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Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021

Today's headlines:

- [OSHA suspends Emergency Temporary Standard on COVID-19 vaccination](#)
- [IHA Council on Education and Member Services meeting focuses on workforce](#)
- [IHA Information Center celebrates growth during Council on Health Information meeting](#)
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OSHA suspends Emergency Temporary Standard on COVID-19 vaccination

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has suspended activities for implementing and enforcing its emergency temporary standard for COVID-19 vaccination and testing pending future litigation developments, the agency has [announced](#) on its website. The OSHA emergency temporary standard applies to businesses with 100 employees or more. On Friday, Nov. 12, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit granted a motion to stay the emergency temporary standard and ordered that OSHA take no steps to implement or enforce the emergency temporary standard until further court order.

The court's stay does not apply to the [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services omnibus COVID-19 staff vaccination interim final rule](#).

IHA Council on Education and Member Services meeting focuses on workforce

On Wednesday, Nov. 10, at the final meeting of the year, members of IHA's Council on Education and Member Services heard presentations from Iowa Workforce Development and UnityPoint Health Des Moines about the state's [registered apprenticeship program](#).

Katherine Pine, business marketing specialist with Iowa Workforce Development, and Natalie McNaught, retention specialist at [UnityPoint Health Des Moines](#), reviewed the program and how it can help Iowa hospitals as they face workforce shortages. The registered apprenticeship program combines on-the-job learning

with related classroom instruction. The program allows registered apprentices to earn a paycheck from day one.

McNaught said the program has been successful in recruiting and retaining employees at UnityPoint Health Des Moines. IHA staff are evaluating options to make the program more accessible for members.

In addition, council members:

- Reviewed a nursing clinical faculty certification program modeled after successful programs in Kansas and Missouri.
- Backed providing a workplace violence interactive workshop virtually over six sessions.
- Received an update on work of the Council's Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.
- Received an IHA communications update and plans for a campaign targeting workforce issues.
- Reviewed 2021 accomplishments and 2022 strategic priorities for education.
- Gave input and direction for IHA's 2022 educational programming.

The IHA Council on Education and Member Services will next meet Tuesday, April 5. Email [Becky Anthony](#) at IHA with questions.

IHA Information Center celebrates growth during Council on Health Information meeting

IHA's Information Center updated members of the Council on Health Information about its latest partnerships during its council meeting Thursday, Nov. 11. IHA has implemented or signed contracts with five new IPOP and Dimensions partners during the COVID-19 pandemic.

States added are:

- Idaho.
- Indiana.
- Louisiana.
- Michigan.
- Nebraska.

A new marketing partnership with [Real Time Medicare Data](#) also was highlighted.

The council also:

- Approved the IHA data sales and distribution report.
- Formed a task force to review job descriptions for the Salary Survey.
- Heard that a revised Community Benefits Program will be launched in early 2022.
- Learned the Wellmark discharge data to surrounding states data report has been distributed.
- Received a privacy and security update.
- Received an update on CyncHealth.
- Reviewed 2021 highlights and 2022 strategic priorities.
- Watched a demonstration of newly released Dimensions dashboards highlighting AHRQ Quality Indicators, Productivity, Predictive Analytics, Medicare Part B data.

- Reviewed the MidAmerica Information Summit agenda.

The IHA Council on Health Information will next meet Thursday, May 5. Email [Perry Meyer](#) or [Sara Hayes](#) at IHA with questions.

CDC announces new ICD-10 codes for reporting COVID-19

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will implement three new ICD-10 diagnosis codes for reporting COVID-19 vaccination status beginning April 1, 2022. The CDC also will implement seven new ICD-10 codes for COVID-19 therapeutics and vaccines at the same time.

Read more about the ICD-10 Medicare Severity Diagnosis Related Groups version 39.1 [HERE](#).*

The software needed to accommodate the new diagnosis and procedure codes for discharges on or after April 1, 2022, can be found in the same link.

**A zip file reader is needed to open the files.*

IHA releases latest Iowa hospital data trends

IHA has collected data trends from 105 Iowa hospitals for [January-September 2021](#) as compared with the same time frame in 2020:

- Acute discharges increased 0.4% as acute patient days increased 2.7%.
- Average length of stay increased 2.1%.
- Births decreased 0.2%.
- Charity care decreased 0.2%.
- Emergency department visits increased 4.1%.
- Facility employment (excluding physicians) increased 2.9%.
- Hospital-based ambulatory surgery visits increased 8.9%.
- Inpatient admissions from the emergency department increased 1.8%.
- Inpatient surgeries increased 5.5%.
- Medicaid acute discharges increased 1.7% and Medicaid acute patient days increased 3.6%.
- Net patient revenue (collected charges) decreased 0.6%.
- Outpatient utilization increased 9.7%.
- Total expenses increased 4.5%.
- Uncompensated care (bad debts) decreased 11.1%.

Email [Allison Martin](#) at IHA with questions.

Thank you to the 2021 Iowa Hospital Heroes

IHA and Iowa hospitals are grateful to our hospital staff who ensure Iowa's hospitals provide quality care day in and day out. Eleven heroes were recognized at IHA's 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting, and each will be highlighted in IHA Today. This issue features Kelly Langel, RN, from [UnityPoint Health – Finley Hospital](#) in Dubuque. Thank you to all the 2021 heroes and hospital staff for your work and compassion.

If you have someone you want to nominate as a hospital hero, take note for next year's recognition at the 2022 IHA Annual Meeting, Oct. 4-6. **Click [HERE](#) to submit nominations by Friday, April 29, 2022.** Email [Craig Borchard](#) at IHA with questions.

Kelly Langel

RN, Intensive Care Unit
UnityPoint Health - Finley Hospital, Dubuque

Kelly's ability to exchange one of her passions with another person during a time of vulnerability and death was amazing. She went out of her way to ensure he was still part of music as he left this world and gave much comfort to him and his loved ones. Kelly was a hero to this family by giving meaning to the end of his life, and that is one of the definitions of being a hero. She consistently goes out of her way to help others and ensure every need is met.



Register to attend governance and accountability for IT webinar

Registration for the upcoming Governance and Accountability for the Rising Costs of Health Care Information Technology webinar is open. The webinar is scheduled from 2-3:15 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2.

The webinar will focus on improving the health of communities through care, education and innovation by outlining a governance process that adds visibility and better alignment with business goals. Clinical leaders, hospital and health system executive teams, hospital trustees and hospital senior leadership teams will learn to:

- Describe a governance reporting process for information technology projects.
- Describe dynamic planning and budgeting.
- Explain how the reporting process provides better visibility on financials.
- List the benefits of engaging hospital executives in the process.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

NewsStand

Iowa news

- [MercyOne among top 10 most cost-efficient health systems](#)
- [Iowa Methodist reverified as Level I adult trauma center](#)
- [Some Iowa employers say they're stuck between federal mandates and a new state vaccine waiver law](#)

National news

- [AHA: Fighting for fair health insurance policies for patients and clinicians](#)
- [Suspended doctor who promoted ivermectin resigns](#)
- [Pfizer allows its COVID-19 pill to be sold cheaply in poor countries](#)

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

Upcoming events

- [IHA Leadership Development Program](#): Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2021 - Wednesday, April 6, 2022
 - [Can't Pour From an Empty Cup: The Crisis in Nursing and Pandemic Care](#): Tuesday, Nov. 30
 - [Governance and Accountability for the Rising Costs of Health Care Information Technology](#): Thursday, Dec. 2
 - [Post-pandemic Priorities for Rural Health Systems](#): Tuesday, Dec. 14
 - [Nurse Manager Leadership Workshop](#): Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2022 - Tuesday, March 15, 2022
 - [Advanced Leadership Academy](#): Wednesday, March 2, 2022 - Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2022
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Hospital jobs site connects hospitals with qualified candidates

Are you looking for qualified health care professionals for your Iowa hospital? [HospitalCareers.com](https://www.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.



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