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Saturday, Oct. 29, 2022

Today's Headlines

- [IHA advocacy team roundup](#)
- [CMS updates COVID-19 vaccination guidance for health care providers](#)
- [Register for upcoming regulatory webinars](#)
- [Thank you to the 2022 Iowa Hospital Heroes](#)

IHA advocacy team weekly round up

The IHA advocacy team continues to identify workforce solutions this week. The American Hospital Association A2 Workforce conference was held Wednesday, Oct. 26. Here, state hospital associations discussed workforce efforts in their respective states. Other topics discussed included:

- Behavioral health.
- Building health care workforce pipelines.
- New care delivery models.
- Workplace violence prevention programs.

The IHA advocacy team this week also:

- Attended the monthly Department of Inspections and Appeals meeting.
- Reached out to Iowa's congressional delegation to discuss year-end priorities.

CMS updates COVID-19 vaccination guidance for health care providers

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has updated its COVID-19 vaccine requirement guidance for health care providers. The reason for these updates is the relatively low rates of COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths and efforts countrywide to ensure people are vaccinated.

The [updated guidance for health care providers](#) includes changes to CMS' surveyor guidance and enforcement action for hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, long-term care facilities, skilled nursing facilities and other providers.

CMS recommends hospitals and other providers should be cited at a condition level only in instances of egregious noncompliance. Such instances include those in which more than 50% of staff, excluding exempted staff or staff whose vaccinations are temporarily delayed, are unvaccinated or the provider has no policies or procedures

in place to mitigate COVID-19 exposure.

When health care providers have less than 50% unvaccinated staff or necessary policies and procedures haven't been implemented, a standard-level citation may be issued if "good faith" efforts are made to comply with the vaccination requirement.

CMS doesn't provide specific policy and procedure requirements for hospitals and other providers, but providers have discretion to define those policies and procedures.

Finally, health care providers should expect close inspection of their infection control and prevention practices, despite staff vaccination status.

Long-term care and skilled facilities are treated similarly, with 100% staff vaccination (excluding exempted staff) required for compliance. A noncompliant facility that has implemented a plan to achieve 100% staff vaccination would not be subject to an enforcement action. The agency also directed surveyors to cite noncompliance at long-term care and skilled facilities at Severity Level 1 and egregious noncompliance at Level 2.

Register for upcoming regulatory webinars

IHA is offering several regulatory webinars to help hospital leaders and staff stay up to date about the latest federal regulations, rules and requirements:

- **[Swing-bed Fundamentals](#), 10 a.m.-noon Tuesday, Nov. 8.** Nancy Ruzicka, a consultant on state and federal rules, will discuss the swing-bed program for hospitals with 100 or fewer licensed hospital beds.
- **[Health Care: Embracing Environmental, Social and Governance Issues](#), noon-1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9.** Join Joe Bialowitz, Derek Rushing and Molly Podolefsky, Ph.D., of Guidehouse Consulting in a discussion about climate change, rising inequality and corporate accounting.
- **[Getting Ready for The Joint Commission and CMS Health Equity Requirements](#), 10-11 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15.** Shawn Rossi, D.H.A., FACHE, vice president of communications and member engagement with the Mississippi Hospital Association, will help hospitals prepare for CMS' and The Joint Commission's new reporting requirements.
- **[Patient Rights: An Overview](#), 10 a.m.-noon Tuesday, Nov. 29.** Ruzicka will review CMS regulations protecting patient rights.
- **[COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#), 2-3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1.** Health care attorneys with Dorsey and Whitney will discuss the anticipated end of the COVID-19 public health emergency and the expiration of certain waivers.
- **[Pharmacy Conditions of Participation](#), 10 a.m.-noon Tuesday, Dec. 6.** Ruzicka will review requirements needed for hospitals to create a formalized antibiotic stewardship program.
- **[Regulatory Year in Review for the C-suite](#), 2-3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7.** Michael Chase, Baird Holm, will provide a fast-paced review of major health care regulatory and case law developments.
- **[CMS Updates](#), 10 a.m.-noon Thursday, Dec. 15.** Ruzicka will discuss updates to CMS regulations and interpretative guidelines including those for infection prevention, antibiotic stewardship, evidence-based practices and expectations in managing obstetric emergencies, and emergency preparedness regulations.

Email IHAregistration@ihaonline.org with questions.

Thank you to the 2022 Iowa Hospital Heroes

IHA and Iowa hospitals are grateful to our hospital staff who ensure hospitals provide quality care every day. Twelve hospital heroes were recognized at IHA's 2022 Annual Meeting, and each is being highlighted in IHA Today. This issue features Sumit Mukherjee, M.D., from [Methodist Jennie Edmundson in Council Bluffs](#). Thank you to all the 2022 heroes and hospital staff for your work and compassion.

If you have someone you want to [nominate as a hospital hero](#), take note for next year's recognition at the 2023 IHA Annual Meeting scheduled from Oct. 10-11. [Email Craig Borchard](#) at IHA with questions.

Dr. Sumit Mukherjee

When the COVID-19 pandemic placed unprecedented demands on Methodist Jennie Edmundson, Dr. Mukherjee's determination and drive never wavered. He was a beacon of hope to patients, their families, front-line staff, the Council Bluffs community and critical-access partners. Dr. Mukherjee provides compassionate and expertly guided care to every patient he sees. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he was pushed to his limits, but he didn't let it affect the care his patients received or his interactions with them. More times than he could imagine, Dr. Mukherjee found himself telling patients they may not survive. Staff members who witnessed these conversations were moved by his compassion and fortitude amid such emotional times.



Critical Care Unit Medical
Director & Pulmonologist
Methodist Jennie
Edmundson, Council Bluffs

NewsStand

Iowa news

- [Committee cites goals of Winnebago County EMS levy, surcharge proposal](#)
- [After weeks of decline, Iowa's COVID-19 infection rate increases](#)
- [MercyOne Clinton provides neurological care through telehealth](#)

National news

- [Hospitals face prolonged labor challenges despite recent respite](#)
- [25% of ransomware attacks aimed at health care industry, FBI says](#)
- [CEOs are leaving their jobs at younger ages](#)

Online education

- [Swing-bed Fundamentals](#): Tuesday, Nov. 8
- [Health Care: Embracing Environmental, Social and Governance Issues](#): Wednesday, Nov. 9
- [2022 IHA Governance Webinar Series](#): Tuesday, Nov. 15
- [Getting Ready for Joint Commission and CMS Health Equity Requirements](#): Tuesday, Nov. 15
- [Patient Rights: An Overview](#): Tuesday, Nov. 29
- [COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#): Thursday, Dec. 1
- [Pharmacy Conditions of Participation](#): Tuesday, Dec. 6
- [CMS Updates](#): Thursday, Dec. 15

In-person meetings

- [Performance and Process Improvement - Leadership "Yellow Belt" Workshop](#): Tuesday, Oct. 18 - Wednesday, Oct. 19
- [Charge Nurse Leadership Development Workshop](#): Monday, Oct. 24 - Tuesday, Oct. 25
- [Administrative Professionals Conference](#): Tuesday, Nov. 1
- [340B Day](#): Tuesday, Nov. 8
- [IHA Leadership Development Program](#): Wednesday, Nov. 16 - Tuesday, May 16
- [2022 CPHQ Review Course](#): Tuesday, Nov. 29 - Wednesday, Nov. 30

Visit IHA's Digital on Demand store for webinars and videos

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.





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