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Saturday, July 2, 2022

Today's headlines:

- [CMS releases new COPs for rural emergency hospitals](#)
- [IHA advocacy team weekly roundup](#)
- [Technical assistance program available for rural hospitals](#)
- [Improve recruitment and retention with innovative solutions](#)

CMS releases new COPs for rural emergency hospitals

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released a [proposed rule creating the conditions of participation](#) for rural emergency hospitals and updating some requirements for critical access hospitals.

CMS proposed standards for the rural emergency hospital designation based largely on the critical access hospital conditions of participation and outpatient services' requirements where appropriate. CMS is seeking comment from rural communities about specific proposed rural emergency hospital standards, including the ability of a rural emergency hospital to provide low-risk labor and delivery services and the minimum qualifications for professionals who will provide on-call emergency services. **Comments about the proposed rule are due Monday, Aug. 29.**

Provisions about payment, quality measurement, program designation and enrollment is expected to be included in the 2023 outpatient prospective payment system proposed rule.

CMS also proposed [updates to the conditions of participation for critical access hospitals](#) by:

- Adding a definition of primary roads to the location and distance requirements.
- Allowing critical access hospitals that are a part of a health system with more than one hospital to meet the conditions of participation by using the health system's infection control and antibiotic stewardship programs, medical staff and quality assessment and performance improvement programs.
- Creating a patient's rights for conditions of participation.

IHA worked with Sen. Chuck Grassley to introduce legislation creating the rural emergency hospital designation and supports CMS' efforts to help rural health care facilities.

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

IHA advocacy team weekly roundup

The IHA advocacy team continued building partnerships with other organizations this week while discussing shared priorities.

Besides their meetings with the American Hospital Association, Iowa College Aid and Master Builders of Iowa (highlighted in [Tuesday's edition of IHA Today](#)), the IHA advocacy team:

- Joined a call with health care stakeholders to discuss workforce development for maternal health, rural obstetrics and gynecology.
- Represented IHA in a Medicaid Matters Coalition meeting to discuss the 2022 legislative session and brainstorm future priorities.

Technical assistance program available for rural hospitals

The [Center for Optimizing Rural Health](#) is offering a free technical assistance program to help rural hospitals tackle pressing challenges. The Rural Hospital Assistance Program engages each community by identifying their specific priorities and concerns. The Center for Optimizing Rural Health will recommend evidence-based practices corresponding with the needs of each health system.

Participants in the program will:

- Address economic challenges.
- Ensure hospitals and the communities served can keep needed health care local.
- Understand community health needs and resources.

There is no cost to apply or participate in the program. [Applications for the 2022 cohort](#) are due Sunday, July 31.

[Email the Center for Optimizing Rural Health](#) with questions.



Improve recruitment and retention with innovative solutions

[ServiShare partner LifeSolutionz](#) provides IHA members with innovative approaches to recruitment and provider retention in its recent webinar, [Innovative Solution for Improved Recruiting, Rewarding and Provider Retention](#).

Jason Boccardi, president of LifeSolutionz, leads a discussion about using an alternative compensation structure to:

- Increase recruiting efficiency.
- Lower costs.
- Significantly enhance provider engagement.

[Wayne County Hospital and Clinic System](#) CEO Daren Relph also joins the webinar to share his thoughts and experiences using alternative compensation arrangements for providers, executives and other key employees.

NewsStand

Iowa news

- [Iowa COVID-19 hospitalizations down, new cases stay steady](#)
- [Tackling food insecurity among pregnant women](#)
- [Study shows impact KRHC has on Kossuth County](#)

National news

- [Nonprofit hospitals face mounting financial pressures](#)
- [FDA approves reformulated COVID-19 boosters for this fall](#)
- [Where health system information technology teams are headed](#)

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

Online education

In-person meetings

- [IHERF Swinging for Scholars Golf Outing](#): Thursday, Sept. 1
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- [CEO podcasts](#).
- Previously recorded [webinars and presentations](#) including project presentations from the Advanced Leadership Academy.
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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](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.



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