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Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2021

Today's headlines:

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IHA advocacy team weekly preview

Members of IHA's advocacy team will meet with several committees and partner organizations as they continue to lay the groundwork for the 2022 legislative session. This week, the advocacy team met Monday with the Iowa Primary Care Association and will:

- Meet with Rep. Ann Meyer (R-Fort Dodge) Tuesday.
- Join a discussion about psychiatric intensive care units and tertiary care Tuesday.
- Attend the second health insurance mandate review committee meeting Wednesday.
- Discuss workforce efforts with IHA members Wednesday.

Follow-up stories will be included in the Saturday edition of IHA Today.

Axne, House Democrats urge Congress to prevent Medicare and PAYGO cuts

Rep. Cindy Axne (IA-03) and 17 other House Democrats urged President Joe Biden and congressional leaders to prevent the 2% Medicare sequester cuts and 4% statutory Pay-As-You-Go sequester from taking effect Jan. 1.

The Democratic lawmakers also urged them to prevent a negative 3.75% payment cut to the Medicare physician fee schedule conversion factor and reverse cuts to radiation oncologists set to take effect under the Radiation Oncology Alternative Payment Model.

IHA worked with Rep. Axne's office to educate the congresswoman about the effects

the cuts would have on Iowa providers and patients. IHA thanks Rep. Axne for her support.

IHA submits feedback about surprise billing rule

Yesterday, IHA submitted [formal comments to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services](#) about the second part of the No Surprises Act regulations. The interim final rule addresses several provisions in the law, including:

- Establishing a process for uninsured and self-pay patients to dispute provider charges for care that are at least \$400 more than the good faith estimate for those same services.
- Establishing the federal independent dispute resolution process that providers, facilities, plans and issuers may use to resolve reimbursement disputes for out-of-network claims subject to the No Surprises Act.
- Modifying existing external review requirements as part of health plan/issuer oversight to incorporate provisions related to the No Surprises Act.
- Requiring providers to generate and share with uninsured and self-pay patients good faith estimates for scheduled services, including instances in which the patient may be shopping and not at the point of scheduling.

Contact [Susan Horras](#) at IHA with questions about the interim final rule.

Updated No Surprises Act implementation documents available

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released six documents with updates to previous implementation guidance for the No Surprises Act. Information in the new documents includes:

- Clarification about instructions for the use of the documents.
- Links to government accessibility resources.
- Updated estimates for provider and facility cost and burden.

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

A zip file reader is required to open the files.



Apply for the 2022 Physician Business Leadership Certificate Program

Registration is open for the 2022 Physician Business Leadership Certificate Program, set to begin Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2022. Because the class size is limited to 25 participants, physician leaders interested in advancing their leadership

link.ihaonline.org/m/1/42467087/02-b21341-bd856433ac194e93a9fe7b07524f2ae8/2/847/1be14c96-ef15-4a9f-942b-8857a8c2a678
to 25 participants, physician leaders interested in advancing their leadership competencies and business acumen are encouraged to apply now. The program is designed to prepare physicians to lead in a complex health care environment.

The program sessions are virtual except the final session, which will be in person at the Iowa Medical Society. Coursework will include interactive group discussions and programs and peer-to-peer learning of best practices.

The cohort will meet in 2022 on:

- Tuesday, Feb. 22.
- Tuesday, March 8.
- Tuesday, April 12.
- Tuesday, June 14.
- Tuesday, Aug. 9.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

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

Register for Abuse, Restraints and Seclusion Regulations webinar

Registration is open for IHA's Abuse, Restraints and Seclusion Regulations webinar scheduled from 10 a.m.-noon Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022.

The webinar is part of IHA's 2022 regulatory webinar series and will help hospitals identify where they are not in compliance for patient rights and responsibilities.

Participants will discuss:

- Abuse investigation requirements.
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services definitions of abuse, restraints and seclusion.
- Documentation requirements for restraints and seclusion.
- Restraint death reporting requirements.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

Submit questions for Dec. 15 vaccine mandate webinar

Registrants for the Dec. 15 [Navigating the Legal Uncertainty of COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates in the Health Care Workplace](#) are reminded to submit questions for presenter Denise Hill.

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

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

Remember to sign IHA's Pledge to Champion Diversity, Equity and

Inclusivity

As 2021 comes to a close, hospital and health system trustees and leaders are reminded to sign IHA's Pledge to Champion Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity. Signers of the pledge promise to advance diversity in leader and governance in their hospitals and health systems to reflect the changing communities they serve.

In 2022, IHA will follow up with targeted steps, action items and resources for Iowa's hospitals to continue their equity journeys.

Click [HERE](#) to download the Pledge to Champion Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity.

Click [HERE](#) to access diversity, equity and inclusivity resources including blogs, case studies, news, podcasts and webinars.

NewsStand

Iowa news

- [In midst of workforce shortages, health care employers turn to apprentices](#)
- [Iowa sees record COVID-19 hospitalizations during the holidays for a second year](#)
- [Witwer Children's Therapy expands after pandemic patient growth](#)

National news

- [Women hold only 15% of CEO roles in health care organizations](#)
- [Will vaccines protect us against omicron?](#)
- [Omicron may spread two times faster than delta, scientists say](#)

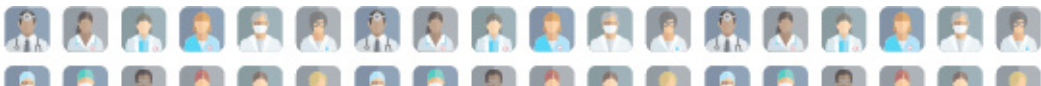
Click [HERE](#) to read daily NewsStand postings.

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