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Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2022

Today's headlines:

- [U.S. Senate passes Inflation Reduction Act](#)
- [IHA advocacy team weekly preview](#)
- [Register for CPHQ certification review](#)
- [Hospitals can now review COVID-19 personnel vaccination data](#)
- [PayZen offers new approach to patient financing for Iowa hospitals](#)

U.S. Senate passes Inflation Reduction Act

The U.S. Senate included several health care provisions in the [Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 \(H.R. 5376\)](#). The bill is a roughly \$700 billion social spending package and includes climate change and tax provisions.

[Health care highlights include:](#)

- **Allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices** on a limited set of drugs, including insulin. The government and pharmaceutical companies can establish prices for a subset of higher cost, sole source drugs covered through Medicare Part B and Part D. The price negotiated between the government and manufacturer must be lower than a ceiling price based on a formula in the law.
- **Extending the expanded eligibility and value of the Affordable Care Act Marketplace** subsidies authorized through the American Rescue Plan Act for three years. The American Rescue Plan Act expanded eligibility for subsidies to people above 400% of the federal poverty level and lowered the premium percentage at every income level.

IHA is pleased to see the Senate take steps to make health care more accessible to low- and middle-income families through the Affordable Care Act and is taking steps to lower prescription drug costs for Medicare patients.

Other provisions include:

- Addressing climate change through a combination of tax changes and spending subsidies.
- Imposing a 15% corporate tax minimum.
- Including polices to address carbon emissions.
- Investing in domestic energy production and manufacturing.
- Providing \$80 billion over the next 10 years for tax enforcement and

compliance.

- Reducing the deficit.

The bill was passed in the Senate 51-50 and was considered under reconciliation procedures. It was amended during floor debate and will likely be considered by the U.S. House of Representatives Friday, Aug. 12.

[Email Erin Cubit](#) at IHA with questions.

IHA advocacy team weekly preview

The IHA advocacy team this week hosts several work groups to create and finalize IHA's 2023 positions for several issues including certificate of need, pharmacy and rural emergency hospitals.

Yesterday, the pharmacy issues work group met for the final time and discussed its 2023 legislative positions. Today, the advocacy team meets with:

- Rural emergency hospital payments work group.
- Rural emergency hospital conditions of participation work group.
- Certificate-of-need work group.

The advocacy team also is completing candidate interviews this week and next week. The IHA PAC Committee is meeting Friday, Aug. 19, to discuss and approve candidate contributions.

Look for Saturday's edition of IHA Today for follow-up stories.



Review Course to
**Become a Certified
Professional in
Healthcare Quality**
Nov. 29-30, 2022



Register for CPHQ certification review

IHA is hosting Sarah Pavelka, subject matter expert and faculty for the National Association of Healthcare Quality, for a [two-day workshop designed to help hospital staff prepare for the health care quality examination](#).

Participants will be reviewing:

- Components of the certification process.
- Information management.
- Tools to measure and improve performance.

Each attendee also will receive a copy of "HQ Solutions: Essential Resource for the Healthcare Quality Professional" that is valued at \$199 and included in the cost of the class.

The National Association of Healthcare Quality's certification program is fully accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies, the accrediting arm of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence.

The review course is scheduled from Tuesday, Nov. 29-Wednesday, Nov. 30. [Email Corey Martin](#) at IHA with questions.

Hospitals can now review COVID-19 personnel vaccination data

Hospitals, inpatient psychiatric facilities and prospective payment system-exempt cancer hospitals have until Tuesday, Aug. 30, to review their data for the [October Update to Care Compare](#). For hospitals participating in the inpatient quality reporting program, the October refresh will include data about the health care personnel COVID-19 vaccination measure. The posted data will reflect hospital performance from October-December 2021.



PayZen offers new approach to patient financing for Iowa hospitals

Growing patient debt and shrinking provider margins are the new normal. The old approaches to patient financing won't cut it anymore. [New ServiShare partner, PayZen](#), is a non-recourse patient financing organization that offers every patient 0% interest and fee-free payment options to pay their medical bills over time.

PayZen differs from other patient financing programs by:

- Approving all patients for 0% interest, no-fee payment plans from three to 60 months.
- Funding payment plans on a non-recourse basis after patients make their first payment.
- Offering a four-week implementation on the Epic App Orchard with no information technology investment.
- Offering custom monthly installment and terms based on AI-powered underwriting that evaluates 30,000 patient data points to present three options that fit the patient's affordability and budget.
- Providing superior patient experience throughout and never using aggressive collections tactics or legal strategies.

If you're interested in increasing patient collections by 30% or more, accelerating cash flow, reducing accounts receivable days, alleviating burden on revenue cycle management staff and making health care more affordable for patients, PayZen's affordability financing platform is the answer.

Email [Ed Young](#), vice president of solutions at PayZen, to hear about their unique approach, view a demo or see an analysis of your hospital's potential collections improvement.

To read more about PayZen's partnership with IHA, read this announcement [[Link to PDF](#)].

NewsStand

Iowa news

- [Lung cancer data shows Iowans at greatest risk aren't being screened](#)
- [U of Iowa Health Care offered \\$605M to buy Mercy Iowa City](#)
- [Norkaitis daughter keeps legacy of giving alive with MercyOne donation](#)

National news

- [Reconciliation bill could help financial strain of heart medicines](#)
- [Health care added 70K jobs in July](#)
- [With hundreds still dying of COVID-19 daily, CDC sticking to restrictions](#)

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

Online education

- [2022 IHA Employment Law Four-Part Virtual Series](#): Tuesday, Aug. 16
- [Creating Successes: IHA's Summer Series for Health Care Leaders](#): Tuesday, Aug. 16
- [Review of the Rural Emergency Hospital Program](#): Monday, Aug. 22
- [Infection Prevention and Antibiotic Stewardship](#): Tuesday, Sept. 13
- [2022 IHA Governance Webinar Series](#): Tuesday, Sept. 13 - Tuesday, Nov. 15
- [Swing-bed Fundamentals](#): Tuesday, Nov. 8
- [Patient Rights: An Overview](#): Tuesday, Nov. 29
- [Pharmacy Conditions of Participation](#): Tuesday, Dec. 6
- [CMS Updates](#): Thursday, Dec. 15

In-person meetings

- [IHERF Swinging for Scholars Golf Outing](#): Thursday, Sept. 1
- [Iowa Society for Healthcare Engineering Fall Conference](#): Thursday, Sept. 15 - Friday, Sept. 16
- [IHA Annual Meeting](#): Monday, Oct. 3 - Wednesday, Oct. 5
- [Performance and Process Improvement - Leadership "Yellow Belt" Workshop](#): Tuesday, Oct. 18 - Wednesday, Oct. 19
- [2022 CPHQ Review Course](#): Tuesday, Nov. 29 - Wednesday, Nov. 30

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Members are encouraged to visit IHA's Digital on Demand store to catch up on webinars or informational videos they may have missed.

The IHA Digital on Demand store offers:

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

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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.

HospitalCareers.com



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