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Saturday, July 9, 2022

## Today's headlines:

- [IHA advocacy team weekly roundup](#)
- [Funding opportunity available for rural health initiatives](#)
- [Federal agencies warn of North Korean ransomware threat](#)
- [Proposed 2023 physician fee schedule released](#)
- [Learn more about dementia prevention](#)

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### IHA advocacy team weekly roundup

The IHA advocacy team met with stakeholders this week to discuss pharmacy issues and priorities for the 2023 legislative session. The advocacy team will use the discussions to kickoff a new IHA pharmacy work group next week.

Following this week's meeting with the Tertiary Care, Psychiatric Intensive Care and Forensic Work Group, hospitals will work with the Department of Human Services to create rules for psychiatric tiered reimbursement. The group also discussed goals for a mental health summit and received an update about forensic care efforts.

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### Funding opportunity available for rural health initiatives

The Iowa Rural Health Association is [providing funding for four rural Iowa communities](#) to create and implement a plan to improve the long-term health of their communities. The plan should be guided by social determinants of health including mental health, food insecurity, job help and community resources.

Communities selected for the program must be represented by a community team. Each team must include a representative from at least four community partners including:

- Community action agencies.
- Community colleges.
- Health care organizations.
- K-12 schools.
- Libraries.
- Local businesses.
- Local government.
- Local public health offices.
- Mental health agencies.
- Nonprofits.

When selected, teams will receive \$15,000 and must attend training sessions and assessment activities and provide regular updates.

**Groups interested should [email Bill Menner](#) at the Iowa Rural Health Association by 5 p.m. Wednesday, July 13, indicating their intention to respond to the request for proposal.** Questions about the application should be included with the intent to respond. Responses to questions will be shared with all interested applicants by Monday, July 18.

**Proposals are due by 5 p.m. Sunday, July 31,** and should be no longer than four pages, double-spaced. Proposals should be emailed to [jaruralhealth@gmail.com](mailto:jaruralhealth@gmail.com).

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## **Federal agencies warn of North Korean ransomware threat**

The FBI, Department of Treasury, and Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency issued a [public cybersecurity advisory warning about the North Korean government's use of the Maui ransomware platform](#) to conduct ransomware attacks against the U.S. health care and public health sectors.

Hospitals and health systems are urged to take immediate steps to harden their networks' cyber defenses including:

- Limit access to data by deploying key infrastructure and digital certificates to authenticate connections with the network, internet-connected medical devices and the electronic health record system.
- Turn off network device-management interfaces like Telnet, SSH, Winbox and HTTP for wide area networks, and use strong passwords and encryption.
- Use standard user accounts on internal systems instead of administrative accounts.

Victims of malware should report the incident to their [local FBI field office](#) or [email the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency](#). The agencies highly discourage paying ransoms because it does not guarantee files and records will be recovered and may pose sanction risks.

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## **Proposed 2023 physician fee schedule released**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services [calendar year 2023 proposed rule for the physician fee schedule](#) includes a cut to the conversion factor and proposes a delay for implementation.

The conversion factor was cut to \$33.08, as compared to \$34.61 in CY 2022. The cut reflects:

- The expiration of the 3% statutory payment increase.
- A 0% conversion factor update.
- A budget-neutral adjustment.

CMS also proposed delaying the implementation of its policy until Jan. 1, 2024, to define the portion of a split visit based on the time spent by the billing practitioner.

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## **Learn more about dementia prevention**

Dementia is one of the top five causes of death in Iowa. Although there is no cure, it is estimated 40% of all dementia can be prevented. The Iowa Department of Public Health will host the [Unlocking Brain Fitness: Keys to Dementia Prevention](#) webinar from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, July 13.

Epidemiologist Patricia Quinlisk will give an overview of dementia, its risk factors and dementia prevention. Clinical providers, managers and administrators are encouraged to attend.

To access the meeting use:

- Meeting ID: 824 3743 3446.
- Passcode: 523028.

[Email Wanda Hilton at IDPH](#) with questions.

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## NewsStand

### Iowa news

- [COVID-19 hospitalizations up, cases steady in Iowa](#)
- [MercyOne colleagues earn scholarships for health education](#)
- [Waverly Health Center's community benefit exceeded \\$743,000 in 2021](#)

### National news

- [BA.5's fast rise to dominance: What to know about the subvariant](#)
- [How inflation is affecting health system CIO decisions](#)
- [Health care sees most job cuts of any industry in 2022](#)

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

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## Online education

- [Creating Successes: IHA's Summer Series for Health Care Leaders:](#)  
Tuesday, July 12 - Tuesday, Aug. 16
- [2022 IHA Governance Webinar Series:](#)  
Tuesday, July 12 - Tuesday, Nov. 15
- [2022 IHA Employment Law Four-Part Virtual Series:](#) Tuesday, July 19 - Tuesday, Aug. 16

## In-person meetings

- [IHERF Swinging for Scholars Golf Outing:](#) Thursday, Sept. 1
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### Visit IHA's Digital on Demand store for webinars, podcasts and more

Members are encouraged to visit IHA's Digital on Demand store to catch up on webinars or informational videos they may have missed.

The IHA Digital on Demand store offers:

- [Demonstration and training videos](#) for DataGen, DATABANK and Dimensions dashboards.
- [CEO podcasts](#).
- Previously recorded [webinars and presentations](#) including project presentations from the Advanced Leadership Academy.
- [Trustee resources](#).

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### 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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