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Thursday, Feb. 18, 2021

Today's headlines:

- [Urge lawmakers now to support medical malpractice reform](#)
- [Applications underway for health care education scholarships](#)
- [DataGen offers two Medicare quality webinars](#)
- [Serving IHA members](#)

Urge lawmakers now to support medical malpractice reform

Legislators in the Iowa House have introduced [House File 517](#), that places a \$1 million hard cap on noneconomic damages against health care providers for personal injury or death for any occurrence.

Noneconomic damages – such as pain, suffering, inconvenience, physical impairment and mental anguish – currently do not have monetary limits. These damages drive up the cost of health care and put a significant financial strain on facilities, particularly in Iowa's rural communities.

This bill is moving quickly. Now is the time for members to [reach out to their representatives](#) to ensure they hear the hospital perspective and are encouraged to keep the legislation moving. After reaching out to your representative, please share any responses with [Nicole Proesch](#) at IHA.

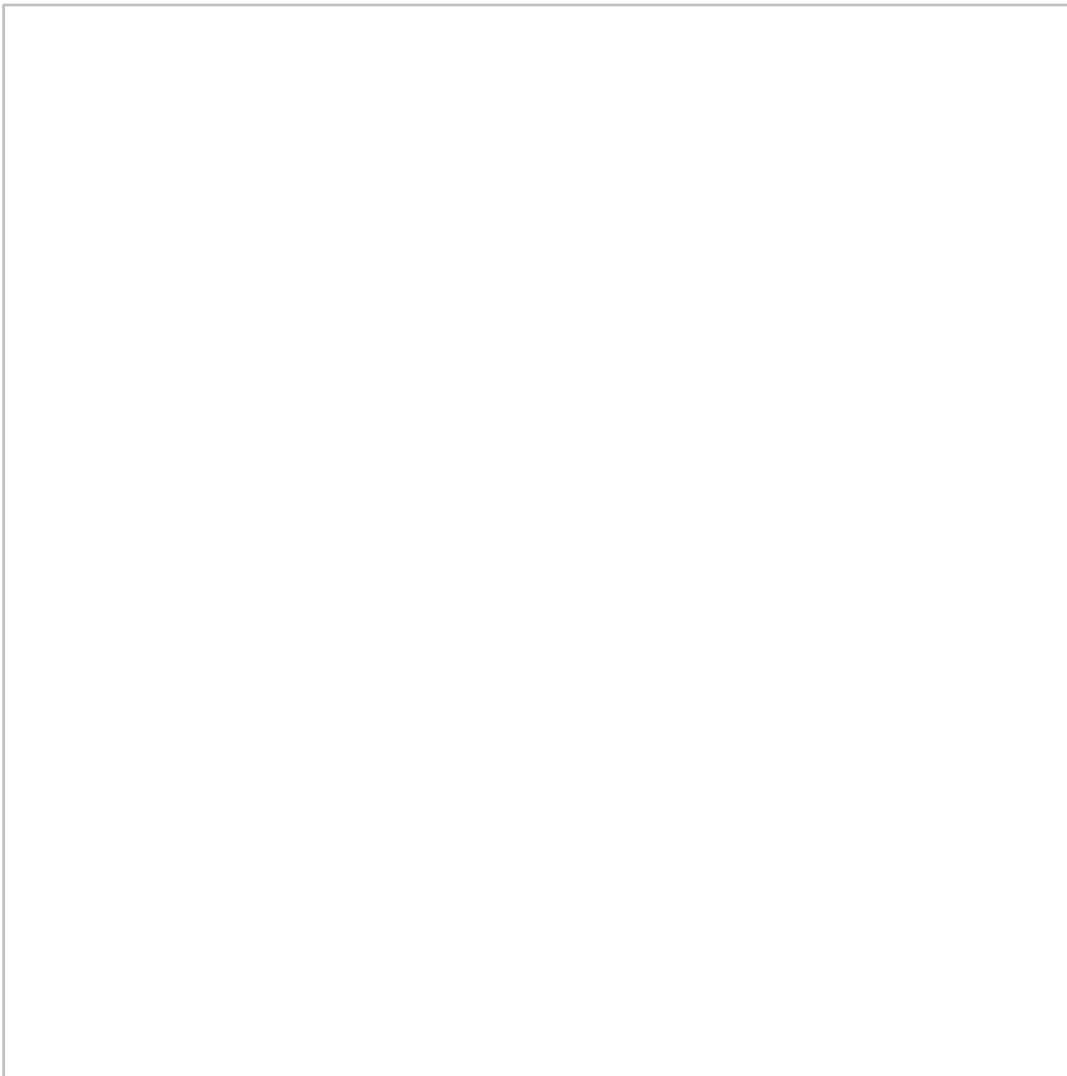
Applications underway for health care education scholarships

IHA, through its subsidiary Iowa Hospital Education and Research Foundation (IHERF), will award 60 health care scholarships of up to \$7,000 (\$3,500 per year for up to two years) and \$1,000 specific to individuals enrolling in emergency medical technology/technician certification programs.

The scholarship program focuses on individuals pursuing careers in health care positions in high demand by offering financial support for their education or training. In exchange, each recipient must work one year in an Iowa hospital for each year of their scholarship award. The \$1,000 award recipients must work one year with a hospital-based or hospital-contracted emergency medical services company.

Scholarship applicants must be enrolled in an accredited program and be within two years of completing their professional education. Scholarship applications must be submitted by Tuesday, March 30, at www.iowahospitalscholarships.org.

IHA does not discriminate against applicants because of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin, creed, gender identity, sexual orientation, mental or physical disability, military status or other characteristics protected by law. Members of all underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply. For more information about the scholarship program, click [HERE](#).



DataGen offers two Medicare quality webinars

IHA has partnered with DataGen, a leader in payment and policy analysis, to provide Iowa hospitals with impact analyses of Medicare payment policy changes. Two webinars with DataGen have been scheduled that focus on Medicare's quality programs:

- Value-based Purchasing: 9:30-10:30 am Thursday, March 4. [Register](#).
- Readmissions Reduction Program and Hospital-acquired Condition Reduction Program: 11 am-Noon Wednesday, March 31. [Register](#).

Both webinars will review the programs' methodologies, state-specific performances and analyses. There will be time for questions and answers after each presentation. Recordings will be provided for those unable to attend. Please email [Allison Martin](#) at IHA with questions.



Serving IHA members

IHA is pleased to welcome two new staff and share additional personnel changes that have recently occurred.

Promotions

- [Erin Cubit](#) was promoted to senior director with the Government Relations team.
- [Anna Kisting](#) was promoted to senior director, data architecture and visualization with the Information Center.

Role transitions

- [Trent Archer](#) transitioned from director, database support to director, IT systems administration.
- [Joah Hogan](#) transitioned from an education director to director, digital media and communications with the Communications team.
- [Allison Martin](#) transitioned from director, membership database and AV services to director, financial and member database services.
- [Debbie Wilson](#) transitioned from front desk/accounting support to accounting clerk.

New employees

- [Sarah Coddington](#), director, inpatient/outpatient and data analytics.
 - [Amy Roy](#), front desk/accounting support.
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NewsStand

Iowa news

- [Clive Behavioral Health set to open Feb. 22](#)
- [Nursing shortage adding up costs for Iowa hospitals amid pandemic](#)
- [COVID-19 hit Iowa hospitals' income hard, new data show](#)

National news

- [A next-generation coronavirus vaccine is in the works](#)
- [Is this the worst Medicare telehealth law of 2020?](#)
- [COVID-19 likely to become 'endemic,' experts say](#)

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

Upcoming events

- [The Power of You: Understanding and Maximizing Happiness and Well- Being Virtual Series:](#)

Thursday, Feb. 18-Thursday, Dec. 16.

- [Physician Business Leadership Certification Program](#): Tuesday, Feb. 23-Tuesday, Aug. 10.
- [2021 Virtual Hospital Day on the Hill](#): Wednesday, Feb. 24.
- [Wage Index: Strategies and Trends in Iowa](#): Thursday, Feb. 25.
- [Iowa Rehabilitation Managers Virtual Spring Conference](#): Thursday, March 4.
- [COVID-19: A Physician's Perspective](#): Thursday, March 4.
- [IHA Crisis Management Webinar Series](#): Tuesday, March 9-Tuesday, April 6.
- [Special Governance Issues for Public Hospitals](#): Wednesday, March 10
- [Common Life Safety Code Deficiencies](#): Tuesday, March 16.
- [Critical Access and Rural Hospital Forum](#): Wednesday, March 24-Thursday, March 25.
- [Iowa Association for Healthcare Quality Virtual Spring Conference](#): Tuesday, April 13-Thursday, April 15.
- [Iowa Society for Health Care Human Resources Association Virtual Spring Conference](#): Wednesday, April 28-Thursday, April 29.
- [Governance Webinar Series](#): Tuesday, May 11-Tuesday, Nov. 16.



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