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Thursday, June 16, 2022

Today's headlines:

- [Hospitals and patients win in Supreme Court 340B case](#)
- [CMS announces first penalties under price transparency rule](#)
- [IHA releases latest hospital data trends](#)
- [Information available for Federal Retail Pharmacy Therapeutics Program](#)

Hospitals and patients win in Supreme Court 340B case

In a victory for hospitals and the vulnerable communities they serve, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled the Department of Health and Human Services outpatient [payment cuts to hospitals in the 340B program were unlawful](#). The American Hospital Association, the Association of American Medical Colleges, America's Essential Hospitals brought forward the case. IHA joined other state hospital associations in filing an amicus brief in support of the case.

"IHA joined the amicus brief in this case and is pleased the Supreme Court understood the negative effects the cuts would have on our disadvantaged communities," said IHA President and CEO Chris Mitchell. "We will work with the AHA and the Administration to ensure 340B hospitals are reimbursed adequately and continue to help preserve access to high quality health care for all Iowans."

340B discounts help hospitals devote more resources to services and programs for vulnerable communities and increase access to prescription drugs for low-income patients.

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

CMS announces first penalties under price transparency rule

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced the first civil monetary penalties under its [hospital price transparency rule](#). CMS [fined two hospitals in Georgia](#) for alleged failure to make public their list of standard charges.

The rule took effect Jan. 1, 2021. It requires hospitals to disclose the rates they privately negotiate with health plans, as well as their self-pay and charge-master rates, and provide an online patient cost estimator tool or negotiated rate information for at least 300 shoppable services. Hospitals failing to comply face penalties ranging from \$300-\$5,500 daily, depending on the hospital's size.

ServiShare has partnered with [PARA Healthcare Analytics](#), a ServiShare-endorsed partner, offers solutions to facilities to meet the transparency rule requirements.

PARA has helped more than 25 Iowa hospitals with their transparency needs since

the rule was instated.

For more information or to schedule a discovery call with PARA, email [Reagon Worthington](#) or [Jim Green](#) with ServiShare.

IHA releases latest hospital data trends

IHA has collected [data trends from 99 Iowa hospitals for January-April 2022](#) as compared with the same time frame in 2021:

- Acute discharges decreased 0.1% as acute patient days increased 8.1%.
- Ambulatory surgery visits (hospital-based) increased 5.1%.
- Average facility paid hours increased 10.9%.
- Average length of stay increased 6%.
- Average physician paid hours increased 27.4%.
- Births increased 3.2%.
- Charity care decreased 14%.
- Emergency department visits increased 11.5%.
- Facility employment (excluding physicians) increased 10.9%.
- Inpatient admissions from the emergency department decreased 0.1%.
- Inpatient surgeries decreased 10.8%.
- Medicaid acute discharges increased 3.3% and Medicaid acute patient days increased 5.7%.
- Net patient revenue (collected charges) increased 6.7%.
- Outpatient utilization increased 20.6%.
- Payroll and benefits expense increased 18.2%.
- Total average paid hours increased 14.9%.
- Total expenses increased 10.7%.
- Uncompensated care (bad debts) increased 18.2%.

Email [Allison Martin](#) at IHA with questions.

Information available for Federal Retail Pharmacy Therapeutics Program

The Department of Health and Human Services released a [fact sheet about the Federal Retail Pharmacy Therapeutics Program](#) for COVID-19 therapeutics. The program is a public-private partnership among the federal government, state and local health departments, and 20 national and independent pharmacy networks to increase therapeutics access and equity nationwide. Partner pharmacies receive COVID-19 therapeutic allocations from HHS.

NewsStand

Iowa news

- [Count the Kicks hopes to decrease preventable stillbirths nationwide](#)
- [Reynolds signs bills to address shortage of mental health services](#)
- [McLaughlin helps Manning Regional Healthcare Center thrive](#)

National news

- [Travel nursing presents hospital employers with legal risks](#)
- [Deferred care and inflation fuel mounting pressure for Americans' health care](#)
- [Blood test could offer insight into COVID-19 immunity strength](#)

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Online education

- [Emergency Preparedness Regulatory Conditions of Participation](#): Tuesday, June 28
- [Workplace Violence Program Workshop](#): Thursday, June 30 - Thursday, Aug. 18

In-person meetings

- [Iowa Alliance in Home Care Summer Conference](#): Thursday, June 23

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.



Your resource for Iowa hospital and health system jobs.

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