** to its team. The new role will support employees who need preventive screenings and/or other GI procedures. If you have any questions regarding scheduling a GI screening or procedure, Jennifer can be reached at [Jennifer.dozier@dhha.org](mailto:Jennifer.dozier@dhha.org) or by phone at 303-602-4468 or 720-392-5392.

### Denver Health hosts EMS open house

Just two short weeks after opening, Denver Health's new EMS Lounge is being recognized "as the best EMS Lounge in the metro area." **EMS Coordinator Billy Hanley** shared that's the feedback he's getting as paramedics and EMS team from throughout the Denver area catch up on paperwork, review calls, refuel and rest between emergency runs.



Denver Health hosted an open house this week and leaders, as well as community partners, stopped by to check out the new space that opened just before the new year, fulfilling a promise made by **CEO Donna Lynne** to the Paramedic Division.

Special thanks to Food and Nutrition Services for helping keep the food and drink shelves well stocked 24/7.

## RECOGNIZING YOU

### Dr. Hyer attends transgender health conference in New Delhi

**Jennifer Hyer, MD, OB/GYN general physician** (pictured, center), traveled to New Delhi for the India Professional Association conference (IPATH), "Addressing felt need for training capacity and building of care providers," **Nov. 26-29** at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences and International Institute of Health Management Research.



Dr. Hyer was invited to join World Professional Association for Transgender Health leaders, including the organization's president, Dr. Marci Bowers, as faculty for the conference. Dr. Hyer and the visiting surgical team led a live workshop that included performing gender-affirming surgeries in conjunction with AIMS medical faculty.

Thank you to Dr. Hyer for your continued dedication to our patients seeking gender-affirming care and surgery. Congratulations on your continued success in the field of global transgender health.

### Jan. 21-27 is National CRNA Week

**Jan. 21-27** is Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) Week. CRNAs have been providing anesthesia care to patients in the United States for more than 150 years. CRNAs are anesthesia professionals who safely administer more than 50 million anesthetics to patients each year in the United States and represent more than 80 % of the anesthesia providers in rural counties.



They practice in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered:

- Traditional hospital surgical suites and obstetrical delivery rooms
- Critical access hospitals
- Ambulatory surgical centers
- Ketamine clinics
- Offices of dentists, podiatrists, ophthalmologists, plastics surgeons and pain management specialists
- Public health services and Department of Veteran Affairs health care facilities

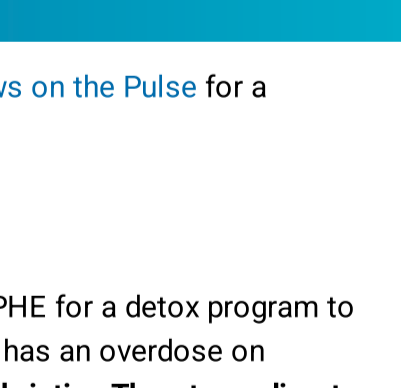
Thank you to all of our CRNAs!

(Pictured left to right: **Miranda Antimo, SRNA**, **Jennifer Rodgers, SRNA**, **Erin Carter, SRNA**, **Rob Church, CRNA**, **Nick Janke, SRNA**, **Jennifer Harenberg, CRNA**, **Katie Sutton, SRNA** and **Cristina Morales, SRNA**.)

## GET INVOLVED

### 5280 Top Docs nomination process now open

Denver Health physicians are consistently recognized as Top Docs in the Denver metro area by 5280 Magazine. The nomination period for 2024 Top Docs is **now open and ends Feb. 15**.



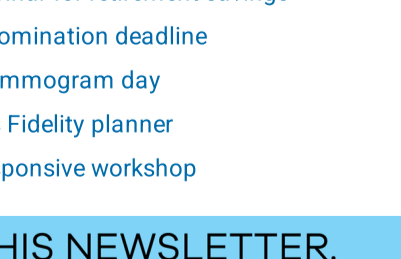
**To participate, physicians are required to complete the online registration process at [nominations.castleconnolly.com](https://nominations.castleconnolly.com).** Nominating physicians will need to provide their first and last name, email address, specialty and personal NPI number. If you have forgotten your NPI number, you can search for it [here](#).

The Denver Health Medical Staff Office will be soliciting nominations from each department that you may opt to support in your nomination. Further details and updates will be communicated by them, so please be on the lookout. When selecting nominations for Top Docs, each physician can nominate up to 15 colleagues within their own specialty, seven in the categories of family medicine, internal medicine and pediatrics, and five in each of the remaining specialties. Search for physicians by their names rather than their areas of practice when making nominations.

The 5280 Top Doctors list for 2024 is scheduled to be featured in the magazine's August issue.

### Join us for the 50th anniversary of the Rocky Mountain Trauma & Emergency Medicine Conference

Registration is now open for the 50th anniversary of the Rocky Mountain Trauma & Emergency Medicine Conference **June 17 - 20, 2024** in Breckenridge, Colo.



This conference features nationally renowned faculty in the fields of adult and pediatric trauma, critical care, emergency medicine and pre-hospital care. The program content is targeted to surgeons, providers, nurses, EMS and other health care professionals who care for injured adult and pediatric patients.

[Register here](#)

## GRATITUDE

### Travel clinic nurse receives praise for excellent care and support

It is incredibly rewarding to hear from patients who have received outstanding care at Denver Health. This week we would like to share a positive patient review of one of our incredible travel clinic nurses at the Immunization and Travel Clinic.

"**Marisa Beauchaine** was very knowledgeable and helpful. I expected Denver Health would provide top-tier service in this area, and I was not disappointed. If anything, it was even better and more comprehensive than I anticipated. A thoroughly good experience."

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 rundown of all recent stories featuring Denver Health.

**Denver earmarks more than \$10 million for mental health needs**  
*Jan. 17, 9News*  
Denver Health said it plans to use the money it receives from DDPHE for a detox program to help young adults who overdose on fentanyl. "So if an adolescent has an overdose on fentanyl, they go to the ER, they get their medical treatment," **Dr. Christian Thurstone, director of Behavioral Health Services** at Denver Health, said. "We used to just discharge them to outpatient referrals. Now we can admit you for a few days. Stabilize them."

**Denver Health nearly broke even in 2023 with one-time boost**  
*Jan. 16, The Denver Post*  
"What I think is not being said is that Denver Health is at a critical, critical point, and that we need to take this up in 2024," **Denver Health CEO Donna Lynne** said. "Because our costs exceed our revenues, we are turning down patients every day, particularly in the area of mental health and substance abuse."

**Arctic cold: How frigid temperatures affect health**  
*Jan. 12, 9News*  
"In a cold snap like this, we will expect to see people lose toes, threatened lose fingers, noses and ears in jeopardy, and hypothermia can be life-threatening," said **Dr. Eric Lavonas**, an emergency physician at Denver Health. "Every year we have a few, unfortunately, we have a few people freeze to death in Denver."

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### January | February

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|---|---|
| <b>Jan. 19:</b> Walk-in mammogram day                       | <b>Feb. 8:</b> On-campus Fidelity planner               |
| <b>Jan 26:</b> Maximizing Outputs from Academic Efforts     | <b>Feb. 9:</b> 2024 State of Research at Denver Health  |
| <b>Jan. 30:</b> On-campus Fidelity planner                  | <b>Feb. 13:</b> Fidelity webinar for retirement savings |
| <b>Jan. 31:</b> Department impact plan submission deadline  | <b>Feb. 15:</b> Top Docs nomination deadline            |
| <b>Jan. 31:</b> Food and Nutrition Services survey deadline | <b>Feb. 16:</b> Walk-in mammogram day                   |
| <b>Feb. 2:</b> Walk-in mammogram day                        | <b>Feb. 20:</b> On-campus Fidelity planner              |
|   | <b>Feb. 22:</b> Trauma-responsive workshop              |

[CLICK HERE FOR A PDF VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER.](#)

<b>Denver Health VALUES</b> <i>how we do it.</i>	RESPECT	BELONGING	TRANSPARENCY	ACCOUNTABILITY
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**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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