

IHA COVID Resources and Advocacy

October 16, 2020

CMS offers new provider resource on regulatory waivers and rules

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' Office of Minority Health has released [Rural Crosswalk: CMS Flexibilities to Fight COVID-19](#). This new resource documents COVID-19-related waivers and flexibilities issued by CMS that affect rural health clinics, federally qualified health centers, critical access hospitals, rural hospitals generally and long-term care facilities. The resource describes the significance of each provision for these rural providers and facilities.

The Crosswalk is divided into six sections for easy navigation:

- CMS hospitals without walls.
- Patients over paperwork.
- Payment.
- Telehealth.
- Workforce.
- Additional guidance.

The Rural Crosswalk is intended to boost providers' understanding of the many CMS regulatory waivers and new rules that have been issued in response to COVID-19.

For more information and resources for rural providers, visit go.cms.gov/ruralhealth, email RuralHealth@cms.hhs.gov or reach out to one of the [CMS Regional Rural Health Coordinators](#).

Next CEO update call cancelled

The next CEO update call, scheduled from 1-2 pm Wednesday, Aug. 26, has been cancelled. The next update will be in conjunction with the IHA All District Virtual Meeting 1-2:30 pm, Sept. 23. More details soon to follow.

New publication schedule

IHA's COVID-19 Update newsletter will begin a once-a-week publication schedule next week. The newsletter will be distributed every Wednesday beginning Aug. 26.

Educational opportunities

- **2-3 pm Tuesday, Sept. 1, Implementing a Successful Rural Telemedicine Program** – This webinar will examine the value and benefit of inpatient telemedicine programs, with an emphasis on its use in rural hospitals. The Access Physicians team will discuss specific subspecialties that can be provided through telemedicine to help hospitals retain patients, improve clinical outcomes and be financially successful. The presentation also will provide a road map to implementing those programs. Register [HERE](#).
- **10:30-11:30 am Wednesday, Sept. 9, Stress in a Pandemic: Care for Essential Health Care Staff** – The speaker will discuss the impact stress has on essential health care staff and how the devastating derecho windstorm adds to the stress

of the COVID-19 pandemic. The speaker also will detail resources available to health care staff in Iowa through COVID Recovery Iowa. Register [HERE](#).

- **Noon-1 pm Wednesday, Sept. 16, Amplified Burnout Crisis for Physicians and clinicians: Exploring Solutions –** COVID-19 has brought unprecedented changes and challenges to the health care workforce. Before the pandemic, health care was already experiencing record rates of physician and clinician burnout. The burnout's effects can be disastrous for teams and patients. This webinar will outline what can be done to prevent it and how to leverage the pandemic to restore professionalism and resiliency and create stronger, more patient-centric organizations. Register [HERE](#).
- **2-3 pm Thursday, Sept. 17, Gratitude: The Path to Resilience, Well-being and Joy –** Gratitude isn't just a practice that makes one feel good. It can boost resilience, improve sleep, be a buffer against anxiety and depression, and reduce burnout in health care professionals. This webinar will explore meditation, journaling and expressive art practices designed to cultivate gratitude and boost resilience. Attendees also will learn how gratitude can enhance on-the-job effectiveness. Register [HERE](#).
- **8:30 am-12:30 pm Friday, Sept. 18, Iowa Society for Healthcare Engineering Virtual Conference –** The society's fall conference provides education to promote quality patient care, optimize facilities for the COVID-19 environment and prepare for health care's future through improved engineering practices. Register [HERE](#).

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Iowa Hospital Association
100 E. Grand Ave., Suite 100
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-1800

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