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Thursday, Aug. 4, 2022

Today's headlines:

- [IHA advocacy team weekly roundup](#)
- [Learn more about the rural emergency hospital program](#)
- [2022 IHA Legislative Summary highlights key successes](#)
- [Nurse assistance program offers alternative to disciplinary actions](#)

IHA advocacy team weekly roundup

The IHA advocacy team on Tuesday hosted a rural emergency hospital conditions of participation webinar to review the conditions of participation for the new rural emergency hospital program. Nancy Ruzicka, a consultant on state and federal guidelines, reviewed the basic requirements to become a rural emergency hospital and explained the recently-proposed payment mechanisms.

A recording of the session will be available on [IHA's Digital on Demand](#) in the coming days. IHA also will host a [second rural emergency hospital review](#) scheduled from 2-3 p.m. Monday, Aug. 2.

The advocacy this week also:

- Conducted 12 candidate interviews.
- Met with the Iowa Department of Human Services to discuss eligibility for and the definition of psychiatric intensive care.

Learn more about the rural emergency hospital program

Hospitals have several questions about the new rural emergency hospital designation as more information is available. To help answer these questions, IHA will host a [free webinar to review the new program and designation](#).

Jeremy Behrens and Ralph Llewellyn, partners with accounting firm Eide Bailly, will review the conditions of participation, provider enrollment procedures and newly released payment policies. Participants will gain a better understanding of the program and if it is a good fit for their facilities.

The rural emergency hospital program review is scheduled from 2-3 p.m. Monday Aug. 22. [Email Joah Hogan](#) at IHA with questions.

2022 IHA Legislative Summary highlights key successes

IHA's advocacy team, working in tandem with our valuable hospital advocates, diligently worked through this year's legislative session and prevailed with several wins on issues important to Iowa hospitals.

Thanks to Iowa's hospital advocates, IHA passed several legislative goals including:

- Expanding physician loan repayment and recruitment initiatives to build a health care pipeline for Iowa hospitals.
- Fighting against bills to weaken Iowa's certificate-of-need program.
- Increasing access to mental health services by expanding workforce legislation and addressing psychiatric reimbursement shortfalls.
- Reducing complexities in the Medicaid program pertaining to Medicaid eligibility and prior-authorization requirements.

Read the [complete list of legislative outcomes and full legislative summary](#) online.

Nurse assistance program offers alternative to disciplinary actions

Nurse leaders have a responsibility to keep patients and staff safe while maintaining high standards of care in their facilities. Their roles includes detecting substance use disorder or mental health conditions in their staff and providing support to struggling nurses.

The Iowa Board of Nursing is offering an alternative to a discipline program, the [Iowa Nurse Assistance Program](#), to help nurse managers and their staff. The program was created in 2016. It is a confidential monitoring program for nurses who are impaired because of a substance abuse disorder or physical condition.

Nurses can be referred to the confidential program by the Iowa Board of Nursing, an employer, a colleague or family member. [Nurses also can self-report](#) to the program. Once enrolled, nurses enter a three-year monitoring contract to monitor their sobriety and treatment. The contracts say nurses must participate in:

- Chemical (drug) screenings.
- Formal support group meetings.
- Formal treatment groups.
- Worksite monitoring program.

[Rhonda Ruby, program coordinator for the Iowa Nurse Assistance Program](#), said 220 cases were processed through the program and encourages more nurses and nurse leaders to use this resource.

NewsStand

Iowa news

- [West Burlington hospital closes one unit after \\$40 million loss](#)
- [COVID-19 hospitalizations rose by 25% in Iowa in the last week](#)
- [United Way of Central Iowa receives \\$1.8M for workforce development partnership](#)

National news

- [COVID-19 can rebound even in people who haven't taken Paxlovid](#)
- [Why we may be in 'omicron land' for a while](#)
- [Federal reports on long COVID-19 fall short of offering solid plans to help patients](#)

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

Online education

- [2022 IHA Employment Law Four-Part Virtual Series](#): Tuesday, Aug. 16
- [Creating Successes: IHA's Summer Series for Health Care Leaders](#): Tuesday, Aug. 16
- [Review of the Rural Emergency Hospital Program](#): Monday, Aug. 22
- [Infection Prevention and Antibiotic Stewardship](#): Tuesday, Sept. 13
- [2022 IHA Governance Webinar Series](#): Tuesday, Sept. 13 - Tuesday, Nov. 15
- [Swing-bed Fundamentals](#): Tuesday, Nov. 8
- [Patient Rights!: An Overview](#): Tuesday, Nov. 29
- [Pharmacy Conditions of Participation](#): Tuesday, Dec. 6
- [CMS Updates](#): Thursday, Dec. 15

In-person meetings

- [IHERF Swinging for Scholars Golf Outing](#): Thursday, Sept. 1
- [Iowa Society for Healthcare Engineering Fall Conference](#): Thursday, Sept. 15 - Friday, Sept. 16
- [IHA Annual Meeting](#): Monday, Oct. 3 - Wednesday, Oct. 5
- [Performance and Process Improvement - Leadership "Yellow Belt" Workshop](#): Tuesday, Oct. 18 - Wednesday, Oct. 19
- [2022 CPHQ Review Course](#): Tuesday, Nov. 29 - Wednesday, Nov. 30

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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](#).

Click [HERE](#) to visit the IHA Digital on Demand store.

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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