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Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022

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Robb Gardner, Henry County Health Center CEO, announces resignation

Robb Gardner, CEO of [Henry County Health Center](#) and IHA Board of Officers and Trustees treasurer, announced his resignation from the hospital effective June 30. Gardner has been Henry County Health Center's administrator since 2009.

Gardner is actively engaged with IHA's work on behalf of member hospitals and health systems. Besides his role as treasurer of the IHA board, Gardner's involvement includes:

- Chair for the Council on Health Information 2010-present.
- Chair of the IHA Audit and Budget Committee 2021-present.
- Member of the IHA Executive Committee 2021-present.
- District chair 2019-2020

- Member of IHERF Board of Directors from 2012-2015.
- Member of the IHA PAC Committee 2013.

He also was the recipient of IHA's 2021 Excellence in Leadership Award because of his strong advocacy for Henry County Health Center and critical access hospitals statewide.

Gardner will be missed for his involvement and support of IHA. He has helped with countless advocacy efforts, just this week he was speaking about the importance of Iowa's certificate-of-need process at the state capitol.

Gardner will work closely with Henry County Health Center to ensure a smooth transition. Teresa Colgan, chief clinical officer at Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center, was selected as the next Henry County Health Center chief executive officer.



Week five summary

The first legislative funnel is one week away, which means bills are flying through subcommittee and committee meetings in both chambers. By the end of funnel week, a bill must pass out of a committee in one chamber to be viable for the rest of session.

Certificate of need

A bill eliminating the certificate-of-need process for hospitals, [Senate Study Bill 3105](#), was introduced and passed through a Senate subcommittee and full committee and will be headed to the full Senate floor. The IHA advocacy team is continuing to work with legislators and providing additional information about the negative impacts this bill would have for hospitals. Thank you to everyone who responded to the IHA action alerts. We continue to hear from legislators that they heard from their respective hospitals about the issue. Your efforts do not go unnoticed. We also would like to extend a special thank you to the following members for attending the CON subcommittee meeting and speaking about its great significance for hospitals: CEO of [Pella Regional Health Center](#) and Chair of [IHA Board of Officers and Trustees](#) Bob Kroese, CEO of [Knoxville Hospital & Clinics](#) and IHA Board of Officers and Trustees Kevin Kincaid, CEO of [Boone County Hospital](#) Joe Smith, CEO of [UnityPoint Health - Des Moines](#) and IHA Board of Officers and Trustees member David Stark, CEO of [Henry County Health Center](#) and IHA Board of Officers and Trustees Treasurer Robb Gardner, and CEO of [Montgomery County Memorial Hospital](#) Ron Kloewer.

Gov. Reynolds' workforce bill

Gov. Kim Reynolds introduced her large workforce bill, [Senate Study Bill 3123](#) and [House Study Bill 682](#), that includes several provisions for health care professionals. Summarized below, the bill enhances the Rural Iowa Primary Care Loan Repayment Program and the Health Care Loan Repayment Program, which was renamed as the Health Care Award program.

Changes to the Rural Iowa Primary Care Loan Repayment Program:

- Adds advanced registered nurse practitioners and registered nurses to the list of health care professionals who qualify for the program.
- Changes the definition of "eligible institution" to include community colleges.
- Eliminates the Iowa-based residency requirement, allowing part-time practice in a service commitment area to qualify for the program and adds neurology to the list of allowed specialties.

New changes to the Health Care Award Program, formerly the Health Care Loan Repayment Program:

- Allows full-time and part-time practice in the state.
- Qualified applicants no longer must have student loans that need to be repaid – the money can be paid out as an award of up to \$6,000 for a maximum of five consecutive years.
- Requires a part-time nurse educator to also practice as a registered nurse or an advanced registered nurse practitioner to qualify.

Tort reform

The Senate tort reform bill, [Senate Study Bill 3093](#), passed out of subcommittee this week. IHA is still waiting for the House version to hit the floor's debate calendar. An action alert about tort reform was sent last week, and IHA encourages our members to continue to reach out to their legislators to keep tort reform moving. To sign up for IHA action alerts, [click here](#).





Legislation on the move

*Indicates a bill is funnel-proof.

***[HSB 638](#) - Health Worker Employment Agencies**

Companion bill: *[SF 2210](#)

What the bill does: Regulates temporary nursing staff agencies by requiring the agencies to register with the state and makes the agencies responsible for maintaining proper credentials and continuing education.

Sponsor: Rep. [Ann Meyer](#) (R-Fort Dodge) / Sen. [Jeff Edler](#) (R-State Center).

Committee: House Human Resources.

Status: Passed out of both the Senate and House committee.

IHA position: IHA is monitoring this bill.

[SF 2216](#) - Intensive Psychiatric Care

What the bill does: Establishes state intensive psychiatric units at the state mental health institutes.

Sponsor: Sen. [Jeff Edler](#) (R-State Center).

Committee: Senate Human Resources.

Status: Passed out of Senate subcommittee.

IHA position: IHA is monitoring the status of this bill.

***[HF 2291](#) - Midwife Licensing**

What the bill does: Requires practicing midwives to hold a license by July 2023, establishes requirements and a board, and limits the liability of health care providers

who accept transfers of patients from midwives.

Sponsor: Rep. [Bobby Kaufmann](#) (R-Wilton).

Committee: House State Government and House Ways and Means.

Status: Passed out of the State Government subcommittee and committee and referred to the Ways and Means Committee.

IHA Position: IHA is not supportive of this bill because of safety and quality concerns.

[HSB 650](#) - Prior Authorization

What the bill does: Prohibits a utilization review committee from limiting or revoking a prior authorization after the health care service has been provided.

Sponsor: Rep. [Shannon Lundgren](#) (R-Peosta).

Committee: House Commerce.

Status: Passed a House subcommittee.

IHA Position: IHA is supportive of this bill because it will simplify the prior-authorization process.

***[SSB 3118](#) - Newborn Screenings**

Companion bill: [HSB 663](#)

What the bill does: Codifies rules on the Congenital and Inherited Disorders Advisory Committee. Requires the advisory committee to recommend to the Iowa Department of Health if new conditions identified by the federal government should be added to the screening panel for newborns.

Sponsor: Sen. [Jeff Edler](#) (R-State Center) / Rep. [Ann Meyer](#) (R-Fort Dodge).

Committee: Senate Human Resources.

Status: Passed out of House and Senate subcommittees.

IHA position: IHA is monitoring the status of this bill.

[SSB 3128](#) - 340B Drug Program

What the bill does: Prohibits group health plans, other health insurers, third-party administrators and pharmacy benefits managers from discriminating against a contract pharmacy or to impose certain terms solely because a contract pharmacy participates in the 340B drug program.

Sponsor: Sen. [Jason Schultz](#) (R-Schleswig).

Committee: Senate Commerce.

Status: Passed a Senate subcommittee.

IHA Position: IHA is supportive of this bill because it will provide some protections for the 340B program.

[HF 2267](#) - Newborn Infant

What the bill does: Increases the age of a baby eligible to be dropped off under the newborn safe act to 60 days.

Sponsor: Rep. [Jon Jacobsen](#) (R-Council Bluffs).

Committee: House Human Resources.

Status: Passed a House subcommittee.

IHA Position: IHA is monitoring this legislation.

[SSB 3116](#) - Mental Health/Disability Services Funding

What the bill does: Allows the cash reserves for a mental health/disability services combined regional account to reach 10% before being disqualified from receiving funding from the mental health/disability services incentive fund.

Sponsor: Sen. [Jeff Edler](#) (R-State Center).

Committee: Senate Human Resources.

Status: Passed out of subcommittee.

IHA position: IHA is monitoring this bill.

[SF 2159](#) - Assaults on Social Workers

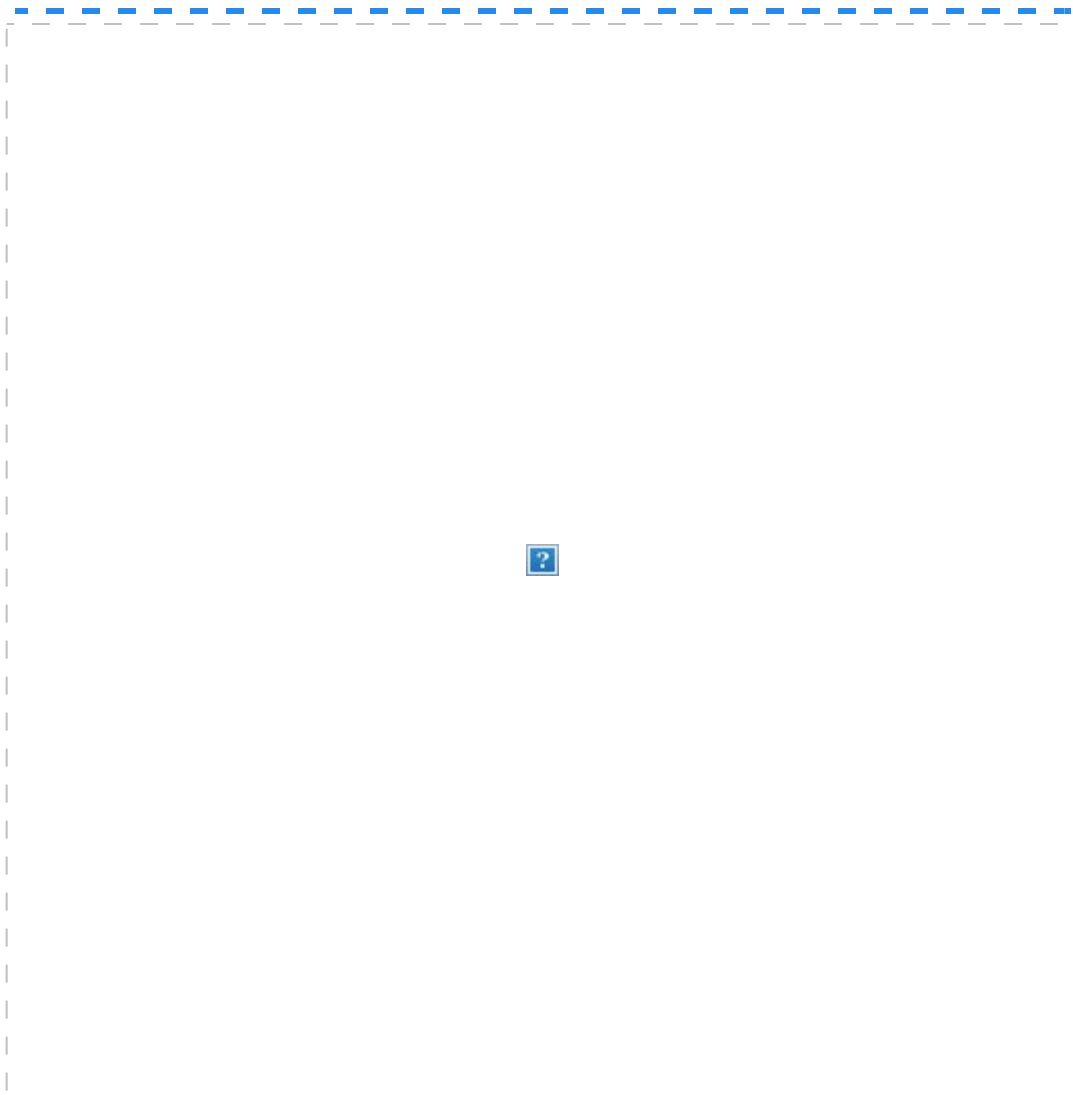
What the bill does: Applies specific penalties to an assault on a social worker under certain circumstances.

Sponsor: Sen. [Joe Bolcom](#) (D-Iowa City).

Committee: Senate Judiciary.

Status: Passed out of subcommittee.

IHA position: IHA is monitoring this bill.

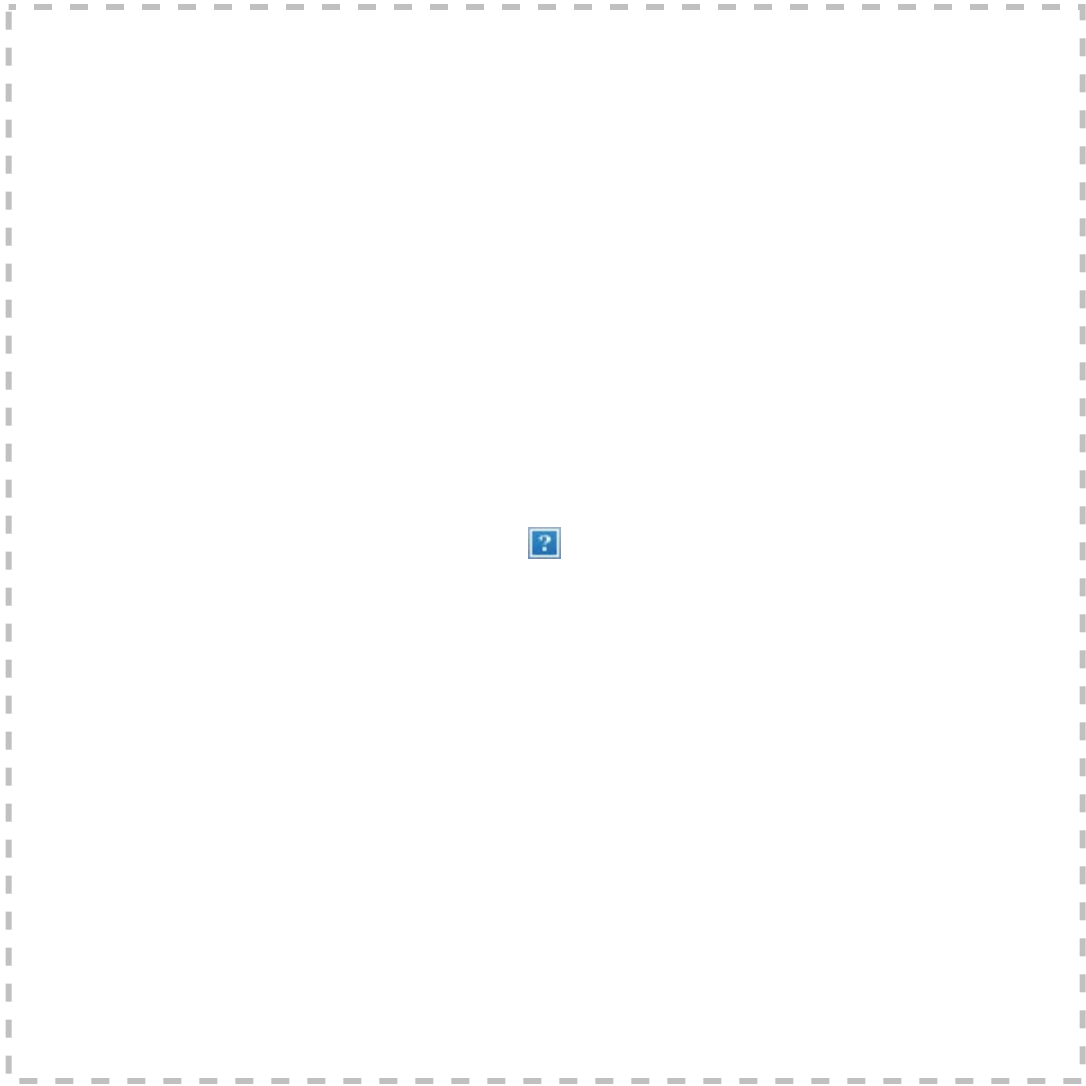


Listen to IHA's Capitol Update

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, Feb 12

- 8-9 a.m. - Creston Legislative Forum, Creston City Hall.
- 8:30-9:30 a.m. - Oskaloosa Eggs and 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.
- 10-11 a.m. - Corning Legislative Forum, Corning Public Library.
- 10-11 a.m. - Denison Legislative Forum, Bake Shop and Hollywood Café.
- 11 a.m.-noon - Frederika Legislative Town Hall, Frederika Community Center Community Room.

Sunday, Feb 13

- 11 a.m.-noon - Readlyn Legislative Town Hall, Readlyn Library.

Friday, Feb 18

- 2-3:15 p.m. - Iowa City Legislative Forum, North Liberty Police Department.
- 7:30-9 a.m. - Burlington Eggs and Issues Forum, Greater Burlington Partnership.

Saturday, Feb 19

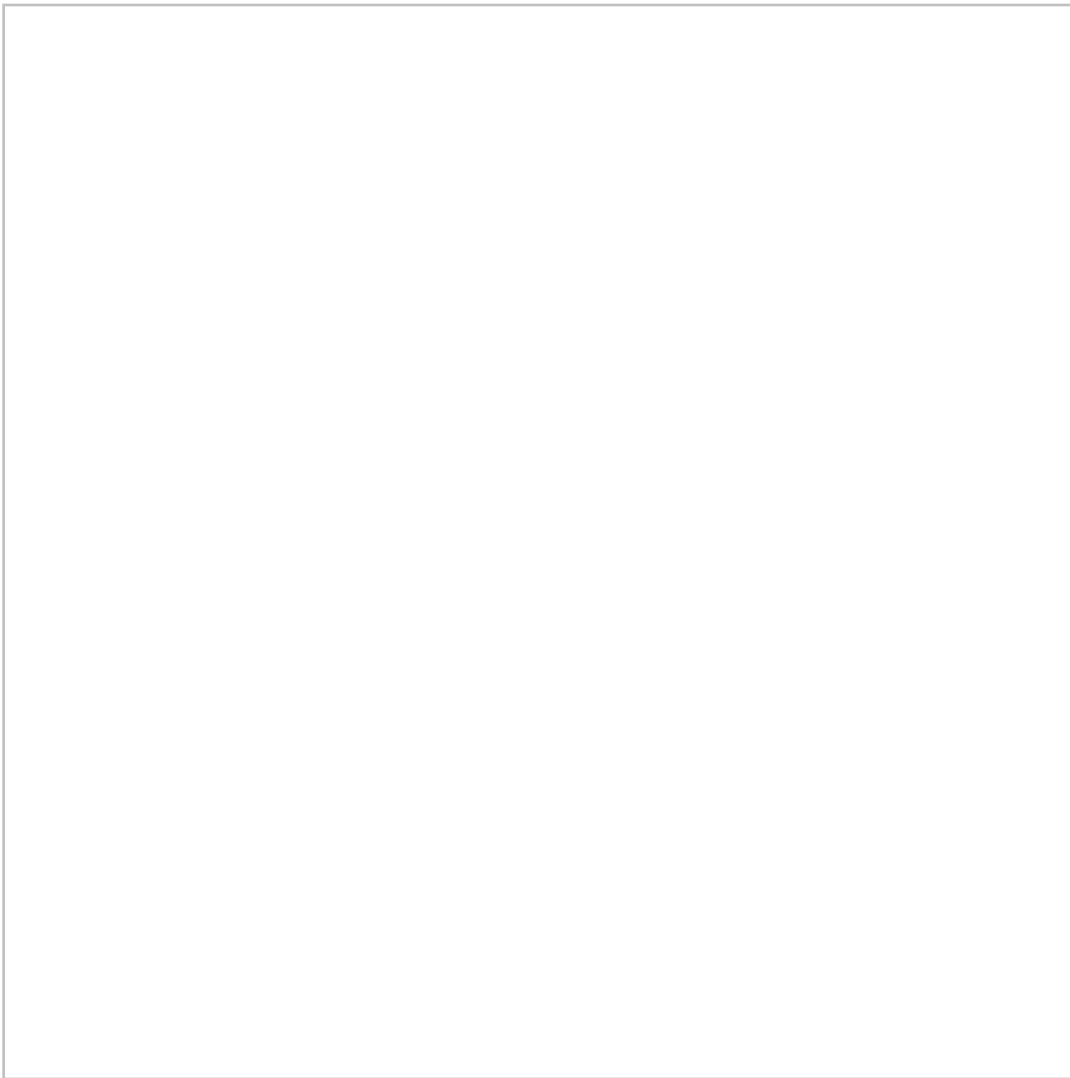
- 7:30-9 a.m. - Fairfield Legislative Forum, Fairfield Arts and Convention Center.
- 9-10:30 a.m. - Spencer Legislative Forum, Spencer City Hall, Council Chambers.
- 9-10 a.m. - Janesville Town Hall, Janesville City Hall.
- 10-11:30 a.m. - Cedar Rapids Virtual Legislative Forum, [Virtual Link](#).
- 10-11 a.m. - Carroll Legislative Forum, Location TBD.
- 10 a.m.-noon - Washington Legislative Briefing, Washington County Courthouse.
- 10:30 a.m.-noon - Bettendorf Legislative Forum, Lulac Club or [Virtual Link](#).
- 11 a.m.-noon - Tripoli Town Hall, Tripoli Library.

Saturday, Feb 25

- Noon-1:30 p.m. - Council Bluffs Legislative Roundtable, Council Bluffs Public Library.

Saturday, Feb 26

- 8-9:30 a.m. - Rock Rapids Eggs and Issues Forum, Frontier Bank Basement.
 - 8:30-9:30 a.m. - Oskaloosa Eggs and Issues Forum, Smokey Row Coffee.
 - 9-10 a.m. - Clinton Legislative Coffee, Clinton Area Chamber of Commerce.
 - 10-11 a.m. - Clarinda Legislative Briefing, Clarinda Lied Public Library.
 - 10:30 a.m.-noon - Urbandale Talk With Officials, Urbandale Chamber of Commerce Office.
 - 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. - DeWitt Legislative Coffee, DeWitt Community Center.
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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](#)





Board of Medicine announces grace period for medical licensing requirements

Gov. Kim Reynolds recently announced the [state's emergency proclamation will end at 11:50 p.m. Feb. 15](#). While the proclamation is in effect, Iowa rules allowed physicians who hold active medical licenses in other states to practice medicine in Iowa without obtaining an Iowa medical license. When the emergency ends, normal licensure requirements will apply.

To avoid disruptions to staffing and patient care, the Iowa Board of Medicine is authorizing a 90-day grace period to resume compliance with Iowa licensure requirements. Starting Feb. 16, physicians practicing medicine in Iowa based on the emergency proclamation will have until May 17 (90 days) to obtain proper licensure. Physicians can submit an online application [HERE](#).

Contact [Kent Nebel](#) at 515-281-7088.

Click [HERE](#) to read more.

IDPH provides pediatric vaccine info in anticipation of FDA approval

To prepare for the potential emergency-use authorization of a Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric COVID-19 vaccine series for children 6 months to 4 years old, the Iowa Department of Public Health is providing information to help health care providers for

a future rollout. This includes information about:

- Pediatric ancillary kits.
- Pfizer pediatric vaccine formulation.
- Vaccine storage and handling.

Click [HERE](#) to read more.

The Food and Drug Administration is [delaying the Feb. 15 virtual meeting](#) of its vaccine and related biological products advisory committee where members would have discussed the vaccine. The FDA said Pfizer told the agency new data recently emerged and more time is needed to evaluate it.

Pediatric Pfizer vaccinations for children 6 months to 4 years old cannot begin until after FDA emergency-use authorization approval and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommendations are signed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's director.

New HCPCS code for convalescent plasma in the outpatient setting

On Dec. 28, the Food and Drug Administration revised the [emergency-use authorization](#) for COVID-19 convalescent plasma with high titers of anti-SARS-CoV-2 antibodies. It is authorized for the treatment of COVID-19 in patients with immunosuppressive disease or getting immunosuppressive treatment in both outpatient and inpatient settings.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services created HCPCS code C9507 for convalescent plasma for use in the outpatient setting, effective on or after Dec. 28:

- Long descriptor: Fresh frozen plasma, high titer COVID-19 convalescent, frozen within eight hours of collection, each unit.
- Short descriptor: COVID-19 convalescent plasma.

For billing and payment information, click [HERE](#).

Registration open for two-part series about No Surprises Act

The federal No Surprises Act went into effect Jan. 1. The two-part webinar The No Surprises Act Is Here: Compliance Obligations and Strategic Planning for Hospitals will discuss the immediate obligations for hospitals and other providers.

Topics discussed will include:

- Notice and consent requirements for when care is provided by out-of-network clinicians at in-network facilities.
- Obligations to provide good faith estimates for self-pay and uninsured patients.
- Rules about emergency services and post-stabilization care at hospitals or freestanding emergency departments.

The webinar is scheduled from 9-10 a.m. Wednesday, March 2 and March 9.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

SUNRx hosting 340B webinar series

Conditions imposed by some drug companies on the 340B drug pricing program statute created some financial challenges for organizations. While waiting for the file appeal from the Department of Health and Human Services, organizations must continue to optimize their 340B claims capture programs.

ServiShare partner SUNRx will host a webinar series to help organizations manage their 340B claims capture strategy. Topics discussed include:

- Current environment.
- Evaluating 340B claims capture.
- Implementing quality standards to make sure programs remain compliant.
- Questions about claims capture for 340B programs.

The webinar is scheduled from 1-2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15.

Click [HERE](#) to read more.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

NewsStand

Iowa news

- [Woodbury County's 14-day positivity rate for COVID-19 tests drops from 24.2% to 15.1%](#)
- [Speakers decry mask, vaccine mandates at legislative hearing](#)
- [New reported COVID-19 cases in Iowa drop by 44%](#)

National news

- [Hospitals plead with Congress to tackle workforce shortages](#)
- [If 1 in 5 health care workers have quit, where have they gone?](#)
- [In unvaccinated pregnant women, COVID-19 can cause deadly harm to babies](#)

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

Upcoming events

- [Update on Ligature Risks and Suicide Prevention](#): Thursday, Feb. 17
- [Physician Business Leadership Certification Program](#): Tuesday, Feb. 22 - Tuesday, Aug. 9
- [Housing as Health Care: Addressing Social Determinants of Health Through Real Estate](#): Tuesday, Feb. 22
- [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

- [The No Surprise Act is Here: Compliance Obligations and Strategic Planning for Hospitals:](#) Wednesday, March 2 - Wednesday, March 9
- [Iowa Rehab Managers Spring Conference:](#) Thursday, March 3
- [The Art of the Interview:](#) Tuesday, March 8
- [Iowa Hospital Auxilian and Volunteer Conference:](#) Wednesday, March 9
- [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
- [IHA Governance Forum:](#) Friday, April 22 - Saturday, April 23
- [Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act \(EMTALA\) Series:](#) Wednesday, May 11 - Wednesday, May 25
- [Workplace Violence Program Workshop:](#) Thursday, June 30 - Thursday, Aug. 18

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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