

IHA COVID Resources and Advocacy

May 4, 2020

The latest about COVID-19 from IHA

Next round from Provider Relief Funding – Iowa providers expected to receive \$383 million

The next distribution from the Provider Relief Funding is expected to be sent as soon as next week. In this round, [the Department of Health and Human Services will allocate](#) \$22 billion to three categories:

- Rural providers, \$10 billion.
- COVID-19 high impact, \$10 billion.
- Low-income and uninsured patients, \$2 billion.

Iowa providers are expected to receive more than \$383 million from the rural provider allocation. Recipients include rural acute care general hospitals, critical access hospitals, rural health clinics and community health centers in rural areas.

IHA will continue to monitor this funding and update members as new information is received. You also may check the IHA Financial Assistance for Hospitals Tracker on the [IHA website](#) for this and other funding opportunities.

IWD announces guidance on unemployment benefits

Iowans who have been placed on temporary layoffs because of COVID-19 but refuse to return to work when recalled by their employers will lose unemployment benefits, except for certain circumstances including:

- Members of their households have been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- They are providing care for members of their households diagnosed with COVID-19.
- They do not have child care because of COVID-19.
- They do not have transportation to their places of work because of COVID-19.
- They have recovered but their illness has caused medical complications rendering them unable to perform essential job duties.
- They have tested positive for COVID-19 and are experiencing symptoms.

Employees in any of these situations are encouraged to work with their employers to determine the best way to return to work.

Refusing to return to work when recalled for any other reason or to continue to draw unemployment benefits is a “voluntary quit,” which disqualifies a claimant from receiving benefits, including the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation benefit of \$600 per week. Employees recalled on a part-time basis may continue to be eligible for benefits depending on the amount of wages earned. They should continue filing their weekly claims and report the gross wages earned each week. The self-employed also should continue to report their weekly gross income as part of their continuing claims as they return to work.

Businesses should report employees who refuse to return to work without good reason or who quit their jobs to [Iowa Workforce Development](#). Although employees may have temporarily earned more in benefits than they earn in wages, the CARES Act

outlines consequences for fraud including fines, confinement and ineligibility for future unemployment benefits until fraudulent claims and fines have been repaid.

For more information, visit www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov.

Hardship application available for Medicare's Promoting Interoperability Programs

CMS requires eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals to use 2015 edition certified electronic health record technology to meet the requirements of the [Promoting Interoperability Programs](#). As required by law, downward payment adjustments must be applied to eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals that are not meaningful users of this technology.

These hospitals may be exempt from Medicare penalties if they can show that compliance with the requirement for being a meaningful electric health record user would be a significant hardship. To be considered for an exemption, hospitals must complete hardship exception applications and provide proof of hardship. If approved, a hardship exception is valid for only one payment-adjustment year. Hospitals must submit a new application for subsequent years and will not be granted an exception for more than five years.

The application is available through [QualityNet's secure portal](#). New users can create accounts by visiting [QualityNet](#) and selecting "Register." If an electronic submission is not possible, you may verbally submit your application by calling the QualityNet Help Desk at 866-288-8912.

The deadline for eligible hospitals to apply is **Tuesday, Sept. 1** (extended from Wednesday, July 1). The deadline for critical access hospitals is **Monday, Nov. 30**.

[Click here](#) for more information about payment adjustments and hardship exceptions.

CMS issues FAQ for EMTALA

CMS has issued a new FAQ about the regulatory relief it has granted under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act. The FAQ can be found [here](#).

The Hastings Center releases resource for COVID-19 regional collaboration

The Hastings Center has developed a supplement to their Ethical Framework for Health Care Institutions Responding to Covid-19. This new resource shares practices and guidance reflecting real-time efforts by health care ethicists to collaborate beyond their institutions.

The resource discusses collaboration among hospitals, clinics, long-term care facilities, home care programs, and hospice and palliative care programs to safeguard patients, the regional health care workforce, and vulnerable populations throughout the COVID-19 response and recovery spectrum.

The resource is available for free on The Hastings Center's website: [Responding to COVID-19 as a Regional Public Health Challenge](#).

COVID-19 case management webinar recording available

A recording of the April 29 webinar titled, ***COVID-19 and Hospital Case Management: What You Need to Know***, is available [here](#) (password: vCcPMyt8). The webinar provided a summary of the COVID-19 crisis, the waivers related to hospital case management departments and examples of how other departments are adjusting their operations. It also discussed the transition of COVID-19 patients throughout the health care continuum as they are discharged from the hospital.

BluOpal offering complimentary leadership coaching

To support health care employees during the COVID-19 pandemic, IHA associate member BluOpal Consulting is providing 10 one-hour pro-bono coaching sessions for nurse leaders and nurses and 10 one-hour pro-bono coaching sessions for non-nursing hospital leaders during National Nurses Week (May 6-12) and National Hospital Week (May 10-16). Coaching topics are

determined by participants. Call Michele at 703-615-0963, or Bruce at 515-440-0478, to reserve a coaching session.

CEO update call

The next hospital CEO call is scheduled from 1-2 pm Wednesday, May 6. Click [here](#) to register.

Free webinar opportunities

- 1-2 pm Tuesday, May 5, **Mobilizing Telehealth During the COVID-19 Pandemic**. Presented by the Sepsis Alliance, this webinar will discuss telehealth with a team of physicians. Learn how to implement telemedicine at your organization and identify strategies for using telehealth to assess and care for patients with COVID-19 and other conditions that put them at risk for sepsis. Register [here](#).
- 10-11 am Wednesday, May 6, **Telehealth – During and After COVID-19**. This program is an overview of technological, legal, regulatory and liability aspects of telehealth in the context of the COVID-19 emergency. Updated with new regulatory information specific to the COVID-19 emergency declaration, this session is a general introduction to telehealth. It reviews technical, legal, ethical, regulatory and liability implications. It discusses platforms, consent, standards of care, security and documentation requirements and gives some approaches to evolving best practices. Register [here](#).
- Noon-1 pm Wednesday, May 6, **Inspiration Speakers Series: AmyK, Leading and Communicating in Turbulent Times**. A former executive of a billion-dollar global consumer products company and an award-winning international speaker, AmyK is a catalyst for producing sustainable solutions to a leader's most-pressing challenges. More than 50,000 executives in more than 10 countries have benefited from her keen insight and intuitive understanding of the issues leaders face. Register [here](#).
- 2-3 pm Wednesday, May 6, **Finding Meaning and Wellness During the Pandemic**. This webinar reviews the landscape of burnout that already affects physicians. The speaker will look at the unique challenges of COVID-19 and its impact on all health care staff. Participants will gain access to a toolkit developed specifically to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. Register [here](#).
- 10-11 am Thursday, May 7, **COVID-19 Response Mobile Communication Apps**. During the webinar, Mobile Smith will share information about mobile apps designed to support hospitals and health systems in their responses to COVID-19. Register [here](#).
- Noon-1 pm Tuesday, May 12, **Planning for the Future With COVID-19**. Emergency plans tend to focus on events that might last 24-72 hours, not the months-long situation we have faced with COVID-19. This most-recent opportunity to use emergency plans has likely created some needs to improvise solutions. This webinar will help capture early lessons and provide a framework for shaping the future. Register [here](#).

Click here for the latest
COVID-19
Resources



IOWA HOSPITAL
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We care about Iowa's health



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