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Saturday, Jan. 29, 2022

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Week 3 summary

Legislative movement picked up during the third week of session. Subcommittee meetings continue to fill IHA's advocacy team calendars as bills move quickly prior to the first funnel. Since this is the second year of a two-year general assembly, the legislative session is scheduled for 100 days. This also means the funnel deadlines are earlier this year than last year with the first funnel deadline in three weeks. The funnel deadlines are self-imposed deadlines for legislators to ensure the legislative process progresses in a timely manner. Below is an update about bills that had activity through the week. To ensure you receive the latest updates, IHA encourages you to sign up for [Action Alerts](#). *Indicates bills are funnel proof.

*[SSB 2129](#)

- **Companion bill:** [HSB 541](#)
- **What the bill does:** Makes part-time students eligible for Future Ready Last Dollar scholarships.
- **Sponsor:** [Sen. Amy Sinclair](#) (R-Allerton) and College Student Aid.
- **Committee:** Senate Education and House Education.
- **Status:** Both bills passed out of full committee.
- **IHA Position:** IHA supports efforts to expand the health care workforce.

*[HSB 532](#)

- **What the bill does:** A bill for an act relating to a state-funded psychiatric residency program at the state mental health institutes and the Iowa medical and classification center at Oakdale, creating a program fund and making appropriations.
- **Sponsor:** [Rep. Ann Meyer](#) (R-Fort Dodge).
- **Committee:** House Human Resources.
- **Status:** Passed out of full committee.
- **IHA Position:** IHA supports legislative efforts that expand behavioral health resources in Iowa.

*[HSB 537](#)

- **What the bill does:** A bill for an act relating to the establishment of a prescribing mental health practitioner loan repayment program and providing an appropriation.
- **Sponsor:** [Rep. Ann Meyer](#) (R-Fort Dodge).
- **Committee:** House Human Resources
- **Status:** Passed out of full committee.
- **IHA Position:** IHA supports efforts to expand the health care workforce and any initiatives that will increase access to behavioral health care.

[SSB 3003](#)

- **What the bill does:** A bill for an act establishing the mental health professional loan repayment program within the college student aid commission.
- **Sponsor:** [Sen. Amy Sinclair](#) (R-Allerton).
- **Committee:** Senate Education.
- **Status:** Passed out of subcommittee.
- **IHA Position:** IHA supports efforts to expand the health care workforce and any initiatives that will increase access to behavioral health care.

[SF 2046](#)

- **What the bill does:** Requires a health care facility or third-party biller to give a patient an itemized bill on the request of the patient at no charge.
- **Sponsor:** [Sen. Adrian Dickey](#) (R-Packwood).
- **Committee:** Senate Commerce.
- **Status:** Did not pass subcommittee.
- **IHA Position:** IHA supports patients understanding their medical costs, but IHA feels this bill would not achieve that goal with the complexities involved in hospital billing.

[HF 656](#)

- **Companion bill:** [SF 2016](#)
- **What the bill does:** Prohibits a health insurance plan from switching drugs without medical necessity (non-medical switching).
- **Sponsor:** House Human Resources Committee and [Sen. Jim Carlin](#) (R-Sioux City)
- **Committee:** House Human Resources and Senate Commerce.
- **Status:** HF 656 passed House subcommittee. SF 2016 did not pass Senate subcommittee but was tabled to discuss later.
- **IHA Position:** IHA's believes medical professionals should be able to determine what is best for their patients without interference from insurance providers.

[HSB 544](#)

- **Companion bill:** [*SF 2088](#)
- **What the bill does:** A bill for an act relating to the practices of pharmacy and nursing, the administration of immunizations and vaccinations and the licensure of nonresident pharmacies.
- **Sponsor:** House State Government and Board of Pharmacy.
- **Committee:** House State Government and Senate Human Resource.
- **Status:** SF 2088 passed Senate Committee. HSB 544 passed House subcommittee.
- **IHA Position:** IHA is monitoring the status of this bill to learn about the potential impact for hospitals.

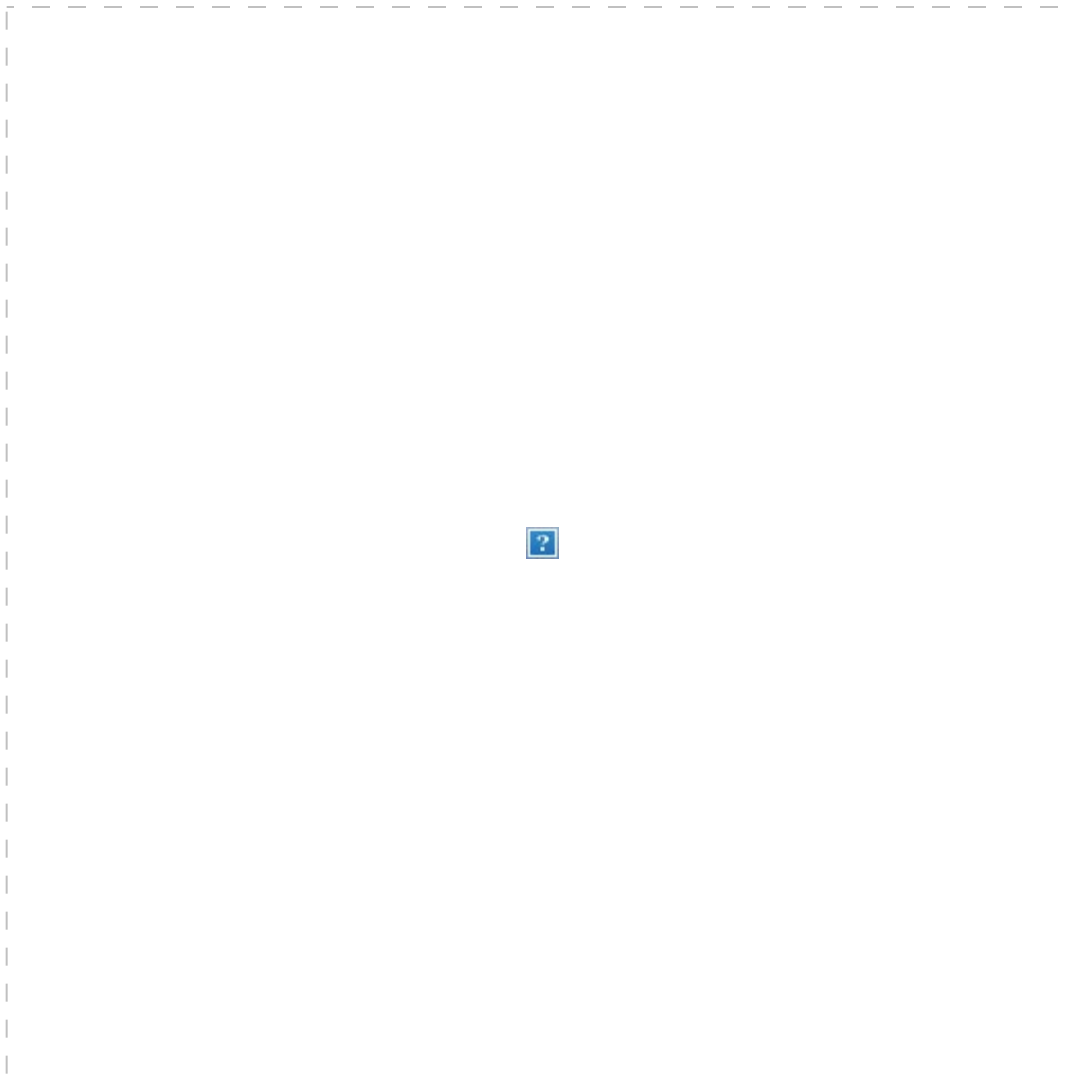
[SF 2028](#)

- **What the bill does:** Requires immunization or vaccination of a minor is subject to prior written consent of the minor's parent or legal guardian.
- **Sponsor:** [Sen. Jim Carlin](#) (R-Sioux City).
- **Committee:** Senate Human Resources.
- **Status:** Passed subcommittee
- **IHA Position:** IHA is monitoring the status of this bill but has concerns with the

additional burden this unnecessary change would place on health care facilities and providers.

[HF 2010](#)

- **Companion bill:** [SF 2117](#)
- **What the bill does:** Expands the use of experimental treatments for terminally ill persons to include a person on a ventilator and expands to include the off-label use of a drug.
- **Sponsor:** [Rep. Lee Hein](#) (R-Monticello), [Rep. Ann Meyer](#) (R-Fort Dodge) and [Sen. Jeff Edler](#) (R-State Center).
- **Committee:** House Human Resources.
- **Status:** HF 2010 passed House subcommittee. A Senate subcommittee has not been assigned for SF 2117.
- **IHA Position:** IHA is currently monitoring the status of this bill to determine the impact on hospitals.



Listen to IHA's Capitol Update

The Iowa Hospital Association knows the importance of updates coming from the

Capitol and works to provide easy ways to access that information. Members now have a convenient way to stay up to date on advocacy issues with the Iowa Hospital Association Capitol Update. Capitol Update can be accessed through a vodcast or podcast version.

- [Podcast.](#)
- [Vodcast.](#)

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

Legislative forums scheduled

Meeting with legislators while they're in their home districts is a great way to advocate for issues hospital advocates care about. Check the list below of legislative events for the next two weeks. Some are in person and those that are virtual include the event link.

Saturday, Jan 29

- 7:30-9 a.m., Fairfield Legislative Forum, Fairfield Arts & Convention Center.
- 8-9:30 a.m., Rock Rapids Eggs and Issues Forum, Forster Community Center.
- 8:30-10 a.m., Fort Dodge Eggs & Issues Legislative Forum, Iowa Central Community College-BHS Auditorium.
- 9-10 a.m., Sumner Legislative Town Hall, Sumner Public Library.
- 9-10:30 a.m., Clinton Legislative Coffee, Grow Clinton.
- 10:30 a.m.-noon, Urbandale Virtual Talk with Officials, [Virtual Link](#).
- 11 a.m. -noon, Readlyn Legislative Town Hall, Readlyn Community Library.
- 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., DeWitt Legislative Coffee, DeWitt Community Center.

Monday, Jan 31

- 8:30-10:30 a.m., Marti's Monday Morning Coffee, Grounds for Celebration.

Friday, Feb 4

- 10-11:30 a.m., Manchester Legislative Forum, Delaware County Farm Bureau.
- Noon-1 p.m., Ames Legislative Update, [Virtual Link](#).

Saturday, Feb 5

- 8:30-10 a.m., Emmetsburg Eggs & Issues Forum, Emmetsburg Chamber of Tourism Office.
- 9-10 a.m., Denver Legislative Town Hall, Denver Community Center.
- 11 a.m.-noon, Dunkerton Legislative Town Hall, Dunkerton Public Library.

Friday, Feb 11

- Noon-1 p.m., Ankeny Legislative Update, Ankeny Kirkendall Public Library.
- 4:30-6:30 p.m., Virtual Black Hawk-Bremer Counties Legislative Forum, [Virtual Link](#).

Saturday, Feb 12

- 8:30-9:30 a.m., Oskaloosa Eggs & Issues Forum, Smokey Row Coffee.
- 9-10:30 a.m., Virtual Des Moines Legislative Coffee, [Virtual Link](#).
- 9-10 a.m., Plainfield Legislative Town Hall, Plainfield Public Library Community Room.
- 11 a.m.-noon, Frederika Legislative Town Hall, Frederika Community Center – Community Room.

How to stay in the know

Through the 2022 legislative session, IHA has different ways to keep you informed. Stay tuned through the weekly editions of Legislative Bulletin, biweekly Capitol Update, IHA's Facebook page, Twitter account and LinkedIn account. IHA also will mobilize hospital advocates through VoterVoice Action Alerts when legislators need to hear from you on hospital issues. Advocates can sign up for email or text message VoterVoice Action Alerts [HERE](#).

Remember to bookmark these links:

- [Facebook page](#)
- [IHA's bill tracker](#)
- [Legislator contact information](#)
- [LinkedIn account](#)
- [Twitter account](#)

DIA state surveys to resume Jan. 31

As the state hospital surveys are set to resume on Jan. 31, IHA has been in contact with the Department of Inspections and Appeals to encourage continuation of the suspension and ensure the Department has awareness of the situation hospitals are in. IHA also submitted comments to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services urging the continuation of the suspension of surveys, which was declined. The Department of Inspections and Appeals issued the following message:

On Dec. 27, 2021, the Department of Inspections and Appeals suspended some hospital survey activity through Jan. 30. Based on the guidance of CMS, DIA will resume all regular survey activity on Monday, Jan. 31.

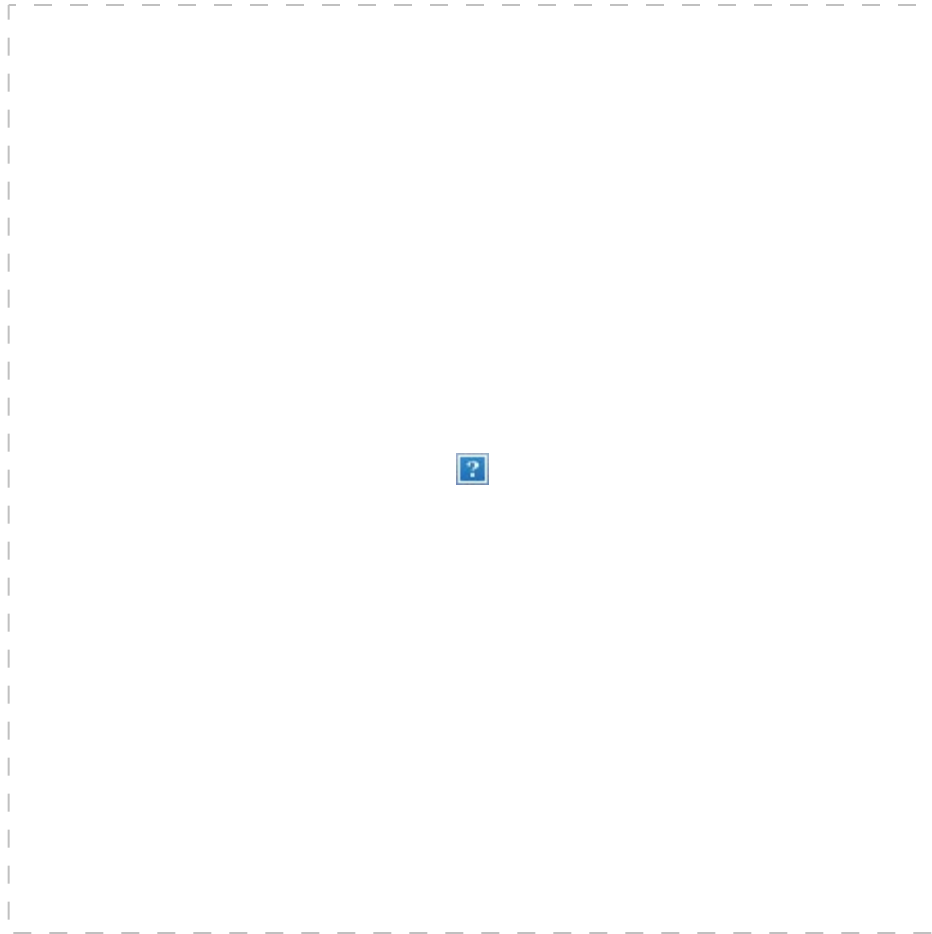
For hospitals with concerns that they do not have the capacity to undergo a survey and the hospital meets the following:

- *More than 80% of ICU beds are in use and more than 35% of those ICU beds in use are due to COVID-19; or*
- *The information the hospital is reporting to the Iowa Department of Public Health is inaccurate and the hospital's capacity is less than being reported (e.g. a hospital received a large number of staff reporting sick and unable to report to work, and that information was not captured in the report, etc.)*

For non-deemed hospitals, requests for survey suspensions should be sent for consideration to the State Survey Agency for consideration. These requests should be emailed to [Christopher Dunn](#) with the Department of Inspections and Appeals. Hospitals deemed through a CMS-approved accrediting organization should

contact [their respective accrediting organization](#).

NOTE: The state survey agency or accrediting organization will review the request but may not be able to approve the request based on the information provided. All immediate jeopardy and abuse surveys will be timely conducted regardless of hospital survey activity status in accordance with CMS direction throughout the pandemic.



Updated COVID-19 vaccine resources available

The Iowa Department of Public Health provided a list of updated COVID-19 vaccine resources in its weekly COVID-19 Vaccine Information Brief.

Updated resources include:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's endorsement of the Advisory Committee's updated COVID-19 vaccine recommendations.
- COVID-19 vaccine booster shots.
- COVID-19 vaccines for children and teens.
- Quick conversation guide about COVID-19 vaccines for children.
- Resources to promote the COVID-19 vaccine for children and teens.

For a full list of updated resources, click [HERE](#).

CMS releases tools to determine COVID-19 vaccine requirements

After the [Supreme Court's Jan. 13 ruling](#), employee vaccination requirements from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services now apply to certain Medicare and Medicaid providers and suppliers. CMS created and updated tools and resources to help providers and suppliers navigate and determine if vaccine requirements apply.

The resources include:

- [CMS Omnibus COVID-19 Health Care Staff Vaccination Requirements FAQ](#). The FAQ was updated to explain the recent ruling and how it affects employee vaccine requirements.
- [Guidance memo](#). The memo gives guidance for assessing and maintaining compliance with the new regulatory requirement for certain Medicare and Medicaid providers and suppliers.
- [IFC-6 vaccination requirements infographic](#). The infographic shows the types of providers and suppliers the vaccine requirement applies to, how the requirement can be met and associated requirement enforcement actions.
- [Vaccine requirement decision tree](#). The flowchart explains the steps to determine to which providers and suppliers the requirement applies.
- [Vaccine requirement implementation timeline](#). The chart illustrates the phases of the vaccination rule implementation, state by state and their associated deadlines.

The tools and other materials are available [HERE](#).

IHA launches Keeping Connected With IHA podcast

Chris Mitchell, president and CEO of the Iowa Hospital Association, gave an update of IHA's 2022 legislative priorities in the inaugural Keeping Connected With IHA podcast.

Mitchell said creating an environment where current health care staff want to stay and practice in Iowa is an important issue to IHA. To help create a positive environment for health care staff, IHA is prioritizing:

- Apprenticeship and training programs.
- Loan repayment programs.
- Private and public payer reimbursement rates.
- Rural emergency hospital designation.
- Tort reform.

Podcast episodes will be released monthly and will feature updates from Mitchell and other IHA staff.

Click [HERE](#) to listen.

Intersection of DEA and opioid risk to highlight webinar

The Drug Enforcement Administration fined hospitals in 2021 for improper handling and prescribing of controlled substances. Dennis Wicherns, partner with Prescription Drug Consulting, will discuss the DEA's specific authorities in the practice of medicine and controlled substances and how they relate to hospitals and medical

clinics in The Intersection of DEA, Opioids and Hospital Risk webinar.

Participants also will learn:

- Characteristics and red flags seen in hospitals that result in fines.
- Practical strategies and tips to reduce opioid risk at medical organizations while complying with federal law.
- The DEA's specific authorities and role with controlled substances, hospitals and the practice of medicine.

The webinar is scheduled from 1-2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22.

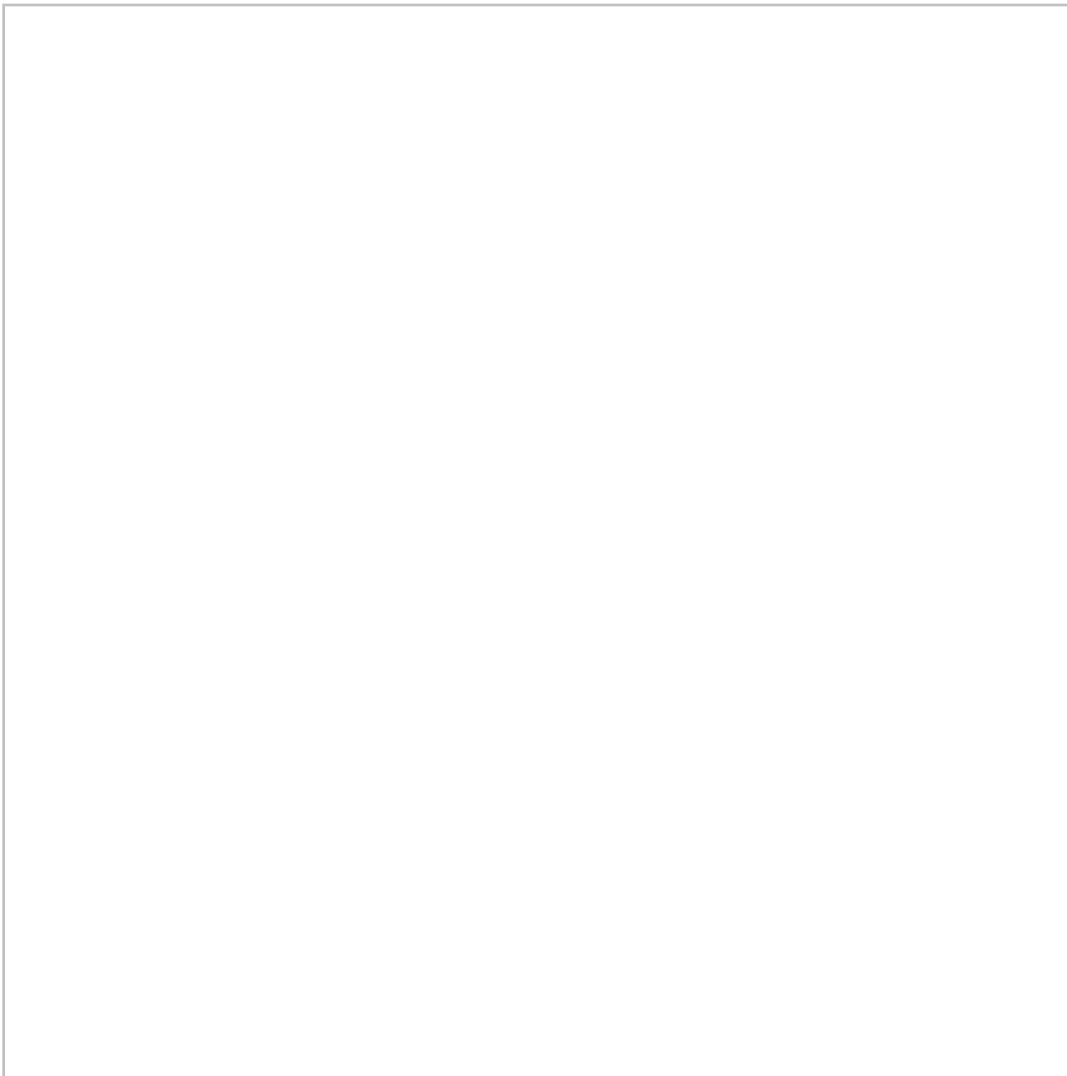
Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

Jeremy Pitzer appointed new CEO of Clive Behavior Health

Jeremy Pitzer was appointed chief executive officer of [Clive Behavioral Health](#) in November 2021. Pitzer has 20 years of progressive experience in behavioral health and served in senior clinical and executive leadership roles the past 12 years. He most recently oversaw a joint venture project in the New Orleans area where he expanded capacity and services to meet community needs.

Pitzer received his bachelor's degree in social work from the University of St Francis and a master's degree in social work from the University of Illinois.



NewsStand

Iowa news

- [Return to Mary Greeley finds exhausted staff](#)
- [Survey shows COVID-19's effects on rural health](#)
- [Iowa nursing homes wrestle with a COVID-19 resurgence that is less severe but still dangerous](#)

National news

- [What to know about BA.2, the newest COVID-19 omicron variant](#)
- [Robot performs first laparoscopic surgery without human help](#)
- [Moderna's omicron booster won't be ready before summer](#)

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

Upcoming events

- [Grant Writing Workshop](#): Tuesday, Feb. 1

- [Critical Access Hospitals' Commonly Cited Deficiencies](#): Tuesday, Feb. 8
- [National Health Care Safety Network Basic Training](#): Thursday, Feb. 10
- [Update on Ligature Risks and Suicide Prevention](#): Thursday, Feb. 17
- [Physician Business Leadership Certification Program](#): Tuesday, Feb. 22 - Tuesday, Aug. 9
- [The Intersection of DEA, Opioids and Hospital Risk](#): Tuesday, Feb. 22
- [2022 Virtual Hospital Day on the Hill](#): Wednesday, Feb. 23
- [Advanced Leadership Academy](#): Wednesday, March 2 - Tuesday, Sept. 20
- [Iowa Rehab Managers Spring Conference](#): Thursday, March 3
- [Critical Access and Rural Hospital Forum](#): Wednesday, March 23
- [Understanding Hospital Board and Medical Staff Responsibilities Under Medicare COPs](#):
Tuesday, April 12
- [Iowa Society for Healthcare Human Resources Administration Spring Conference](#): Thursday,
April 14

Hospital jobs site connects hospitals with qualified candidates

Are you looking for qualified health care professionals for your Iowa hospital? [HospitalCareers.com](https://www.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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