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Thursday, Dec. 9, 2021

Today's headlines:

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- [Pfizer transitions to Comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine](#)
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House passes bipartisan agreement to stop Medicare cuts

On Tuesday night, the U.S. House of Representatives passed House Amendment [S.610, the Protecting Medicare & American Farmers from Sequester Cuts Act](#). The Amendment was drafted in response to the recently passed [H.R. 6119](#), a continuing resolution that bridged the federal funding gap until the Appropriations Committee has time to pass a full omnibus to fund the federal government.

House Amendment S.610 was debated in the U.S. Senate Wednesday night before it will go to a vote. If the bill passes, it would:

- Adjust the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule conversion factor by 3% in calendar year 2022.
- Delay Protecting Access to Medicare Act-related cuts to clinical laboratory services and the next round of private payer data reporting by a year.
- Delay the implementation of the Medicare Radiation Oncology Model until 2023.
- Delay the 4% cuts to Medicare from the statutory Pay-As-You-Go-Act until calendar year 2023.
- Extend the 2% Medicare sequester moratorium until March 31, 2022.

IHA's advocacy team has been in contact with Iowa's federal delegation about the effects of the funding cuts. IHA will continue to provide updates.





Pfizer transitions to Comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine

The Iowa Department of Public Health announced a new formulation of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for adults and adolescents, known as Comirnaty, will be available to Iowa health care providers when the current Pfizer inventory in the state is used.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will review Iowa's progress and use of the current Pfizer in-field inventory weekly to assess the need and ability to order Comirnaty. Iowa health care providers are directed to continue using existing Pfizer formulations.

More information can be found in IDPH's [updated COVID-19 vaccine information brief](#). The document also is posted to the HAN *3 COVID-19 vaccine folder. Call the Immunization Program with questions at 800-831-6293, ext. 1.

Submit questions by Dec. 14 for vaccine mandate webinar

Remember to submit questions for attorney Denise Hill to answer by Tuesday, Dec. 14, for the upcoming [Navigating the Legal Uncertainty of COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates in the Health Care Workplace](#). The webinar is scheduled from 2-3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15.

The webinar will give IHA members the opportunity to clarify their responsibilities considering the recent federal vaccine mandates and court injunctions.

Email [Joah Hogan](#) at IHA with your questions for Hill.

Register for critical access hospital deficiencies webinar

Learn more about common deficiencies cited during standard surveys and complaint investigations during IHA's Critical Access Hospitals' Commonly Cited Deficiencies webinar. The webinar is scheduled from 10 a.m.-noon Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2022.

The webinar is part of IHA's 2022 regulatory webinar series.

Participants will discuss:

- Commonly cited deficiencies.
- The implications of a condition-level deficiency.
- The regulations and interpretative guidelines for each deficiency.
- Why an accredited hospital must comply with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services regulations.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

Visit IHA Media Store for webinars, podcasts and more

As 2021 ends, members are encouraged to visit IHA's Media Store to catch up on any webinars or informational videos they may have missed.

The IHA Media store offers:

- [CEO podcasts](#).
- [Demonstration and training videos](#) for DataGen, DATABANK and Dimensions dashboards.
- Previously recorded [webinars and presentations](#) including project presentations from the Advanced Leadership Academy.
- [Trustee resources](#).

Click [HERE](#) to visit the IHA Media Store.

IHA creating workforce resources landing page

Workforce shortages continue to plague health care organizations statewide. As the Iowa legislature, health care organizations and stakeholders look at ways to address this multifaceted issue, IHA is curating workforce resources for members.

Members can find information about:

- AEA-IHA health careers educational module for students grades 6-12.
- Health Workforce Program Analysis for the Iowa Department of Public Health.
- Future Ready Iowa, connecting Iowans to education and training.
- Loan repayment programs.
- Primary Care Recruitment and Retention Endeavor.
- Rural Recruitment and Retention Network.

The workforce resources landing page is live and IHA will continue to add resources as they are available.

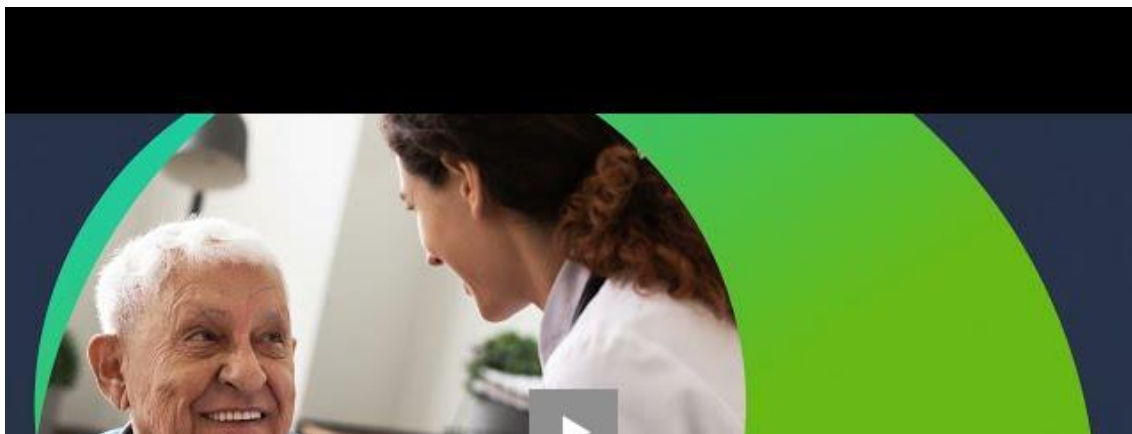
Click [HERE](#) to visit the workforce resources landing page.

Email [Craig Borchard](#) at IHA with suggestions or questions.

ServiShare partner Medical Solutions brings human-first approach to staffing solutions

As Iowa hospitals continue to grapple with workforce shortages, [Medical Solutions](#), a ServiShare partner, continues to help health care organizations find and recruit qualified candidates with its human-first approach.

Learn more about Medical Solutions' recruitment process in the video below.





NewsStand

Iowa news

- [Doctor: As we learn about omicron, I'm less afraid than before](#)
- [Iowa's COVID-19 positivity rate is now among the nation's highest](#)
- [Eastern Iowa mental health board approves \\$1.5 million to drive workforce development](#)

National news

- [Omicron boosters are in the works, but will they be needed?](#)
- [Women doctors are paid millions less than men study suggests](#)
- [Pfizer booster offers significant protection against omicron](#)

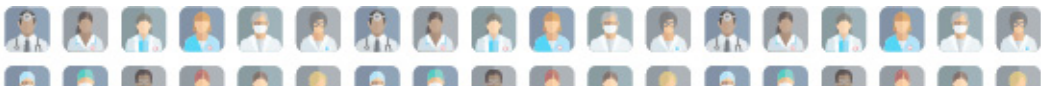
Click [HERE](#) to read daily NewsStand postings.

Upcoming events

- [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 Ligature 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.



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100 EAST GRAND, SUITE 100, DES MOINES, IA 50309-1835 | P 515.288.1955 F 515.283.9366 |
WWW.IHAONLINE.ORG