

# VPS 2026

## QUALITY SUMMIT & USER CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 8 ~ 10, 2026 | AURORA, CO

\* All information is subject to change

Start	Topic	Speaker
8:00 AM	VPS's QI Collaborative: Respiratory Management	By Invitation Only
10:00 AM	VPS's QI Collaborative: Patient Flow	By Invitation Only
11:50 PM	VPS's QI Collaborative: Nutrition Metrics	By Invitation Only
9:00 AM	Pre-Session A: VPS 101: Foundational Trainings for New Teams / New Site Coordinators	Optional Session
9:00 AM	Pre-Session B: Advanced Applications of VPS Data	Optional Session
12:00 PM	Registration & Badge Pickup	
<b>1:00 PM</b>	<b>Welcome</b>	Nancy Brundage and Cameron Gunville
	<b>Keynote Speaker: Leading with Data - From Bedside to Board</b>	Kathleen Gorman, Moderated by Tom Rice and Ramesh Sachdeva
	- Making Value Visible, a Facilitated Discussion: Demonstrating Value to C-Suite Executives	
2:30 PM	Global Expansion and Innovation - VPS Beyond the U.S. — International Panel	Ramesh Sachdeva and Panel
	- Canadian VPS: Activities and Updates	Elizabeth DiGiacomo
	- Beyond Benchmarking: How VPS is Shaping Pediatric Critical Care in Qatar	Ikram Ul Haque
	- VPS in Saudi Arabia: Advancing Data-Driven Pediatric Critical Care	Tareq Alayed
3:10 PM	Afternoon Break	
3:30 PM	<b>Track for Site Coordinators and Clinical Data Collectors</b>	Moderated by Ashley Sweeney
	Navigating the Complexities of Clinical Data Collection: Challenges and Solutions	Brittany Critcher and Lena Bouwens
	Transforming Data into Insight: Understanding the Value of VPS Metrics	Maria Galletto and Jaime LaVelle
	Bridging Data and Practice: Advancing Dissemination, Quality, and Registry Management at Stanford Medicine Children's Health	Cassie Bergaro
	Maintaining Momentum: Sustained VPS Engagement and Utilization	Carl Maly
	Less Noise, More Impact: Focusing on the Diagnoses That Matter Most in VPS	Kelly Jackson
	Q & A Panel	Moderated by Ashley Sweeney
5:00 PM	Closing Remarks	Nancy Brundage
3:30 PM	<b>Track for Physicians / Administrators / Managers / Operational Leadership</b>	Moderated by Tom Rice and Randall Wetzel
	Using VPS Data to Support Quality and Financial Incentives with Physician Leadership at UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital	Matt Marx
	Advancing Academic Scholarship Using VPS Registry Data: Strategies for Physician Success	Michael McCrory
	Turning VPS Data into Stories: Dashboards That Inform and Drive Change	Matt Scanlon
	Leading Through VPS	Randall Wetzel
5:00 PM	Closing Remarks	Randall Wetzel
6:00 PM	Networking Reception and Cocktail supported by Registry Partners	

Thursday, October 8, 2026

Start	Topic	Speaker
7:00 AM	VPS Quality Council Breakfast	By Invitation Only
7:00 AM	Continental Breakfast and Networking	
8:00 AM	<b>Welcome</b>	Nancy Brundage
	VPS's QI Collaboratives: A Structured Path to Measurable Improvement	Moderated by Tom Rice and Cheryl Hulbert
	- Respiratory Management Issues	Rusly Harsono
	- Patient Flow Collaborative	Michael Wilhelm
	- Nutrition Collaborative	Theresa Mikhailov and Mudit Mathur
	- Looking Ahead: Future Collaborative Work	Tom Rice
9:00 AM	<b>Keynote Speaker: Quality in the Age of AI</b> <i>Advancing Pediatric Critical Care Data, Decisions and Discovery</i>	Blake Martin Moderated by Randall Wetzel
9:55 AM	Morning Break	
10:15 AM	Using VPS Data to Change Practice: Lessons from PICU Leaders	Moderated by Ramesh Sachdeva
	- Using VPS to Help Guide QI Interventions to Reduce Incidence of Pneumonia in sTBI Patients	Binod Balakrishnan
	- pARDS Guideline Compliance	Michael McCrory
	- Implementation of an Extubation Huddle Protocol Reduces Time to Successful Extubation	Brittany Fitts
	- A QI Initiative to Decrease Duration of Mechanical Ventilation in a Tertiary PICU	Kaitlin Kobaitri
11:10 AM	FHIR Application: Transforming VPS Data Collection	Alex Kaminski and Cheryl Hulbert
11:45 AM	Caring for Complexity: Using VPS Data to Develop Programs for Medically Complex Patients	Kevin Smith
12:00 PM	Lunch	
1:00 PM	VPS and Clinical Practice — Panel Presentation	Moderated by Randall Wetzel
	- Using VPS Data to Secure PICU Nursing FTE: Optimizing Pediatric ICU Staffing Through Effective Data Analysis	Jaime LaVelle
	- Empowering Insights: Integrating the Childhood Opportunity Index with VPS Data to Understand the Neighborhoods Where Our Patients Live and Their Hospital Outcomes	Cassandra Bergero
	- Myth Busting with VPS: Using VPS Data to Inform Operational Decision-Making	Sid Dante
	- Bouncy Balls of Death: Using VPS to Identify, Track, & Investigate Common PICU Problems	Josh Koch
1:50 PM	VPS Engineering Update	Alex Kaminski
2:10 PM	VPS Analytic Update	Gerardo Soto-Campos
2:40 PM	Afternoon Break	
3:00 PM	Breakout Round #1	
	1. Making Sense of Complexity: Using VPS Data for Patients with Complex Medical Conditions	Julia Heneghan
	2. The Site Coordinator's Advanced Playbook	Panel Discussion led by Ashley Sweeney
	3. A Deeper Dive into Control Charts and Why Risk Models Need Periodic Recalibration	Gerardo Soto-Campos and Lauren Agatstein
	4. What COVID Taught Us: Turning Crisis into Capability for Emerging Diseases	Matt Scanlon, Theresa Mikhailov and Cheryl Hulbert
	5. From Definition to Application: Understanding the Phoenix Sepsis Framework	Blake Martin
	6. From Data to Action: Turning VPS Insights into Measurable Change	Howard Jeffries
	7. Levering AI and Advanced Analytics with VPS	Pamela Petersen and Brian Boville
3:45 PM	Switch to Next Session	
3:50 PM	Breakout Round #2	
	1. Making Sense of Complexity: Using VPS Data for Patients with Complex Medical Conditions	Julia Heneghan
	2. The Site Coordinator's Advanced Playbook	Panel Discussion led by Ashley Sweeney
	3. Optimizing FHIR Use in VPS: Advanced Strategies for Participating FHIR Sites	Alex Kaminski, Manoj Naik and Eddie Lee
	4. What COVID Taught Us: Turning Crisis into Capability for Emerging Diseases	Matt Scanlon, Theresa Mikhailov and Cheryl Hulbert
	5. From Definition to Application: Understanding the Phoenix Sepsis Framework	Blake Martin
	6. Scientific Poster Judges ( <i>private session - by invitation only</i> )	Howard Jeffries and Nancy Brundage
4:45 PM	Poster Presentations and Wine & Cheese Reception	
6:30 PM	VPS's PICU Advisory Group (PAG) Dinner	By Invitation Only

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Start	Topic	Speaker
7:00 AM	Continental Breakfast and Networking	
8:00 AM	<b>Welcome</b>	Nancy Brundage
	VPS Research Panel	Moderated by Howard Jeffries
	- Multicenter PICU Strain	Matthew Baker
	- Utilization of Critical Care Resource in Pediatric Neurocritical Care	Binod Balakrishnan
	- VPS Research: Using Data Combined with a Survey Study	Matt Marx
	- Dexmedetomidine Use in Children with Acute Bronchiolitis Requiring High-Flow Nasal Cannula	Neelima Marupudi
9:00 AM	VPS - PHIS Linked Research	Moderated by Tom Rice
	- VPS PHIS Linked Research Milestones, Findings and What's Next	Brian Flaherty
	- Analytic Approach of the Linkage	Gerardo Soto-Campos
	- VPS-PHIS Research Project: Examining Discharge Delay and Patterns Among Children with Medical Complexity Following Pediatric ICU stay	Julia Heneghan
10:00 AM	Morning Break	
10:20 AM	Research, QI, Clinical and Poster Presentation Awards	Howard Jeffries, Nancy Brundage and Cheryl Hulbert
10:30 AM	AI-Driven Innovation in Pediatric Critical Care	
	- Emerging Applications of AI in the PICU	Ramesh Sachdeva
	- Integrating AI into PICU Care: Clinical Examples and Emerging Opportunities	Brian Boville
11:30 AM	PICU Advisory Group Report and Taskforce Group Reports	Moderated by Tom Rice
	- Narrative Builder	Brian Boville and Alex Kaminski
	- Taskforce: Complex Medical Conditions	Matt Scanlon
	- Taskforce: Social Determinants of Health	Matt Scanlon
12:00 PM	Lunch	
1:00 PM	Advancing Excellence Through VPS Recognition	Tom Rice and Nancy Brundage
1:15 PM	The State of VPS: Opportunities, Outcomes and Strategic Vision	Randall Wetzel
	Discussion and Closing Remarks	Randall Wetzel
2:00 PM	Adjourn	

Saturday, October 10, 2026

*A special thank you to each of the following for generously supporting all of our efforts:*



**RegistryPartners**  
DATA ABSTRACTION / REGISTRY MANAGEMENT / CONSULTING



**PedsCCM.org**  
The Pediatric Critical Care Medicine Website



**Children's Hospital Colorado**



**ehca**  
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION



**Colorado Nurses Association**

We look forward to seeing you again at the next VPS Quality Summit & User Conference - Spring of 2028