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Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Today's headlines:

- [Second funnel week of 2022 legislative session begins](#)
- [Second installment of 'I've Had It' COVID-19 vaccine campaign released](#)
- [Federal funding extended](#)
- [Emergency-use authorization for monoclonal antibody Evusheld revised](#)
- [CMS updates COVID-19 telehealth billing services](#)

Second funnel week of 2022 legislative session begins

This week is the second funnel week in the Iowa Legislature. Funnel weeks are self-imposed deadlines set by the Legislature to usher bills through the legislative process to keep session on track. IHA's advocacy team is following bills that affect Iowa hospitals to ensure IHA's legislative priorities are moving forward. For a full list of tracked bills and IHA's stance on each bill, click [HERE](#).

The IHA advocacy team will release a special Capitol Update video in the Tuesday,

March 22, edition of IHA Today with a breakdown of the second funnel week.

Email [Erin Cubit](#) at IHA with questions.

Second installment of 'I've Had It' COVID-19 vaccine campaign released

"I've Had It," a promotional campaign developed by IHA that encourages Iowans to get their COVID-19 vaccinations, began last month throughout Iowa. The second ad in the series features Sonia Sather, M.D., a hospitalist with Spencer Hospital. Dr. Sather talks about her experiences caring for COVID-19 patients and what she tells them about getting the vaccine as soon as possible. Read her story [HERE](#) and watch her interview below.

IHA has placed this campaign in print and on television, radio and online. The campaign is funded by a grant from the Iowa Department of Public Health.

The first installment of the "I've Had It" series featured Amy and Mark Lyness of Manchester. Both chose not to get the COVID-19 vaccine, and both were infected with the virus last year. Watch their interview [HERE](#).

Email [Craig Borchard](#) at IHA if you are interested in having the campaign personalized with your logo for use in your market.



Federal funding extended

The [\\$1.5 trillion omnibus appropriations bill](#) signed into law last weekend funds the federal government through the end of the fiscal year and includes provisions affecting hospitals and health systems:

- Allocates \$5 million to support the Rural Emergency Hospital Technical Assistance Program.
- Enables hospitals to maintain their 340B/disproportionate share hospital adjustment percentage if they lost that status during the public health emergency.
- Extends Medicare telehealth flexibilities for five months after the public health emergency ends.
- Improves child and maternal care, includes workforce training support, and addresses health inequity, telehealth, care coordination and data sharing.
- Increases Health and Human Services mental health and substance-use disorder programs by 8.9% (\$6.54 billion).
- Increases Health and Human Services workforce programs 5.9% (\$1.3 billion).

IHA advocated to extend the Medicare sequester moratorium preventing cuts to Medicare payments. However, it was not included and will be phased in on Friday, April 1, at 1% through Thursday, June 30. IHA will continue to provide updates.

COVID-19 preparedness funding also was not included in the bill.

Click [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) for summaries

Emergency-use authorization for monoclonal antibody Evusheld revised

The Food and Drug Administration revised the emergency-use authorization for tixagevimab co-packaged with cilgavimab, Evusheld, to change the initial dose for the authorized use as preexposure prophylaxis of COVID-19 in certain adults and pediatric patients.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services [created a new code](#) to account for the revised emergency-use authorization, Q0221, effective Feb. 24:

- Long descriptor: Injection, tixagevimab and cilgavimab, for the pre-exposure prophylaxis only, for certain adults and pediatric individuals (12 years of age and older weighing at least 40kg) with no known sars-cov-2 exposure, who either have moderate to severely compromised immune systems or for whom vaccination with any available covid-19 vaccine is not recommended due to a history of severe adverse reaction to a covid-19 vaccine(s) and/or covid-19 vaccine component(s), 600 mg
- Short descriptor: Tixagev and cilgav, 600mg

CMS will continue to use the existing administration codes M0220 and M0221.

Click [HERE](#) for more information about dosing for patients.

COVID-19 telehealth billing update begins April 1

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services added a new billing place of service for telehealth-covered services on an interim period for the COVID-19 public health emergency. The new billing place of service identifies when people receive services by telehealth in their homes. The Iowa Department of Human Services will adopt the billing place of service on April 1.

Providers will bill the applicable health care common procedure coding system/current procedural terminology codes with place of service code 02 (telehealth) if the Medicaid member receives services anywhere other than home. Place of service code 10 (telehealth patient in home) will be used if a member is at home.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

NewsStand

Iowa news

- [5 charts show how Iowa's 2nd year of the pandemic compared to its first](#)
- [Iowa marks second anniversary of COVID-19](#)
- [Iowans' support for any vaccine requirements in schools erodes](#)

National news

- [There's a big caveat in Congress' telehealth expansion](#)
- [Merck antiviral used more than expected](#)
- [Telehealth app Cerebral could be fueling addiction crisis](#)

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

Upcoming events

- [You're the New Leader: Now What?](#): Tuesday, March 22
- [Critical Access and Rural Hospital Forum](#): Wednesday, March 23
- [Understanding Hospital Board and Medical Staff Responsibilities Under Medicare COPs](#): Tuesday, April 12
- [Iowa Association for Healthcare Quality Spring Conference](#): Wednesday, April 13
- [Iowa Society for Healthcare Human Resources Administration Spring Conference](#): Thursday, April 14
- [Delegate More to Achieve More](#): Tuesday, April 19
- [IHA Governance Forum](#): Friday, April 22 - Saturday, April 23
- [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Health Care](#): Monday, May 2 - Monday, Sept. 12
- [Creating Successes: IHA's Summer Series for Health Care Leaders](#): Tuesday, May 3 - Tuesday, Aug. 16
- [Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act \(EMTALA\) Series](#): Wednesday, May 11 - Wednesday, May 25
- [2022 IHA Governance Webinar Series](#): Tuesday, May 17 - Tuesday, Nov. 15

- [Iowa Society of Healthcare Attorneys Conference](#): Thursday, May 19
- [2022 IHA Employment Law Four-Part Virtual Series](#): Tuesday, May 24 - Tuesday, Aug. 16
- [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](#) 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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