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Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2021

Today's headlines:

- [CMS releases updated guidance for surveys](#)
- [Applications open for rural health clinic professional training](#)
- [House of Mercy to dedicate new behavioral health center](#)

CMS releases updated guidance for surveys

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has released [updated guidance](#) limiting the hospital-survey process, including onsite surveys to immediate-jeopardy complaint allegations.

The survey limitations are separated into three categories:

- **Hospital complaint surveys.** These surveys will be limited to immediate-jeopardy complaint allegations with CMS prioritizing onsite investigations based on imminent danger to patients at the hospital, likelihood of noncompliance with the conditions of participation and whether immediate action must be taken to protect the health and safety of patients. The investigation will be limited to the conditions of participation necessary to ensure the

health and safety of patients in imminent danger. Further, CMS only will authorize infection control investigations when the allegations warrant it.

- **Hospital enforcement actions.** Any deficiencies that do not represent immediate jeopardy will have their termination date extended for at least 30 days to remain consistent with the survey guidance. During this time, hospitals must continue to ensure safety and quality, but will not be required to submit a plan of correction and will not receive a state survey agency revisit. For hospitals with uncorrected incidents of immediate jeopardy, they must demonstrate removal of such immediate jeopardy through an onsite survey.
- **Hospital recertification surveys.** These surveys will be suspended, except for a subset of hospital reaccreditation surveys. Accrediting organizations also will be directed to suspend reaccreditation surveys for 30 days and should expect to receive guidance soon with information about the reaccreditation survey process.



Applications open for rural health clinic professional training

The National Association of Rural Health Clinics offers the only [nationally certified training](#) for professionals in rural health clinic leadership roles. The training provides an opportunity to learn basic rural health clinic operations and detailed training, including:

- A high-level overview of rural and non-rural health clinics.
- An understanding of the rural health clinic program.
- Best practices for a successful manager/director in a rural health clinic.
- The value of being a rural health clinic.

This course requires 20 hours of videos and instructional information as well as a final examination. Click [HERE](#) to apply by **Thursday, Jan. 28**. Coursework begins Tuesday, Feb. 2. The final exam will be scheduled for April 2021. Please note: This is self-paced; participants do not have to start Feb. 2. But because of the substantial time commitment, participants are advised to begin as early as possible.

Successful applicants will be notified about their selections Friday, Jan. 29.

House of Mercy to dedicate new behavioral health center

MercyOne House of Mercy will dedicate the new Joseph and Dorothy Schuster Behavioral Health Center with a virtual event at 10 am today. The center opened in November 2020 and expands House of Mercy's outpatient behavioral health services by 50%. With the addition of the center, House of Mercy is now one of a handful of locations in central Iowa to offer treatment to parents and children, and to those with mental health and substance abuse disorders. The center includes an observation room for therapy and for training, a group therapy room and a family and play therapy room.

NewsStand

Iowa news

- [Courage, sorrow, exhaustion and worry in an ICU fighting COVID-19](#)
- [Report finds 40 rural Iowa hospitals at high risk of closing](#)
- [Too many people are declining to get a COVID-19 vaccination](#)

National news

- [Study finds health care workers file most COVID-19 comp claims](#)
- [Telehealth is not just technology](#)
- [US to track COVID-19 variants, study whether vaccines are effective](#)

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

Upcoming events

- [Protecting the Employee: Hospital's Responsibilities during COVID](#): Wednesday, Jan. 27.
- [COVID-19 and Most Favored Nation Model for Pharmacies](#): Thursday, Jan. 28.
- [COVID-19 Provider Relief Fund Update: Preparing for Upcoming Reporting Requirements and Audits](#): Tuesday, Feb. 2.
- [COVID-19 Diagnoses, Procedures and Telehealth](#): Thursday, Feb. 4.
- [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.
- [Iowa Rehabilitation Managers Virtual Spring Conference](#): Thursday, March 4.
- [Common Life Safety Code Deficiencies](#): Tuesday, March 16.



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