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Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021

Today's headlines:

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- [Bed tracking report submitted to Iowa Legislature](#)
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Court ruling puts CMS vaccine mandate on temporary hold across the country

On Tuesday, a federal district court in Louisiana issued a [preliminary injunction](#) placing a temporary hold on enforcement of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' vaccine mandate for health care facilities in all states except for the 10 already covered by Monday's [Missouri district court's preliminary injunction](#).

The federal government is expected to appeal the Louisiana district court's order to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and ask the appeals court to stay the district court's preliminary injunction pending appeal.

On Tuesday, the federal government also appealed the Missouri district court's decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit and asked the court of appeals to stay the Missouri district court's preliminary injunction pending appeal.

CMS' interim final rule issued last month required workers in most health care settings that participate in Medicare and Medicaid programs to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by Jan. 4.

IHA will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates.

Bed tracking report submitted to Iowa Legislature

On Tuesday, Dec. 1, the Iowa Department of Human Services submitted the final report from the Inpatient Bed Tracking Study Committee to the Iowa Legislature. [Senate File 524](#), legislation passed in 2021, directed the department to convene a study committee, which IHA co-chaired and included representation from two hospitals, to develop recommendations for improving Iowa's existing bed tracking system. Legislators will use this report when considering future behavioral health bills. The recommendations presented to the legislature include:

- Enhancing the inpatient bed tracking system.
- Expanding the acuity levels hospitals can treat.
- Increasing reimbursement rates based on level of acuity.

IHA would like to extend a special thank you to Kevin Kincaid, CEO of [Knoxville Hospital and Clinics](#), Jodi Tate, M.D., senior vice chair for clinical services at the [University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics](#), and Heidi Robinson, director of behavioral health nursing at the [University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics](#), for serving on the study committee.

Click [HERE](#) to read the report.

Submit questions for Dec. 15 vaccine mandate webinar

IHA is hosting a webinar on vaccine mandates in two weeks and members are urged to submit questions in advance. Navigating the Legal Uncertainty of COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates in the Health Care Workplace is scheduled from 2-3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15.

Attorney and Drake University associate professor Denise Hill will discuss health care employers' ability to enforce recent federal vaccine mandates considering the recent conflicting recent judicial decisions and state laws. Hill will cover practical legal, risk and compliance strategies hospitals can use to navigate the legal uncertainty and everyday realities surrounding COVID-19 vaccine mandates.

Health care administrators, attorneys, compliance officers, human resource professionals and leaders will gain insight about:

- Assessing the impact of recent judicial decisions and state requirements for hospital vaccines.
- Discussing the risks and benefits of complying with federal COVID-19 vaccine mandates.
- Identifying three strategies for complying with federal vaccine mandates and relevant state laws while minimizing the loss of staff.
- Outlining vaccine mandate standards and determine compliance.

Members are encouraged to submit questions for Hill to address to [Joah Hogan](#) with IHA.

Click [HERE](#) to register for the webinar.

Von Mock named CEO of Hansen Family Hospital

MercyOne announced George Von Mock as the new CEO and administrator of [Hansen Family Hospital](#) in Iowa Falls. Von Mock began his new duties Monday, Nov. 29.

Von Mock has served at Hansen Family Hospital as interim CEO since July as well as chief financial officer for two years. Before joining Hansen Family Hospital, he was a director of finance at MercyOne Sioux City.

Von Mock earned his MBA from the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois, and his bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Illinois in Springfield.



CMS releases implementation guidance for No Surprises Act good faith estimates

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released 11 documents about its regulations for implementing the No Surprises Act that goes into effect Jan. 1, 2022. The documents include:

- A template of the comprehensive good faith estimate including model disclaimer language.
- Information about the patient-provider resolution process.
- Model language to inform uninsured and self-pay patients of their rights to a good faith estimate.

Click [HERE](#)* to download the documents.

CMS also released a [memo](#) in late October about the required federal agency contact information and a [website](#) link where they will post documents about the No Surprises Act implementation. The website is live, but CMS notes some functionality will not be available before 2022.

Call the Department of Health and Human Services at 800-985-3059 for information or with complaints.

A zip file reader is required to open the files.

PAMA clinical laboratory data reporting period begins January 2022

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will require certain hospitals to report private payer rates and volumes for clinical laboratory services covered under the [clinical laboratory fee schedule](#). The next reporting period for hospitals will be Jan. 1-March 31, 2022.

Hospitals will be required to collect and report certain private payer data if Medicare is billed for laboratory services on the CMS 1450 4X Type of Bill 1 and received at least \$12,500 in Medicare revenues from the clinical laboratory fee schedule services. The data collection period is Jan. 1-June 30, 2019. Hospitals will be required to report data about private payer prices and the volume of laboratory services paid at each price.

To help hospitals determine if they should report and how to report, CMS posted:

- [An overview](#) of key terms and concepts, and how to determine if a hospital's laboratory is an applicable laboratory.
- [A Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule Data Collection System User Guide](#)

- [A Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule Data Collection System User Guide](#) with updated guidance for registering as a clinical laboratory fee schedule submitter and certifier. Reporting and certifying applicable information will be posted later.
- [A MedLearn Matters article](#) about the Medicare Part B clinical laboratory fee schedule with revised information for laboratories about collecting and reporting data for the private payer rate-based payment system.
- [An FAQ](#) document.
- [Webinar slides](#) and a [video recording](#) of CMS' Nov. 10 webinar about the clinical laboratory fee schedule private payer data collection and reporting. The password for the webinar is W&KZ@=7.

For more information, click [HERE](#).

NewsStand

Iowa news

- [Equipment upgrades completed for health care network](#)
- [Iowa stops tracking home county of COVID-19 hospital patients](#)
- [COVID-19 hospitalizations surge in Iowa, setting a new record for 2021](#)

National news

- [First U.S. case of omicron variant is found in California](#)
- [What's driving the pandemic's health care exodus](#)
- [Most mumps cases are among the vaccinated, CDC finds](#)

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

Upcoming events

- [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
 - [Navigating the Legal Uncertainty of COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates in the Health Care Workplace](#): Wednesday, Dec. 15
 - [CMS Survey Readiness](#): Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2022
 - [Nurse Manager Leadership Workshop](#): Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2022 - Tuesday, March 15, 2022
 - [Abuse, Restraints and Seclusion Regulations](#): Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022
 - [Update on Ligation Risks and Suicide Prevention](#): Thursday, Feb. 17, 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](#) 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.

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