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Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022

Today's Headlines

- [Miller-Meeks, Wild urge swift action to prevent looming Medicare cuts](#)
- [CMS releases 2023 Medicare physician fee schedule](#)
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- [Sims returns to Lucas County Health Center](#)
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Miller-Meeks, Wild urge swift action to prevent looming Medicare cuts

U.S. Reps. [Mariannette Miller-Meek, M.D.](#), and [Susan Wild](#) are the primary authors of a letter urging quick action to prevent the more than 8% cut in Medicare reimbursement. This cut comes on the heels of the 2% sequestration cut that resumed in July 2022. The letter was sent to President Joe Biden, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, U.S. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi and U.S. House of Representatives Minority

Leader Kevin McCarthy.

The letter explains that the reimbursement cuts would “directly harm our nation’s medical groups, physicians, hospitals and other health care providers who care for our communities.” The reimbursement reductions are being driven by the 4% Statutory Pay-As-You-Go requirement and a 4.47% cut to the Medicare conversion factor, which affect many health care providers.

Compounded by workforce shortages, increased costs, supply chain issues and the ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic, these cuts may not only affect the ability of providers to care for patients but also force service shutdowns, staff furloughs, hiring freezes and population health initiative delays.

IHA has advocated on this issue with Iowa’s Congressional delegation and thanks Rep. Miller-Meeks for her action.

CMS releases 2023 Medicare physician fee schedule

The [2023 physician fee schedule](#) published by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services includes public updates for Medicare telehealth services. The policy changes make several services that are temporarily available through the COVID-19 public health emergency available at least through calendar year 2023. The move allows CMS to collect data that may support telehealth services’ inclusion as permanent additions to the Medicare telehealth services list.

Improve revenue cycle performance with new webinar

Learn to make the revenue cycle process more efficient with the second webinar in IHA’s Fundamentals of Finance. Health care leader Kathy Reep and health care attorney Martie Ross will discuss:

- Creating and tracking key performance indicators.
- Establishing compliance processes for no surprises billing and good faith estimate requirements.
- Partnering with clinical leaders to improve the revenue cycle.
- Preventing work denials.

The [Revenue Cycle Performance Improvement](#) webinar is scheduled from **1-2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2023**. Look to future editions of IHA Today for more information about the third session of Fundamentals of Finance. Participants must register separately for each session. Registration is still open for the first session, [50 Ways to Love Your Cost Reports](#), scheduled Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2023.

[Email Joah Hogan](#) at IHA with questions.



Sims returns to Lucas County Health Center

Former [Lucas County Health Center](#) CEO Brian Sims is returning to his position after two years with Good Shepherd Health Care System in Hermiston, Oregon. Sims was CEO at Lucas County Health Center from 2015 to 2020.

During Sims' previous tenure with Lucas County Health Center, the facility was recognized for several honors including a Top 20 Critical Access Hospital and Top 100 Workplace.

Sims will begin as CEO in February 2023. Chief Operating Officer Lori Johnson and Rural Health Resources Director Teresa Newman are continuing as interim CEOs until his return.

Nominate a 2023 Hospital Hero

Is there an employee who acted courageously in a moment's crisis or who selflessly served their hospitals and communities through their careers? IHA will recognize 10 hospital employees at the 2023 IHA Annual Meeting who embody the passion and purpose of the community hospital mission every day.

The Hospital Heroes Award began in 2007 and, through 2022, more than 100 hospital employees have been recognized. This year, IHA recognized 12 heroes from 11 hospitals:

- Michelle Arensdorf, RN, [MercyOne Dubuque Medical Center](#).
- Michele Dikkers, D.O., [Guttenberg Municipal Hospital and Clinics](#).

- Dave Eilers, MercyOne [Des Moines Medical Center](#).
- Karen Gronau, RN, [UnityPoint-Finley Hospital](#), Dubuque.
- Matt Miller, D.N.A.P., [Henry County Health Center](#), Mount Pleasant.
- Sumit Mekherjee, M.D., [Methodist Jennie Edmundson](#), Council Bluffs.
- Diane Probasco, RN, MercyOne Des Moines Medical Center.
- Kelly Richards, D.N.P., RN, [MercyOne Northeast Iowa](#), Waterloo.
- Douglas Summerfield, M.D., M.P.H., [MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center](#), Mason City.
- Amanda Thompson, RN, [Buena Vista Regional Medical Center](#), Storm Lake.
- Larry Volz, M.D., [MercyOne Siouxland Medical Center](#) and Midlands Clinic, Sioux City.
- Clif White, [UnityPoint-St. Luke's Hospital](#), Cedar Rapids.

Visit the [IHA Hospital Hero webpage](#) to watch the 2022 award video and to nominate a 2023 Hospital Hero. [Email Craig Borchard](#) at IHA with questions.

NewsStand

Iowa news

- [Surge prompts UnityPoint to require appointments for urgent, express care](#)
- [Financial impact of telehealth: Rural chief financial officer perspectives](#)
- [UnityPoint launches virtual exam option as telehealth interest expands](#)

National news

- [Myocarditis after COVID-19 vaccine low among teens and young adults](#)
- [Flu shots are a "very good match" to this season's strains, CDC says](#)
- [New coronavirus variants render antibody treatment useless](#)

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

Online education

- [Leading During Times of Crisis](#): Monday, Dec. 12
- [Food Insecurity as a Social Determinant of Health](#): Wednesday, Dec. 13
- [CMS Updates](#): Thursday, Dec. 15
- [Behavioral Health Legislative Lowdown](#): Thursday, Dec. 15
- [2023 Procedural Terminology and Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System Updates](#): Tuesday, Dec. 20
- [50 Ways to Love Your Cost Reports](#): Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2023
- [Revenue Cycle Performance Improvement](#): Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2023
- [Managed Care Contracting](#): Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023

In-person meetings

- [Physician Business Leadership Certificate Program](#): Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023 - Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2023
- [Grant Writing Workshop](#): Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2023

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.
- Leadership resources.
- Previously recorded webinars and presentations including project presentations from the Advanced Leadership Academy.
- Trustee resources.

Click [HERE](#) to visit the IHA Digital on Demand store.

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.

