

IHA COVID Resources and Advocacy

April 8, 2020

The latest about COVID-19 from IHA

CEO update call recap

IHA's COVID-19 response team hosted the weekly update call today for Iowa hospital CEOs and other leaders. Today's call featured State Public Health Medical Director and Epidemiologist Caitlin Pedati, M.D., who discussed:

- Crisis standards of care.
- Guidance for long-term care transfers.
- Regional medical coordination centers.

IHA staff provided updates on PPE, testing, data collection, waivers, government funding programs and grants. IHA President/CEO Kirk Norris urged members to keep in contact with their legislators informing them of the preparedness issues and financial challenges.

Please email [Pam Gridley](#) at IHA to receive an audio recording of today's call. The next hospital CEO call is scheduled for 1 pm Wednesday, April 15. Click [here](#) to register.

SBA asked to include public hospitals in Paycheck Protection Program

The American Hospital Association (AHA) sent a [letter](#) to the Small Business Administration (SBA) today urging it to ensure that small- and mid-size public hospitals, including those that have both nonprofit and public designations, are allowed to apply for and receive loans under the newly-authorized SBA Paycheck Protection Program.

UnitedHealth Group to accelerate payments to providers

UnitedHealthcare and Optum [announced](#) yesterday that UnitedHealth Group will accelerate nearly \$2 billion in claims payments to U.S. health care providers under its fully insured commercial, Medicare Advantage and Medicaid businesses. The insurer said it also will provide up to \$125 million in small business loans to OptumHealth's clinical partners.

AHA last week urged the nation's [private health insurers](#), including UnitedHealthcare, to take action to help ensure a stable cash flow to hospitals and health systems.

Iowa Total Care extends claims filing timeframe

Iowa Total Care and Amerigroup have extended initial filing for first-time claims submissions as an interim policy change. Effective with dates of service beginning April 1, 2020, providers will have an additional 90 calendar days to submit first-time claims and encounters. Specifically, providers must submit first-time claims and encounters within 270 calendar days of the service date except as provided for in the Iowa Total Care and Amerigroup Provider Billing manuals, inclusive of retroactive eligibility claims, and when Iowa Total Care or Amerigroup is the secondary payer. After the interim period ends, Iowa Total Care and Amerigroup will return to normal billing guidelines.

Please consult your provider relations specialists with any questions or concerns.

IME provider toolkit updated

Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME) has updated its [Provider Toolkit](#) to give providers guidance on waivers and other matters. IME is also maintaining a distinct [COVID-19 update page](#) on its website for providers.

Recent guidance from CMS

CMS has released guidance covering several topics:

- A "Dear Physician" [letter](#) to help physicians navigate the myriad of waivers and guidance.
- Medicare accelerated and advanced payments [fact sheet](#) outlining eligibility standards and how to apply for the accelerated payments.
- Medicare Advantage and Part D 2021 [fact sheet](#).
- Updated [infection control guidance](#) including dialysis facilities, hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers and rural health clinics.
- Updated [recommendations](#) about the assessment of nonemergent elective services and treatments. The recommendations include a tiered system to help providers evaluate patient care amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

National Guard supporting regional centers

The Iowa National Guard is providing facilities and personnel to support six regional medical coordination centers statewide. This is part of IDPH's Health Care Coalition initiative to aid in sharing critical information across multiple agencies during the COVID-19 pandemic. Soldiers and airmen will help staff the centers to gather real-time health care facility status updates and help providers make decisions about resources such as open hospital beds, available staffing, personal protective health care equipment and other critical health care assets. Centers are located at Iowa National Guard armories in Iowa City, Cedar Rapids, Camp Dodge, Mason City, Council Bluffs and Sioux City.

Emergency cash-flow planning: Stroudwater's call to action in response to COVID-19

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic challenges confronting rural hospitals and health systems, Stroudwater has developed a brief overview of management approaches to addressing short-term cash-flow imperatives. Click [here](#) for a link to a recent presentation and [here](#) for a copy of the presentation slides.

Health Care Heroes: Best Practices for Surviving Stress and Growing Through Trauma

11 am Thursday, April 9

Presenters: Wayne Sotile, PhD, and Gary Simonds, MD, coauthors of "Thriving in Health Care"

Drs. Sotile and Simonds will share practical tips and answer questions. Their goal is to provide helpful tools and tactics to put into practice immediately, including:

- Finding new ways to practice kindness and nurture professional and personal relationships.
- Identifying the connection between meaningful work and resilience.
- Integrating moments of self-compassion and self-care into the workday.

Participants are urged to [submit questions](#) in advance regarding coping with extreme stress or helping coworkers better cope.

Register [here](#).

IHA COVID-19 resource webpage

For current information about COVID-19, visit IHA's [resource page](#).

Previous IHA Updates on COVID-19

- [April 7 Update](#)

- [April 6 Update](#)
 - [April 3 Update](#)
 - [April 2, Update](#)
 - [April 1 Update](#)
 - [March 31 Update](#)
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