

Click [here](#) if you are having trouble viewing this message.



Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022

Legislative Bulletin:

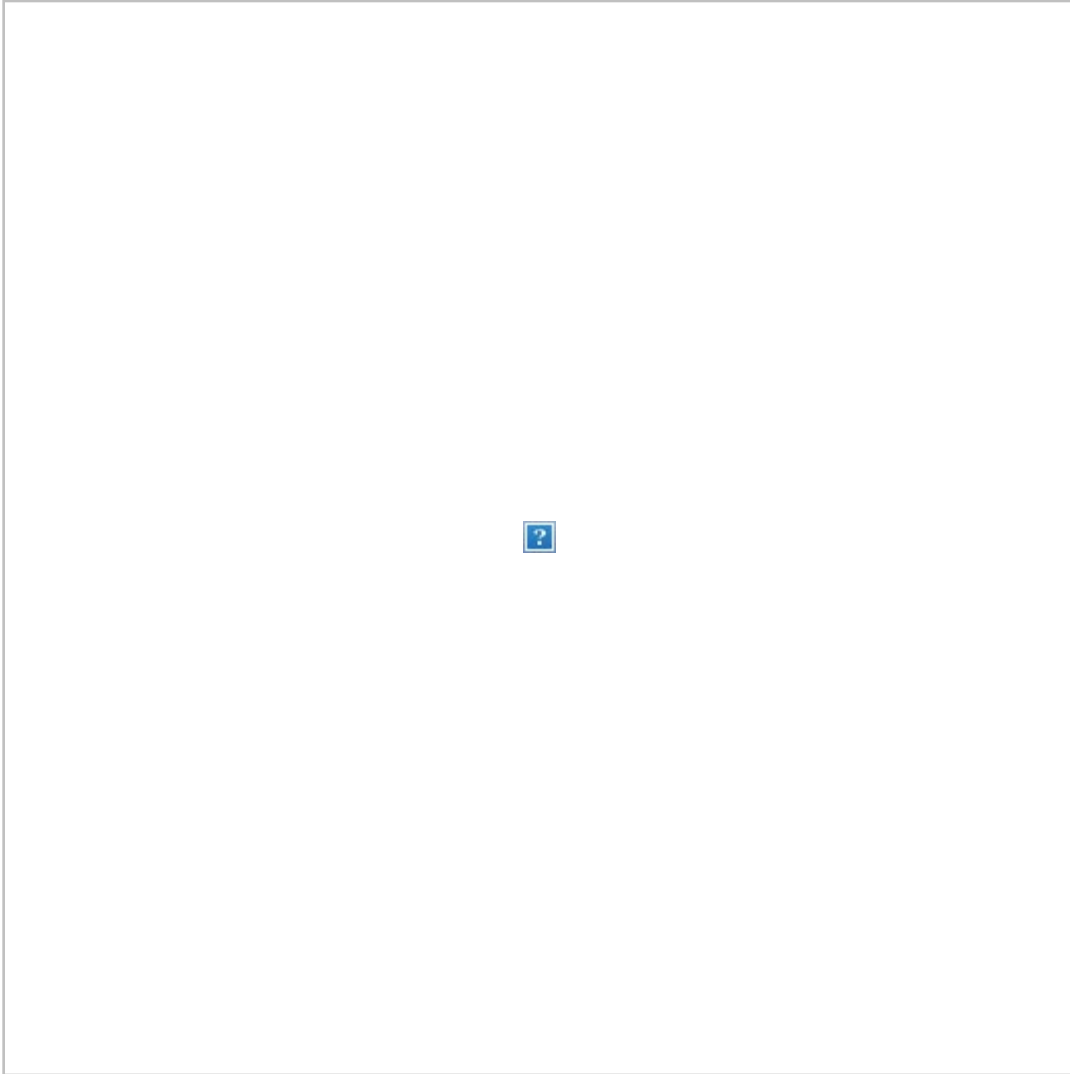
- [Week No. 6 summary](#)
- [Legislation on the move](#)
- [Legislative forums scheduled](#)
- [How to stay in the know](#)

Today's headlines:

- [Brooks Jackson, University of Iowa Health Care VP, stepping down](#)
- [CMS to host no surprises billing open door forum](#)
- [HHS releases guides to protect health sector from cyberthreats](#)

COVID-19 resources:

- [Pfizer transitioning to new vaccine temperature monitoring device](#)
- [CMS creates new codes for bebtelovimab](#)



Week No. 6 summary

The first legislative funnel week of 2022 has come to an end. Funnel weeks are self-imposed deadlines set by the legislature to keep bills moving forward in a timely manner. If a bill did not make it through at least one full committee in the chamber by Feb. 17, it is considered dead and cannot continue in the legislative process. Exceptions to the funnel deadlines include bills that go through the Appropriations and Ways and Means committees.

The next legislative deadline for bills to remain viable is the second funnel, which is scheduled for Friday, March 18. To remain viable, bills will need to pass through a committee in the opposite chamber from where they were introduced. Below is an at-a-glance look at what hospital issues survived the first funnel and which did not. Click [HERE](#) to view a complete list of bills IHA is following that are alive and dead.

As session continues into the seventh week, the IHA advocacy team expects to see movement on these bills and will keep our members updated through IHA Action Alerts. As always, your responses to these alerts are critical to our success at the Capitol, and we greatly appreciate your outreach. To receive IHA action alerts, [click here](#).

Below is a recap of IHA's top legislative priorities and where they stand in the

legislative process:

Workforce

This week, Gov. Kim Reynolds' workforce bill passed through a committee in both chambers. [Senate Study Bill 3123](#) and the companion [House Study Bill 682](#) include several provisions for health care professionals including enhancing the Rural Iowa Primary Care Loan Repayment Program and the Health Care Loan Repayment Program, which was renamed the Health Care Awards Program.

A bill establishing the mental health professional loan repayment program through the College Student Aid Commission is scheduled to hit the Senate floor. [Senate File 2195](#) aims to expand the behavioral health workforce by offsetting student loan costs. Likewise, [HF 2137](#) creates a similar program for mental health prescribers. Both bills are funnel-proof and prepared for the House floor.

Finally, legislation requiring health care employment agencies to register with the Department of Inspections and Appeals, [Senate File 2210](#) and [House File 2371](#), both passed out of committee in their respective chambers. The House bill also was reassigned to the House Ways and Means Committee for legislators to continue work on it.

Medical malpractice reform

Gov. Reynolds' tort reform bills, [Senate File 2275](#) and [House File 2279](#), both passed committees in their respective chambers. As a reminder, these bills would place a cap of \$1 million on noneconomic damages in medical malpractice cases. This is an issue IHA has been working on for several years and is pleased to see it move forward to both the House and Senate floors. IHA will continue to follow and advocate for the passage of these bills.

Certificate of need

Earlier this month, legislators in the Senate introduced legislation that would eliminate the certificate-of-need process except for long-term care. [Senate File 2255](#) was reviewed in a subcommittee and full committee, making it funnel-proof. The bill is expected to be amended during floor debate, and IHA has not yet seen the amendment. IHA is opposed to the bill and continues to push back against it. Watch for action alerts in the coming days and stay in close contact with your senators to share concerns and the importance of the certificate-of-need program.

Medicaid/Fiscal issues

Work on Medicaid and fiscal issues will increase as legislators turn their attention to budgets. Additionally, legislation from last year about the timeline for recoupment of overpayments on Medicaid claims is still eligible for review because it passed the House. IHA will continue to advocate for this bill and provide updates as they develop.

This week, legislators worked on legislation about maternal health and postpartum care. A provision in [Senate Study Bill 3145](#) details the length of time a woman can remain on Medicaid following the birth of a child. The bill originally extended the Medicaid coverage for postpartum care to six months. During the subcommittee meeting, as urged by several advocates including hospitals, the language was changed to provide coverage for 12 months postpartum. IHA was pleased with this change because it will ensure that patients can receive care when they need it.

Legislators also worked on a bill that would prohibit a utilization review committee from limiting or revoking a prior authorization after the health care service has been provided. [House File 2399](#) was passed by the House Commerce Committee and is eligible to be debated on the House floor.

The last notable work on Medicaid concerns eligibility. [House File 2438](#) will require the Department of Human Services to use an identity authentication process that requires a public-assistance applicant to complete a knowledge-based questionnaire about financial matters and report the impact to the legislature. IHA has been monitoring this bill and the combination of bills that lead to HF 2438.

Behavioral health

Legislators continued to keep behavioral health a priority and have a deep understanding of its intricacies. An IHA-supported bill, [House File 2125](#), passed through a House committee and has been rereferred back to the House Appropriations Committee because it has a fiscal component. This bill reimburses psychiatric intensive inpatient care under the Medicaid program. The IHA advocacy team is working with several hospitals to provide feedback about reimbursement rates for this care and is grateful to those who have helped keep this bill moving forward.

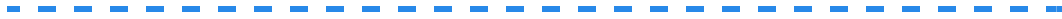
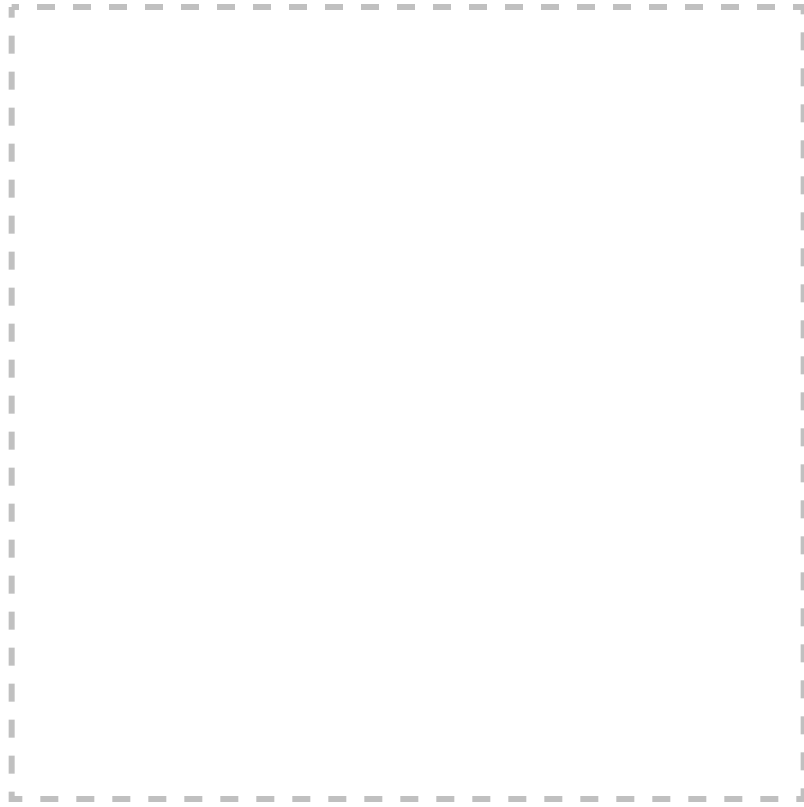
Legislation about intensive psychiatric care passed through a Senate committee and is also funnel-proof. [Senate File 2216](#) requires the Department of Human Services to create 12 intensive psychiatric units at each state mental health institute for children and adults. IHA supports this legislation.

Rural emergency hospital designation

The IHA advocacy team is diligently working to educate legislators and to introduce legislation for rural emergency hospitals licensure. Unfortunately, legislation was not introduced in time for the first funnel. There are still opportunities for licensure language to be included in a bill, and IHA will continue to work with legislators to ensure that happens.

Other significant bills introduced this week

Legislators in the House introduced a bill, [House Study Bill 723](#), that would require all hospitals in the state to participate in the Iowa Health Information Network and contract with the designated entity. Hospitals had concerns about the entities required to participate and the lack of price caps in contracts with the designated entity. HSB 723 was approved by a subcommittee and committee with an amendment addressing the concerns. IHA will continue to monitor the bill and provide feedback to make further improvements.



Legislation on the move

**Indicates a funnel proof bill*

***Tiered psychiatric reimbursements - [SSB 3144](#)**

What the bill does: Reimburses psychiatric intensive inpatient care under the Medicaid program.

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

Committee: Senate Human Resources.

Status: Passed out of subcommittee.

IHA position: IHA is supportive of expanding behavioral health services for patients with highly complex needs.

Sepsis protocols - [HF 2041](#)

What the bill does: Reimburses psychiatric intensive inpatient care under the Medicaid program.

Sponsor: Rep. [Steven Bradley](#) (R-Cascade).

Committee: House Human Resources.

Status: The bill did not pass subcommittee.

IHA position: IHA is supportive of hospitals being allowed to maintain their sepsis protocols.

***County hospital trustees - [HF 2143](#)**

What the bill does: Allows the trustees of a county hospital to receive compensation for services performed as a trustee.

Sponsor: Rep. [Robert Bacon](#) (R-Slater).

Committee: House Local Government.

Status: Passed out of committee.

IHA position: IHA supports this bill and any efforts to expand and support hospitals and hospital trustees.

***Government meetings - [HSB 663](#)**

Companion bill: [SSB 3118](#)

What the bill does: Allows governmental bodies to conduct meetings electronically if certain requirements are met.

Sponsor: Rep. [Jane Bloomingdale](#) (R-Northwood).

Committee: House Local Government.

Status: Passed out of House committee, awaiting Senate subcommittee.

IHA position: IHA supports this bill and any efforts to expand and support hospitals and hospital trustees.

Noncompete agreements - [HF 2233](#)

What the bill does: Makes a contract between someone licensed to practice medicine and surgery, osteopathic medicine and surgery, or pharmacy and a prior employer of the licensee that limits the location where the licensee may practice or prohibits the licensee from contracting for professional services someone previously treated by the licensee (noncompete agreement) unenforceable in the state.

Sponsor: Rep. [Cherielynn Westrich](#) (R-Ottumwa).

Committee: House State Government.

Status: This bill did not pass the subcommittee.

IHA position: IHA is monitoring the bill.

COVID-19 immunity - [SF 2030](#)

What the bill does: Requires an entity that mandates COVID-19 vaccination to accept proof of immunity as an exception to the vaccine mandate.

Sponsor: Sen. [Jim Carlin](#) (R-Sioux City).

Committee: Senate Human Resources.

Status: This bill did not pass subcommittee.

IHA position: IHA is monitoring the bill





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 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.

Friday, Feb 25

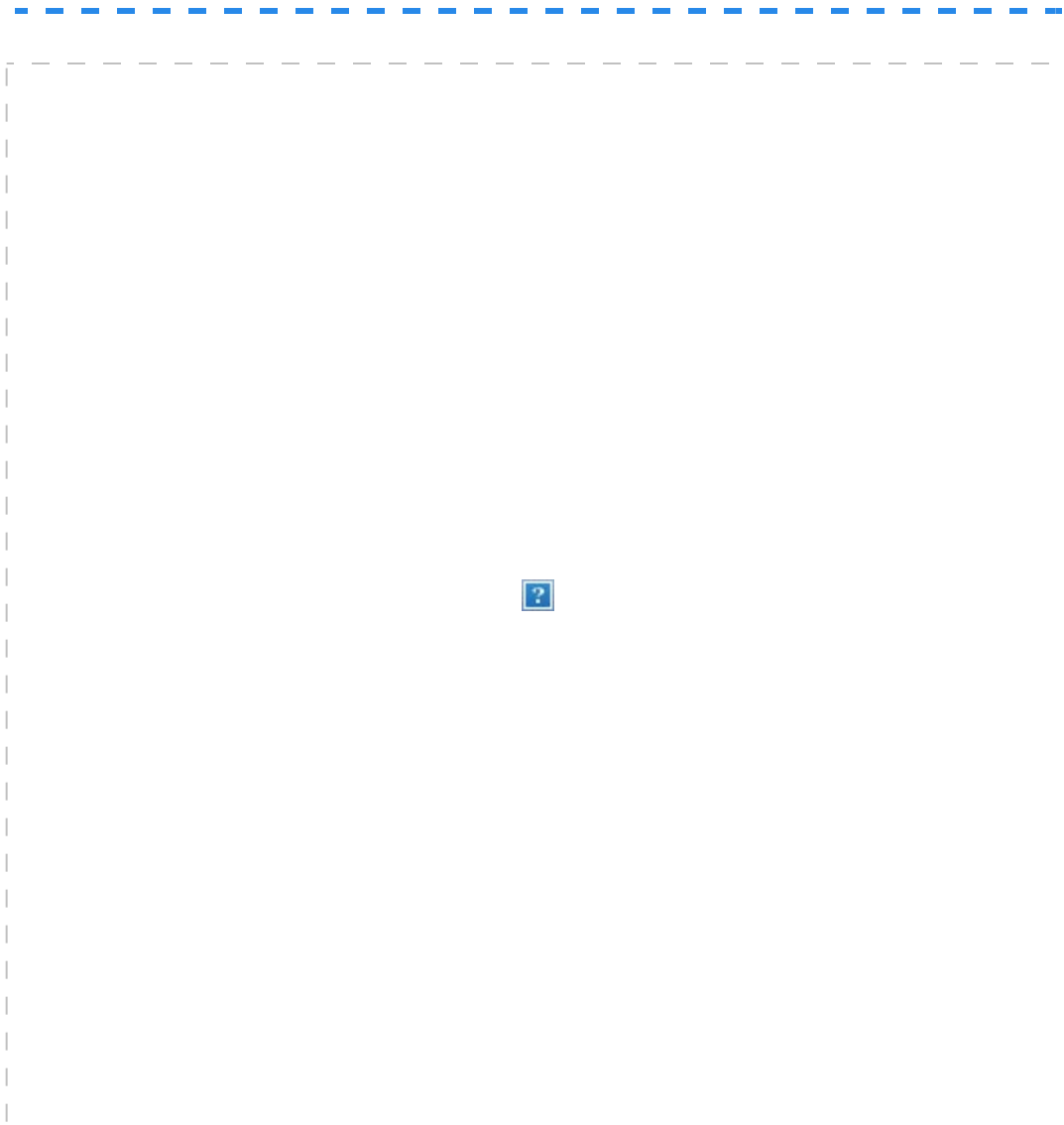
- Noon-1:30 p.m. - Council Bluffs Legislative Roundtable, Council Bluffs Public Library.

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.

Saturday, March 5

- 8-10:30am - Emmetsburg Chamber of Commerce.



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](#)
-



Brooks Jackson, University of Iowa Health Care VP, stepping down

Brooks Jackson, University of Iowa vice president for medical affairs and dean of the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, is stepping down after four years of leading the university's \$1.2 billion health care operation.

During his tenure at the University of Iowa, Jackson led the largest multispecialty physician group practice in Iowa, with a total impact of more than \$4 billion on Iowa's economy, employing more than 33,000. He is an internationally recognized AIDS researcher, including principal investigator of the National Institutes of Health-funded International Maternal Pediatric Adolescent AIDS Clinical Trials Network.

Jackson will remain on faculty to pursue research. He will serve in leadership roles until a successor is found.

Click [HERE](#) to read more.

CMS to host no surprises billing open door forum

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will provide information about No Surprises Act rules to health care providers and facilities in its next open door forum. CMS will discuss:

- Balance-billing disclosure requirements.
- Protections for certain continuing care patients whose plans terminate contracts with providers.
- Requirements to protect patients and improve the accuracy of provider directory information.

The forum is scheduled from 1-2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 23 and will be a conference call. To join, dial 888-373-4993. No passcode is needed.

Information about free auxiliary aids and services can be found [HERE](#) and slides for the forum can be found [HERE](#).

HHS releases guides to protect health sector from cyberthreats

Health care organizations need to be more diligent than ever to protect themselves and their patients from increasing cyber security threats. With recent threats like the [Apache Log4j vulnerability](#) and [LockBit 2.0 ransomware](#), the Department of Health and Human Services [405\(d\) program and task force](#) released infographics and guidance to help health care organizations secure their networks.

The information includes:

- Areas of vulnerability.
- Best practices.
- Current five threats to health organizations.
- Glossary of terms.
- Links to quick start guides.

Access the information [HERE](#).



Pfizer transitioning to new vaccine temperature monitoring device

Pfizer vaccine shippers are transitioning to an updated data logger from Controlant. Key improvements to the new device, called SAGA Logger, include:

- 150 days of backup storage when no cloud is available.
- Enhanced location accuracy with Wi-Fi.
- Improved data transmission capability.
- Interactive LCD display with an improved user interface.
- Longer battery life.
- Use of 4G cellular networks.

Pfizer will host training sessions for health care providers.

Click [HERE](#) to read more, including a list of training sessions for February and March.

CMS creates new codes for bebtelovimab

On Feb. 11, the [Food and Drug Administration authorized](#) the emergency use of the monoclonal antibody bebtelovimab for the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 in adult and pediatric patients who:

- Are at high-risk of severe COVID-19.
- Have a positive COVID-19 test.
- Do not have access to or are clinically inappropriate for other FDA-approved treatment options..

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services created new codes for bebtelovimab, effective Feb. 11.

Q0222

- Long descriptor: Injection, bebtelovimab, 175 mg.
- Short descriptor: Bebtelovimab 175.

M0222

- Long descriptor: Intravenous injection, bebtelovimab, includes injection and post-administration monitoring.
- Short descriptor: Bebtelovimab injection.

M0223

- Long descriptor: Intravenous injections, bebtelovimab, includes injection and post-administration monitoring in the home or residence; this includes a beneficiary's home that has been made provider-based to the hospital during the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Short descriptor: Babelovimab injection home.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

NewsStand

Iowa news

- [Should unvaccinated people be denied health care?](#)
- [UnityPoint Health names Joiner chief diversity officer](#)
- [COVID-19 surge continues downward](#)

National news

- [Woman is cured of HIV using a novel treatment](#)
- [Why some Chicago hospitals aren't requiring front-line workers to get COVID-19 boosters](#)
- [Record number of patients caught COVID-19 in hospitals last month](#)

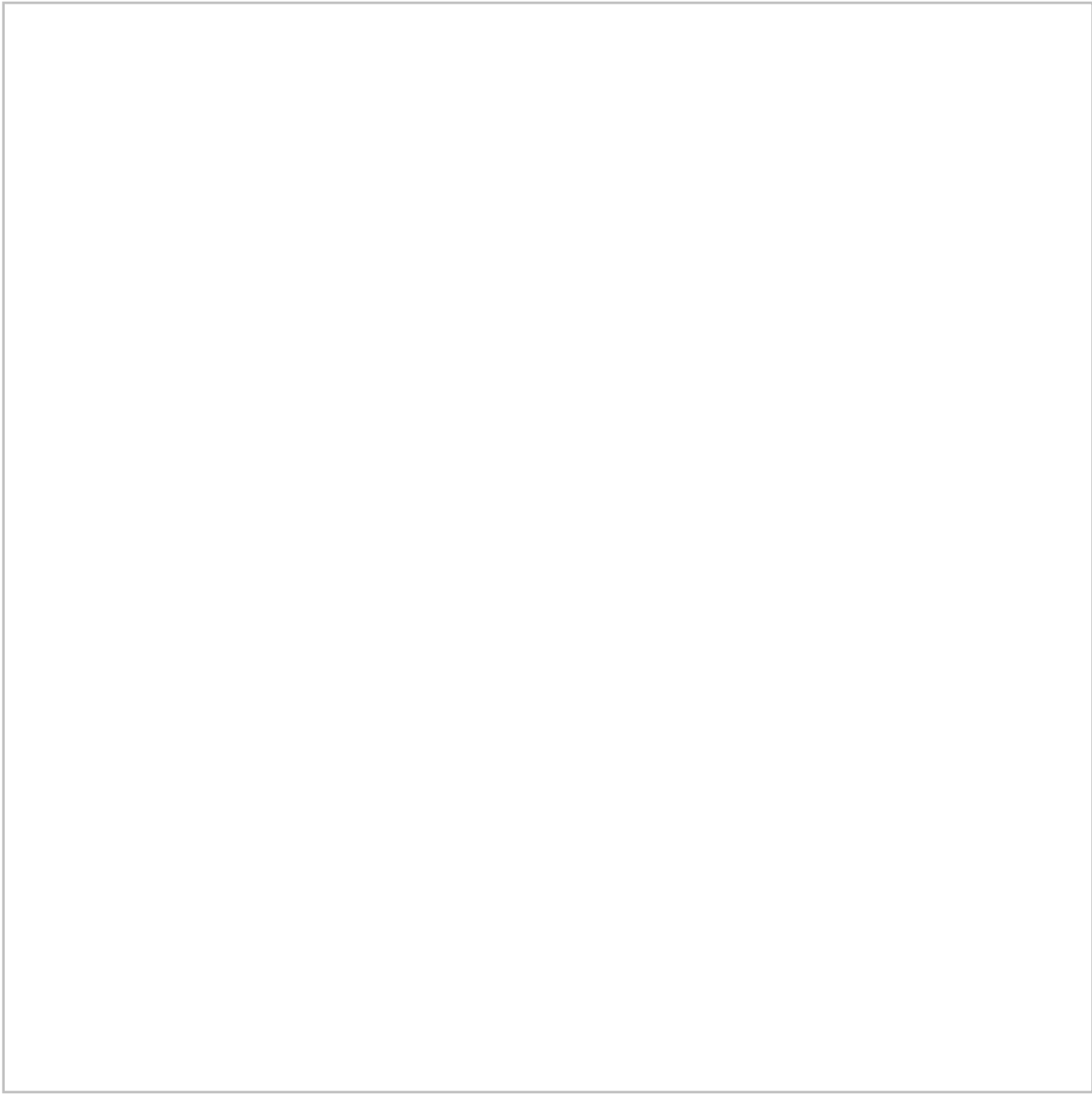
Click [HERE](#) to read daily NewsStand postings.

Upcoming events

- [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
- [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.



100 EAST GRAND, SUITE 100, DES MOINES, IA 50309-1835 | P 515.288.1955 F 515.283.9366 |
WWW.IHAONLINE.ORG

Click [here](#) to unsubscribe or to change your Subscription Preferences.