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Saturday, March 5, 2022

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COVID-19 resources

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Week No. 8 summary

Both chambers in the legislature had a busy week of floor debate. The most notable bill was the 3.9% flat tax structure that was signed into law by Gov. Kim Reynolds. The second funnel deadline is two weeks away, which means a bill must go through a committee in the opposite chamber it was introduced. With this deadline in place, legislation continues to move quickly.

Certificate of need

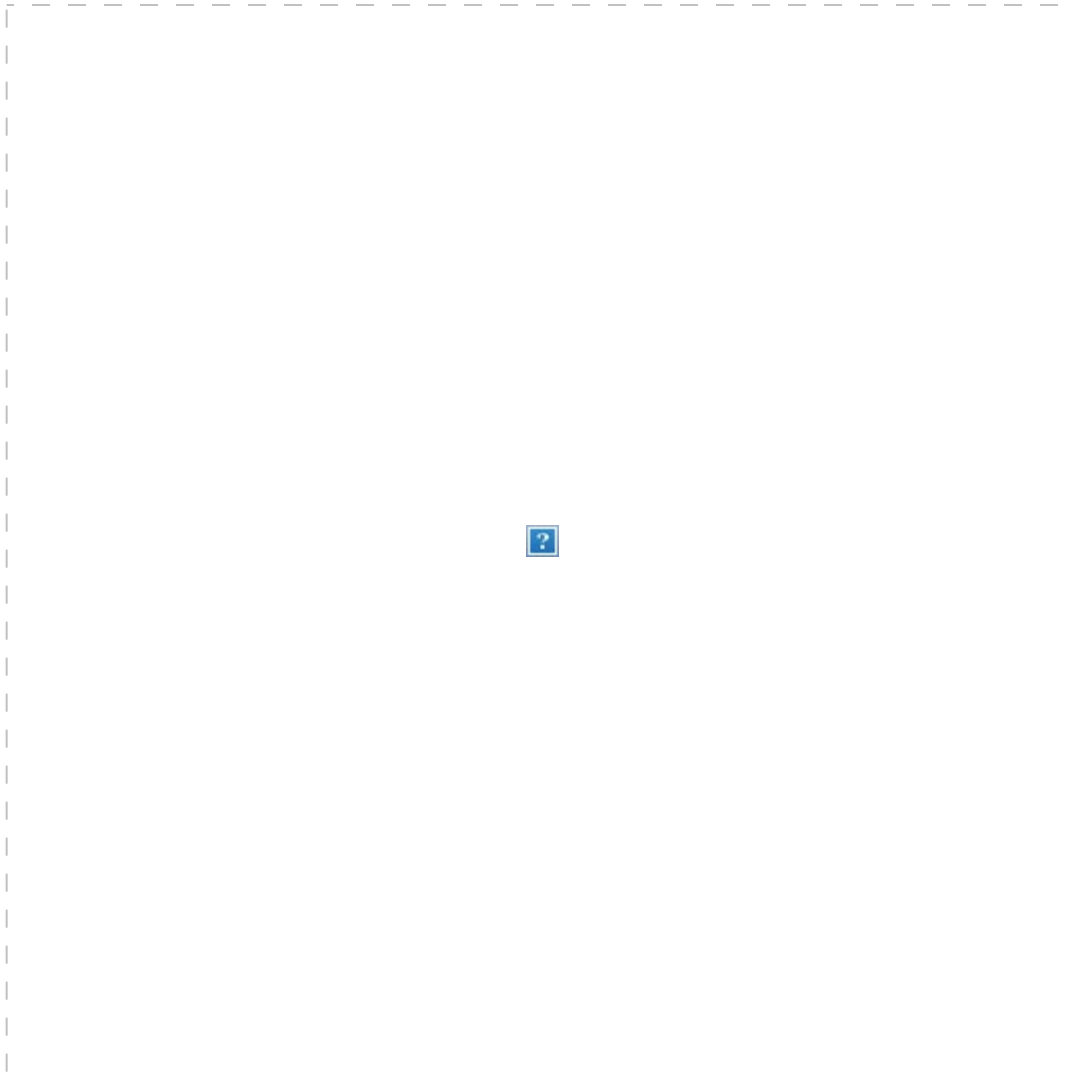
The IHA advocacy team is still awaiting the certificate-of-need bill to hit the Senate debate calendar. The team is working hard to defeat this bill. As written, [SF 2255](#) would eliminate the certificate-of-need program for all health care entities except long-term care. A proposed amendment would increase the threshold from \$1.5 million to \$10 million for new equipment and includes a provision that any facility under 40,000 square feet would be exempt from the certificate-of-need process. IHA is against this amendment because it will defeat the certificate-of-need purpose by allowing almost any health care facility, except hospitals, to circumvent the process. IHA is grateful for the hospital CEOs who made personal telephone calls, sent texts and emails, and set up meetings to get the point across that a complete elimination of the certificate-of-need process and the proposed amendment would be detrimental to Iowa's health care access and quality. If you have not yet responded to the action alert, click [HERE](#).

Right to try

[House File 2203](#), a bill about experimental treatments for terminally ill people, passed the House floor. This bill will expand the definition of eligible patients in the experimental treatment statute to include people receiving mechanical ventilation and will allow physicians to prescribe investigational and off-label drugs to these patients. The intent of this bill is to allow physicians to prescribe off-label drugs, like ivermectin, to COVID-19 patients on ventilators. The bill passed with an amendment put forward by IHA, which would protect hospitals from liability and makes it clear hospitals do not have to credential a physician who prescribes a drug under the amended law.

Medical malpractice

The [tort reform](#) bill still hasn't been scheduled for floor debate in the House and Senate. IHA's advocacy team will continue to send updates while the bill moves through the legislative process. Thank you to those who continue to respond to action alerts. If you have not yet responded to the action alert, click [HERE](#).



Legislation on the move

**Indicates bill is funnel-proof*

Ambulatory surgical referral - [HF 2248](#)

What the bill does: Requires a health care provider who refers a patient to an ambulatory surgical center to give patients a written document about the factors for patients to consider. It also specifies the factors and makes a provider subject to discipline for the failure to do so.

Status: Passed floor debate 91-1 and goes to the Senate.

IHA position: IHA is monitoring this bill and assessing the impact for hospitals.

***Occupational therapists - [SF 463](#)**

What the bill does: Adopts the interstate occupational therapist licensure act that was enactment by 10 states. It establishes a commission to regulate occupational therapists. An amendment on the House floor was adopted and added the interstate audiologist/speech pathologist compact.

Status: The Senate passed the bill 47-0 in 2021, and the House passed the bill as amended 94-0. Now it returns to the Senate for debate about the amended bill.

IHA position: IHA is monitoring this bill and assessing the impact for hospitals.

***Last dollar scholarships - [HF 2165](#)**

What the bill does: Makes part-time students eligible for Future Ready Last Dollar scholarships. An amendment was adopted on the floor that allows the Workforce Development Board, along with community colleges, to identify high demand jobs for Future Ready Last Dollar programs.

Sponsor: Rep. [Sandy Salmon](#) (R-Janesville), Sen. [Amy Sinclair](#) (R-Allerton)

Status: The House passed the bill as amended 99-0. The companion bill in the Senate already passed committee and will go to the Senate floor.

IHA position: IHA is supportive of programs that support recruitment and retention efforts for the health care workforce.

***Direct care providers - [HF 2200](#)**

What the bill does: Makes additional health care professionals eligible to enter into a direct health care agreement to offer health care services. It will be effective on enactment. Amendment H 8104 by Rep. [Dennis Bush](#) (R-Cherokee) was adopted. The bill includes preexisting conditions in provisions against discriminating against a patient.

Status: The House passed the bill as amended, 90-9. The companion bill passed the Senate committee and will go to the Senate floor.

IHA position: IHA is monitoring this bill and assessing the impact for hospitals.

Newborn infants - [HF 2420](#)

What the bill does: Increases the age of a baby who is eligible to be dropped off under the newborn safe act to 60 days. Amendment H 8115 by Rep. [Anne Osmundson](#) (R-Volga), which extends the period to 90 days, was adopted.

Status: The House passed the bill as amended, 99-0 and will go to the Senate.

IHA position: IHA is monitoring this bill and assessing the impact for hospitals.

Health worker agencies - [HF 2521](#)

What the bill does: Requires health care employment agencies to register with the Department of Inspections and Appeals. It establishes fees and defines the agencies, requires the agency to make employees comply with the requirements and qualifications for health care workers, prohibits noncompete clauses, requires reports to the Department of Inspections and Appeals, and allows a denial of registration for a failure to meet the requirements. Amendment H 8103 by Rep. [Robert Bacon](#) (R-Slater) excludes physicians and advanced registered nurse practitioners.

Status: The House passed the bill as amended 99-0 and will go to the Senate.

IHA position: IHA is monitoring this bill and assessing the impact for hospitals.

Assisted reproduction fraud - [HF 2160](#)

What the bill does: Classifies the use of a physician's or other health care worker's

sperm or ova in assisted reproduction without written consent from the patient, sets the statute of limitation for the same period as other sex-abuse offenses and makes the practitioner subject to license discipline. Amendment S 5036 by Rep. [Annette Sweeney](#) (R-Alden) makes it a Class D felony for a physician or other health care worker to give a patient false information about assisted reproduction procedures and a Class C felony for providing material other than what the patient has consented to. The amendment also says a patient's consent to an anonymous donor may not be used as a defense and establishes a cause of action for civil cases with damages and awards for attorney fees. The amendment will extend statutes of limitation for bringing actions and allows license discipline. The amendment was adopted.

Sponsor: Rep. [Megan Jones](#) (R-Sioux Rapids).

Status: The Senate passed the bill as amended 48-0 and will return to the House.

IHA position: IHA is monitoring this bill and assessing the impact for hospitals.

Tiered psychiatric reimbursements - [HF 2125](#)

What the bill does: Requires the Department of Human Services to implement a tiered reimbursement methodology for Medicaid psychiatric inpatient care based on the patient's acuity by July 2022. It requires the use of an inpatient bed-tracking study to determine other factors used for the tiered reimbursements.

Status: Passed the House 24-0.

IHA position: IHA is monitoring this legislation and impact to hospitals.

***Autism definition - [HF 2167](#)**

What the bill does: Defines autism spectrum disorder as a mental health disorder that meets different diagnostic criteria and makes conforming changes.

Status: The bill passed out of the full House and Senate Commerce Committee.

IHA position: IHA is monitoring this bill and assessing the impact for hospitals.

Mental health loan repayments - [HF 2137](#)

What the bill does: Establishes a prescribing mental-health professional loan-repayment program in the College Student Aid Commission, like other loan repayment programs for health care professionals. It requires the provider to practice in Iowa for five years and gives priority to Iowans and members of the Iowa National Guard. The bill limits loan repayments to \$40,000 annually and \$200,000 overall for psychiatrists, \$10,000 annually and \$50,000 overall for advanced registered nurse practitioners, and \$8,000 annually and \$40,000 overall for prescribing psychologists. It appropriates \$1 million for the program to the College Student Aid Commission and \$1.5 million for the program.

Status: The bill passed the house 24-0.

IHA position: IHA supports legislative efforts that expand behavioral health resources and workforce in Iowa.

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

What the bill does: Requires practicing midwives to hold a license beginning July 2023. The bill makes exemptions for health care professionals, Native Americans, Mennonite or Amish communities with traditional services and for others because of religious tenets and in emergencies. It establishes requirements, including proof of training, and a licensing board. The bill limits the liability of health care providers who accept patient transfers from midwives.

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

Status: Passed House Appropriations committee and is on the House debate calendar.

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



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, March 5

- 8-10:30 a.m. - Emmetsburg Legislative Forum, Emmetsburg Chamber of Commerce.
- 9-10 a.m. - Grinnell Virtual Legislative Coffee, [Register here.](#)
- 9-10 a.m. - Wilton Legislative Forum, Wilton City Hall.
- 10-11 a.m. - Rockwell City Town Hall, Rockwell City Public Library – Meeting Room.

Monday, March 7

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

Friday, March 11

- 10-11 a.m. - Clarion Legislative Town Hall, Clarion Train Depot.
- Noon-1 p.m. - Ankeny Legislative Forum, Ankeny Kirkendall Public Library.

- 1-2 p.m. - Belmont Legislative Town Hall, Belmont City Hall.
- 4:30-6:30 p.m. - Black Hawk-Bremer County Virtual Legislative Forum, [Register here.](#)

Saturday, March 12

- 8-9 a.m. - Creston Legislative Forum, Creston City Hall – Restored Depot.
- 8:30-9:30 a.m. - Oskaloosa Eggs and Issues Forum, Smokey Row Coffee.
- 9-10 a.m. - Spencer Legislative Forum, Spencer City Hall.
- 9-10 a.m. - Humboldt Town Hall, Humboldt City Hall.
- 9-10:30 a.m. - Des Moines Virtual Legislative Coffee, [Register Here.](#)
- 10-11 a.m. - Corning Legislative Forum, Corning Public Library.
- 11 a.m.-noon - Pocahontas Town Hall, Pocahontas City Library.

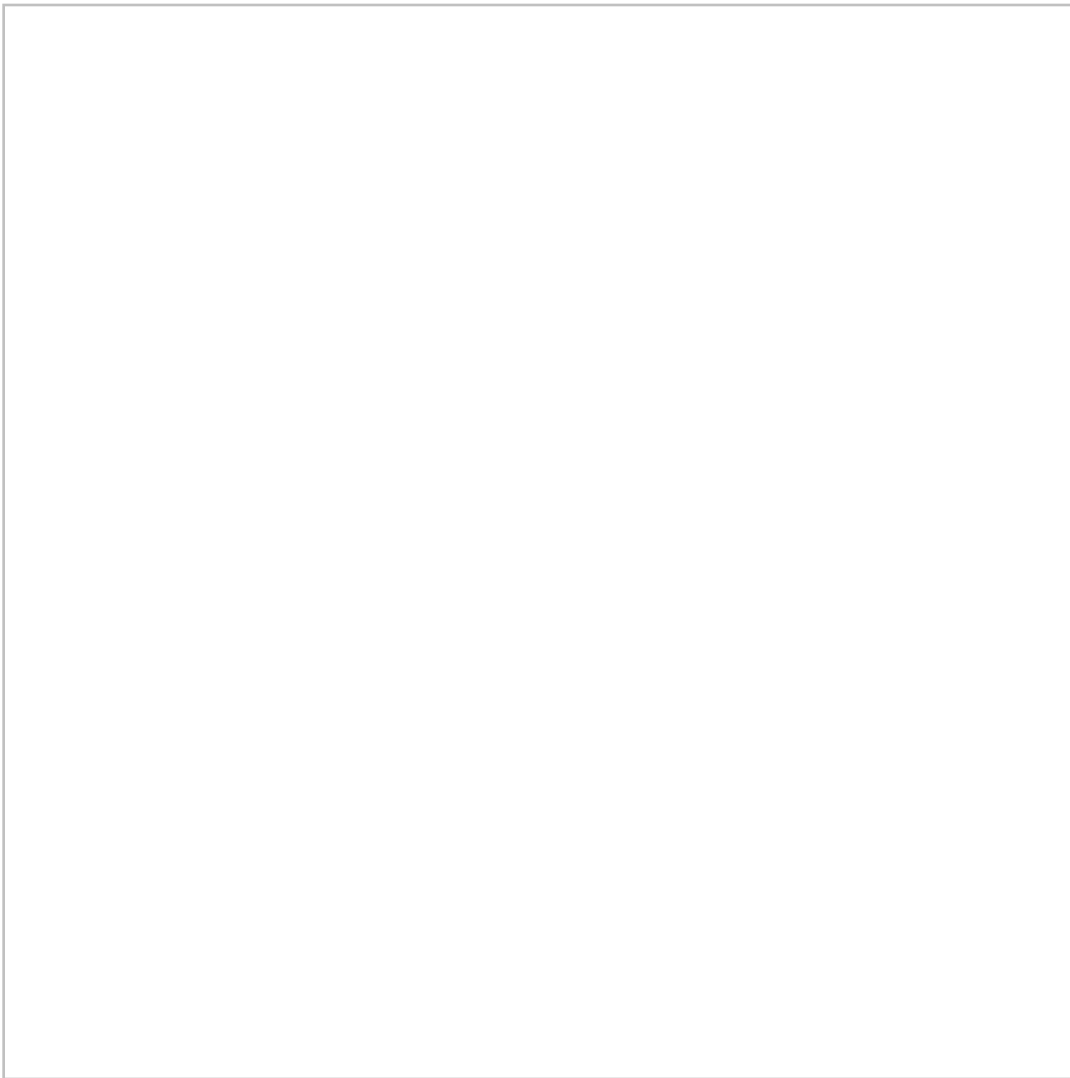
Monday, March 14

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

Saturday, March 19

- 7:30-9 a.m. - Fairfield Legislative Forum, Fairfield Arts and Convention Center.
- 9-10 a.m. - Spencer Legislative Forum, Spencer City Hall.
- 9-10 a.m. - Arlington Legislative Forum, Arlington Community Center.
- 10-11 a.m. - Storm Lake Legislative Forum, King's Pointe Resort.
- 10-11 a.m. - Breda Legislative Forum, Breda American Legion.
- 10 a.m.-noon - Eldridge Legislative Forum, Eldridge North Scott High School.
- 10 a.m.-noon - Washington Legislative Forum, Washington County Courthouse.
- 11 a.m.-noon - Okoboji Eggs and Issues Forum, Tweeteters.





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](#)

IHERF scholarship application deadline fast approaching

Health care workers are reminded to apply before the end of the month for the 2022 Iowa Hospital Education and Research Foundation (IHERF) Scholarship. The deadline to apply is Thursday, March 31.

IHERF, a subsidiary of IHA, will award 60 health care scholarships of up to \$7,000 (\$3,500 per year for up to two years) and \$1,000 specific to emergency medical technology/technician certification programs.

Scholarship applicants must be enrolled in an accredited program and be within two years of completing their professional education.

Applicants must submit their information on [IHERF's scholarship website](#). The site will confirm scholarship eligibility before the application process begins.

Email [Cindy Schultz](#) at IHA with questions.

Iowa hospital leaders recognized as rural CEOs to know

Becker's Hospital Review named seven Iowa hospital leaders as rural hospital CEOs to know in 2022. The hospital CEOs were recognized for their tireless work serving their patients and communities through the COVID-19 pandemic while ensuring financial stability.

The CEOs recognized are:

- Brett Altman, [Cass Health](#), Atlantic.
- Dar Elbert, [Kossuth Regional Health Center](#), Algona.
- Veronica Fuhs, [Monroe County Hospital and Clinics](#), Albia.
- Jason Harrington, [Lakes Regional Healthcare](#), Spirit Lake.
- Brooke Kensinger, [MercyOne Elkader Medical Center](#), Elkader.
- Bob Kroese, [Pella Regional Health Center](#), Pella.
- Kurt Sargent, [CHI Health Mercy Corning](#), Corning.

Congratulations to these Iowa hospital leaders for their work.

Click [HERE](#) for the full list.

Registration open for 2022 Governance Webinar Series

The 2022 Governance Webinar Series will provide hospital and health system trustees with the tools to become more efficient in their board service. The four-part series will cover aspects of board service including:

- Data privacy and security laws and obligations.
- Federal laws and guidance for hospital governance obligations.
- Federal hospital enforcement agencies and fraud and abuse laws.
- Primary hospital transactions, joint venture arrangement and physician contracts.

Alissa Smith, partner, and Carson Lamb, senior associate, of Dorsey and Whitney Law Firm, Des Moines, will present the sessions. Sessions will be:

- **Tuesday, May 17** - Fiduciary Obligations and Conflicts of Interests.
- **Tuesday, July 12** - Health Care Fraud and Abuse.

Tuesday, Sept. 13 - Data Privacy and Security: What Hospital Trustees Must Understand.

- **Tuesday, Nov. 15** - Hospital Transactions and Strategic Development.

All sessions are scheduled from 10-11 a.m.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

Register for IHA events next week

Registration is still open for virtual IHA events scheduled for next week:

- ***The Art of the Interview***, scheduled from 1-2 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, will prepare hospitals and health systems to fill open positions with someone well-suited and prepared for the role. Participants will discuss techniques that can be used during employment interviews to find the right person for your organization's needs. Click [HERE](#) to register.
 - ***The Iowa Hospital Auxilian and Volunteer Conference*** is scheduled from 9 a.m.-3:15 p.m. Wednesday, March 9. The conference will feature innovative ideas for volunteer and auxiliary program development and ways to support them in unprecedented times. Click [HERE](#) to register.
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CDC announces no replenishment of J&J COVID-19 vaccine

The Iowa Department of Public Health was notified the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention does not plan to increase or replenish the Johnson and Johnson vaccine ordering threshold. Iowa has more than 18,000 doses of the Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine in inventory.

IDPH will no longer include the Johnson and Johnson vaccine in the vaccine allocation survey. Health care providers are strongly encouraged to use existing vaccine inventory and to coordinate redistribution among health care providers.

Click [HERE](#) to read more.

NewsStand

Iowa news

- [UnityPoint Health announces Marshalltown open house, hospital move time frame](#)
- [Midwest Mental Health plans to expand services in southwest Iowa](#)

National news

- [Biden wants more COVID-19 relief funds](#)
- [Biden's plans to curb mental health crisis include virtual care](#)
- [Booster restores vaccine protection](#)

- [After two years of COVID-19, the world must keep its guard](#)

[lost against omicron](#)

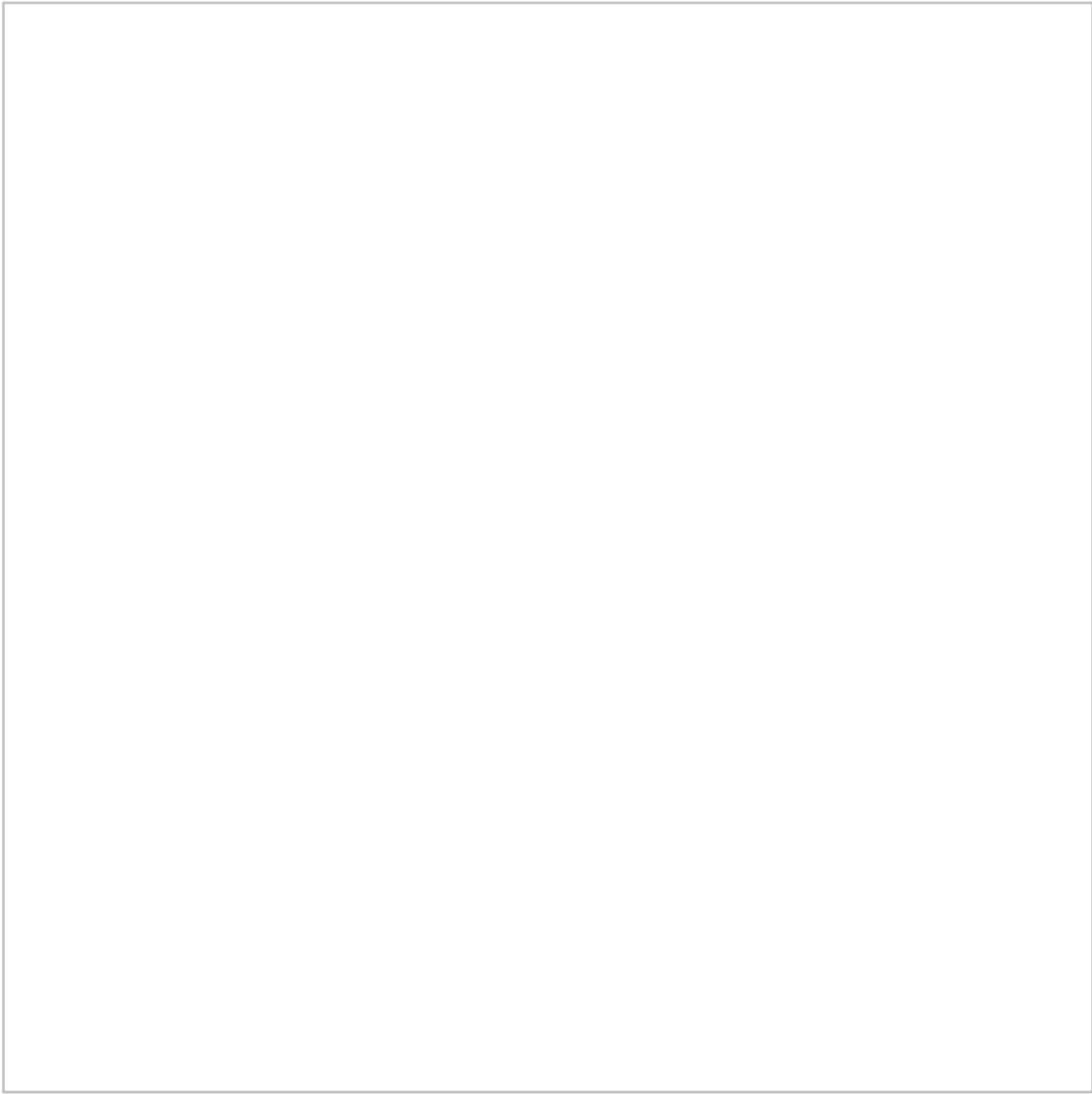
Click [HERE](#) to read daily NewsStand postings.

Upcoming events

- [The Art of the Interview](#): Tuesday, March 8
- [Iowa Hospital Auxilian and Volunteer Conference](#): Wednesday, March 9
- [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
- [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
- [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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