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Thursday, April 15, 2021

Today's headlines:

- [Bill delaying Medicare cuts sent to president after House passage](#)
- [Reminder: IHA hospital leadership award nominations being accepted](#)
- [National hospital job losses continue](#)
- [West Burlington and Fort Madison hospitals merge with new name](#)

Bill delaying Medicare cuts sent to president after House passage

The US House of Representatives passed legislation Tuesday to delay a 2% across-the-board cut to Medicare payments for the rest of the year. The bill is now headed to President Joe Biden, who is expected to sign it into law.

The bill is a big win for hospitals and providers.

The Medicare cuts originally took effect in 2013 as part of a package of automatic and annual sequester budget cuts. Congress paused the cuts to Medicare last year because of the pandemic and its effect on providers' finances, but that pause was scheduled to end this month.

Hospitals and providers argue the pandemic continues to hurt them financially, particularly in rural and underserved communities.

Providers still face a larger 4% Medicare cut that could be triggered by passage of the recent COVID-19 relief bill. Because the \$1.9 trillion relief package raises the deficit, Medicare and other programs will face funding cuts next year under a federal "pay as you go" law. A separate bill aimed at forestalling the additional Medicare cuts is anticipated.

Hospital leadership
award nominations
due Tuesday, June 1.



Reminder: IHA hospital leadership award nominations being accepted

Three major awards are presented at the Iowa Hospital Association's Annual Meeting in recognition

of significant achievement in hospital or health system administration and governance. Hospitals and health systems are encouraged to submit nominations for the outstanding leaders of their hospitals by **Tuesday, June 1**.

The award recipients are hospital CEOs and trustees whose passion has made a significant positive impact on their hospitals and communities.

The awards are:

- **Excellence in Leadership Award** – Presented to an Iowa hospital or health system CEO who has demonstrated notable achievement in administration of the organization and who has contributed to the broader areas of health care or health policy.
- **Excellence in Governance Award** – Recognizes an outstanding trustee or board member who has made a significant contribution to the hospital or health system through leadership and a commitment to excellence.
- **Young Executive Achievement Award** – Presented to a hospital CEO under 40 who has significantly affected the community hospital or health system.

Click [HERE](#) to submit an online nomination form and view the eligibility information. Questions about the nomination process can be emailed to ihaannualawards@ihonline.org.



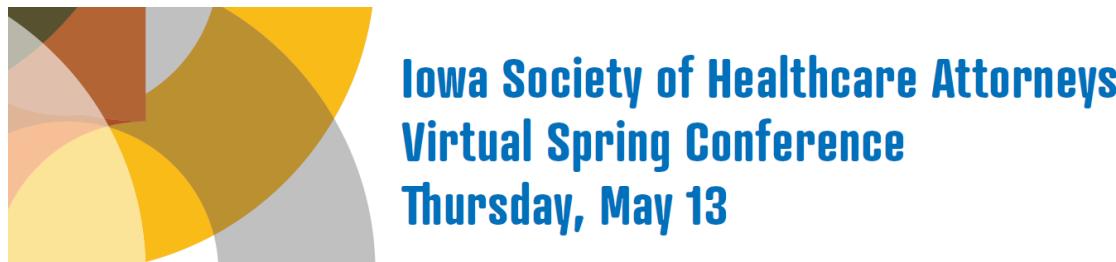
National hospital job losses continue

New [information](#) from the Bureau of Labor and Statistics indicates that hospitals and health systems lost 600 jobs in March, as US jobs overall increased by 916,000. It is the third consecutive month of hospital job losses. Hospitals and health systems have added more than 28,000 jobs since the beginning of the pandemic but remain below their February 2020 peak.

Outpatient care centers, physicians, dentists and other office-based providers continued to add jobs in March, while nursing and residential care facilities shed about 3,200 jobs. The health care field added 11,500 jobs to remain just under 16 million jobs total (seasonally adjusted).

West Burlington and Fort Madison hospitals merge with new name

Effective Thursday, July 1, Great River Medical Center, West Burlington, and Fort Madison Community Hospital, Fort Madison, will combine into one hospital with one name: Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center. Both hospital campuses will be part of Great River Health. Email domains for both facilities also will change in July.



NewsStand

Iowa news

- [Health centers adjust after Johnson and Johnson vaccine pause](#)
- [UnityPoint battles central Iowa physician group over new labs](#)
- [24-hour vaccine clinic in Cedar Rapids this weekend open to public](#)

National news

- [Could we save lives by assigning places in line for vaccines?](#)
- [The virus is surging in the Northeast and Upper Midwest](#)
- [More women than men getting coronavirus vaccines](#)

Click [HERE](#) to read daily NewsStand postings.

Upcoming events

- [IHA Virtual Governance Forum](#): Thursday, April 22-Friday, April 23.
- [Iowa Society for Health Care Human Resources Association Virtual Spring Conference](#): Wednesday, April 28-Thursday, April 29.
- [Hospital Regulatory Webinar Series: Infection Prevention and Antibiotic Stewardship](#): Tuesday, May 4.
- [Iowa Society for Healthcare Marketing and Public Relations Virtual Spring Conference](#): Tuesday, May 4.
- [IHA Employment Law 4-Part Virtual Series](#): Tuesday, May 4-Tuesday, Aug. 31.
- [Foundation Professionals for Iowa Hospitals Virtual Spring Conference](#): Wednesday, May 5.
- [Iowa Alliance in Home Care Spring Virtual Conference](#): Thursday, May 6-Thursday, May 20.
- [Iowa Organization for Nursing Leadership Virtual Conference Series](#): Tuesday, May 11-Tuesday, May 25.
- [Governance Webinar Series](#): Tuesday, May 11-Tuesday, Nov. 16.
- [Iowa Society of Healthcare Attorneys Spring Conference](#): Thursday, May 13.
- [Iowa Trauma Coordinators Virtual Conference Series](#): Friday, May 28-Friday, June 25.
- [Hospital Regulatory Webinar Series: Swing-bed Fundamentals](#): Tuesday, June 22.

Hospital jobs site connects hospitals with qualified candidates

Are you looking for qualified health care professionals for your Iowa hospital? [HospitalCareers.com](#) can help. This website connects thousands of nurses, providers and other hospital jobseekers with Iowa hospitals each year and is a main resource for jobseekers looking for work in health care.



Your resource for Iowa hospital and health system jobs.

HospitalCareers.com





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