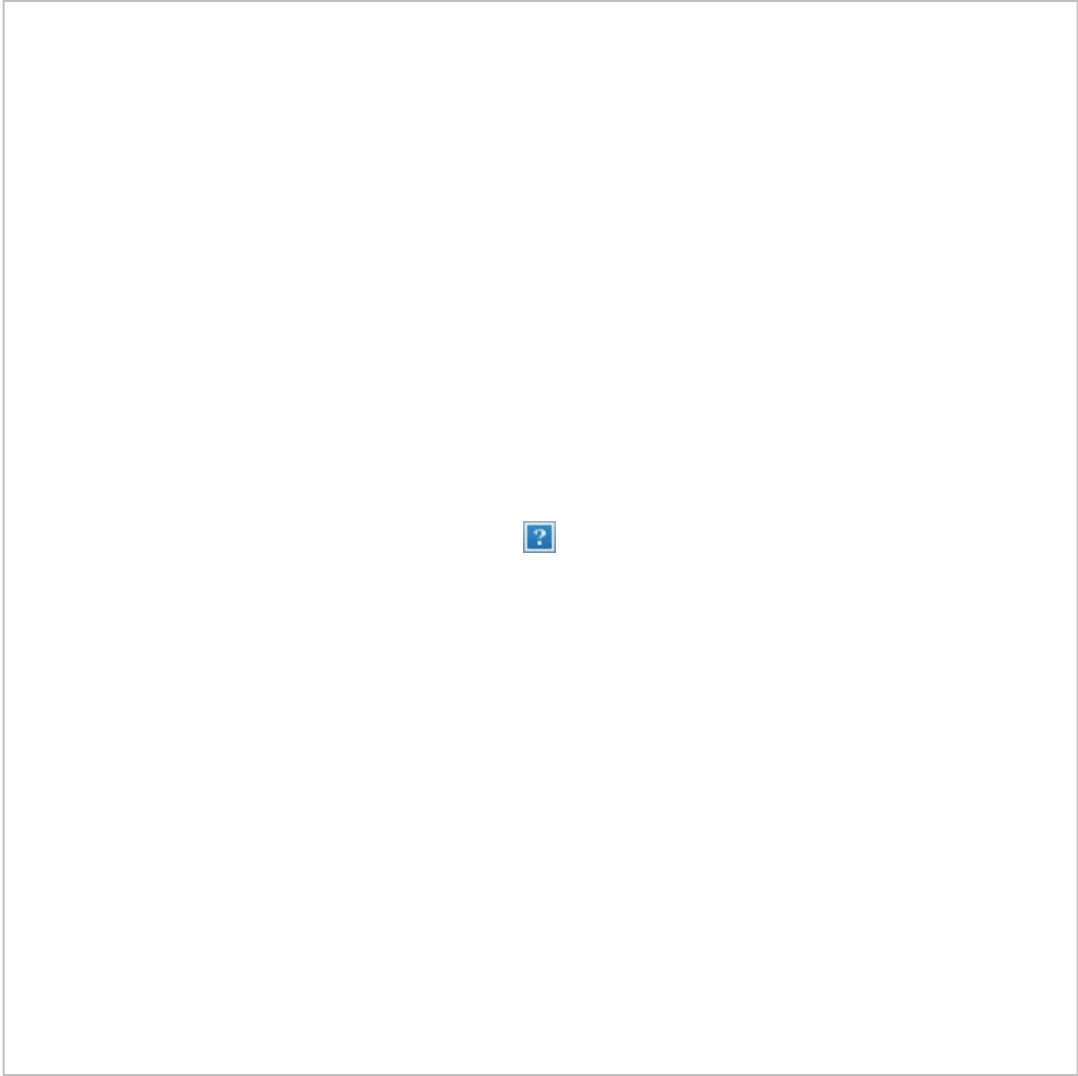


Spam Assassin Report		
Is Spam: No		
Spam Score: 2.1		
Points	Rule Name	Rule Description
00	HTML_MESSAGE	BODY: HTML included in message
00	MIME_HTML_ONLY	BODY: Message only has text/html MIME parts
02	URI_TRY_3LD	"Try it" URI, suspicious hostname
00	T_SCC_BODY_TEXT_LINE	No description available.

Click [here](#) if you are having trouble viewing this message.



Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2021

Today's headlines:

- [Iowa legislative session convenes](#)
- [Medical residency grants program accepting applications](#)
- [Medicare physician fee schedule modified for 2021](#)
- [EEOC proposes rule tackling workplace wellness incentives](#)

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## Iowa legislative session convenes

Yesterday was the first day of Iowa's 89<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. IHA looks forward to another great year advocating for all Iowa hospitals.

As the new legislative session begins, it's a good time to reach out to your local elected officials, welcome them back to the Capitol and thank them for their work. IHA encourages hospitals to continue to grow relations with legislators and advocate for health care policy that makes a difference in Iowa's communities. Please contact anyone on IHA's Government Relations team with questions or concerns as the session advances:

- [Erin Cubit](#), 515-283-9369
- [Susan Horras](#), 515-283-9389
- [Maureen Keehnle](#), 515-283-9308
- [Kim Murphy](#), 515-283-9384
- [Jen Nutt](#), 515-283-9318
- [Nicole Proesch](#), 515-283-9367
- [Rachel Sigler](#), 515-283-9361

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## Medical residency grants program accepting applications

The [Medical Residency Training State Matching Grants Program](#) is accepting applications, which are due Monday, Feb. 8. The purpose of the program is to establish or expand medical residency training programs, particularly in emergency medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, and psychiatry. In addition, candidates who are residents of Iowa, attended and earned an undergraduate degree from an Iowa college or university, or attended and earned a medical degree from a medical school in Iowa will be given preference in receiving grants. Residency participants will have the opportunity to participate in a rotation in a rural setting.

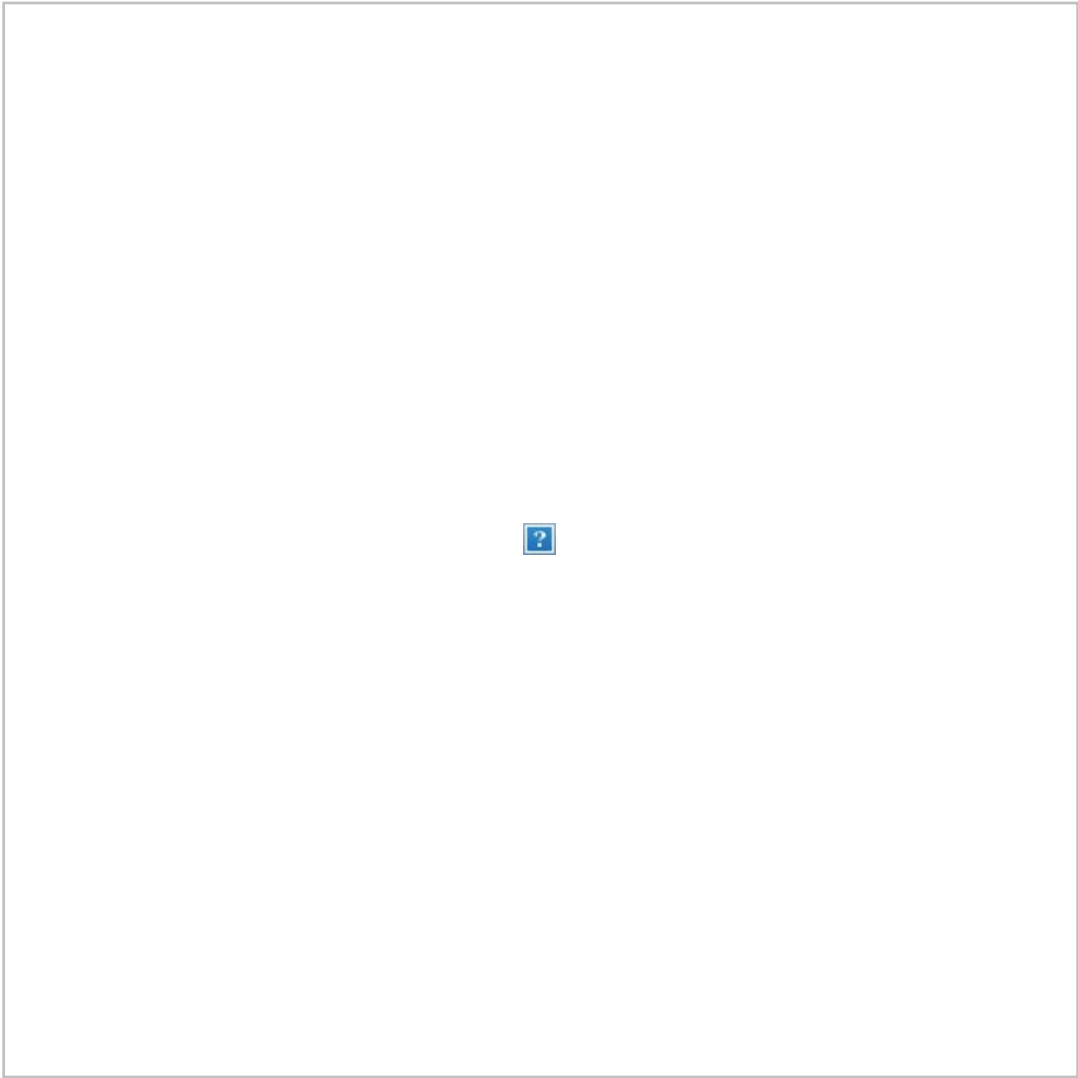
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## Medicare physician fee schedule modified for 2021

The 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act has modified the 2021 calendar year Medicare physician fee schedule. For calendar year 2021, the changes:

- Delay the inherent-complexity add-on code for evaluation and management services (G2211) to calendar year 2024.
- Provide a 3.75% increase in schedule payments.
- Reinstate the 1.0 floor on the work geographic practice cost index through calendar year 2023.
- Suspend the 2% payment adjustment (sequestration) through Wednesday, March 31.

CMS has recalculated the schedule rates and conversion factor to reflect these changes. The revised schedule conversion factor for calendar year 2021 is 34.8931. The revised payment rates are available in the downloads section of the [CY 2021 Physician Fee Schedule webpage](#).



## EEOC proposes rule tackling workplace wellness incentives

The [U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission](#) (EEOC) has proposed a rule regarding what employers can do to encourage workers to join corporate wellness programs.

The [proposal](#) lays out the level of incentives employers can use to motivate workers to take part in smoking-cessation seminars, fitness classes and other workplace health programs without violating the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act.

Under the new proposal, employers are advised to only offer small incentives such as a water bottle or a small gift card to bring workers into an initiative requiring them to provide medical details.

The EEOC said the plan should alleviate concerns that offering bigger rewards makes the programs less voluntary and coerces workers into revealing sensitive health information. Federal law allows businesses to reward workers who sign up for corporate wellness programs that often request health risk assessments, biometric screenings or other medical data from participants, as long as those initiatives are voluntary.

The proposal has been sent to the Federal Register for publishing. Stakeholders will have two months to submit comments on the plan after its published.

# NewsStand

## Iowa news

- [Yes, vaccines are on the way. No, this is not the time to let your guard down.](#)
- [Iowa State research shows where most people contract COVID-19](#)
- [UI Health Care participating in new COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial](#)

## National news

- [Hospital prices just got a lot more transparent. What does this mean for you?](#)
- [Amid ongoing PPE crisis, physician-led efforts focus on needs of smaller health care entities](#)
- [Hospital price transparency took effect New Year's Day -- but, where is it?](#)

Click [HERE](#) to read all of NewsStand.

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## Upcoming events

- [Patient Rights, Part 2:](#) Tuesday, Jan. 12.
- [IHA Leadership Development Program:](#) Tuesday, Jan. 12-Tuesday, June 15.
- [IHA Health Care Storytellers: Leading With Empathy Virtual Series:](#) Tuesday, Jan. 12-Tuesday, Feb. 9.
- [Ransomware Threats:](#) Wednesday, Jan. 13.
- [Nurse Manager Leadership Workshop:](#) Thursday, Jan. 14-Friday, June 11.
- [Iowa Hospital Auxiliaries and Volunteers Virtual Speaker Series:](#) Wednesday, Jan. 20-Wednesday, Feb. 17.
- [Roundtable: Thriving Through a Pandemic:](#) Thursday, Jan. 21.
- [Advanced Leadership Academy:](#) Thursday, Jan. 21-Thursday, Nov. 11.
- [Protecting the Employee: Hospital's Responsibilities during COVID:](#) Wednesday, Jan. 27.
- [Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement Program:](#) Tuesday, Feb. 16.
- [Physician Business Leadership Certification Program:](#) Tuesday, Feb. 23-Tuesday, Aug. 10
- [Wage Index: Strategies and Trends in Iowa:](#) Thursday, Feb. 25.



100 EAST GRAND, SUITE 100, DES MOINES, IA 50309-1835 | P 515.288.1955 F 515.283.9366 | [WWW.IHAONLINE.ORG](http://WWW.IHAONLINE.ORG)