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Saturday, Sept. 10, 2022

Today's headlines:

- [33 states represented at MidAmerica Information Summit](#)
- [IHA advocacy team weekly roundup](#)
- [Report shows record-setting rural hospital closures in 2020](#)
- [CMS provides COVID-19 waivers and flexibilities resources](#)
- [Join CDC call for bivalent COVID-19 boosters](#)

33 states represented at MidAmerica Information Summit

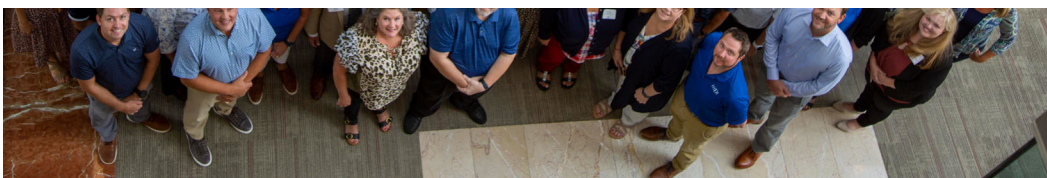
The IHA Information Center staff hosted more than 72 participants representing 33 state hospital associations this week in Des Moines for its 25th annual MidAmerica Information Summit. The event is a national conference for state hospital association data professionals.

The summit is both a learning opportunity for data leaders and information gathering opportunity for IHA staff. Data leaders nationwide learned from their peers and heard from experts about topics aimed at improving hospital and patient data use including:

- New and innovative data programs, analytics and visualization.
- Quality and patient safety.
- Social determinants of health.

From conversations and feedback, IHA staff can identify information services that can be developed for IHA members. Members are provided opportunities to share input about information development through the Council on Health Information and other groups and committees. IHA also can identify potential data partnership opportunities with peer state hospital associations.





More than 70 participants representing 33 state hospital associations gathered in Des Moines this week for the 25th annual MidAmerica Information Summit.

IHA advocacy team weekly roundup

The IHA advocacy team is making progress with the psychiatric intensive care work group this week. The group on Tuesday continued discussions about admissions criteria with expectations to finalize the criteria soon and worked on feedback for draft administrative rules. The group has not set rates.

The advocacy team also:

- Continued reviewing the rural emergency hospital payment rule with members.
 - Discussed IHA's 2023 legislative priorities with Rep. Brian Best (R-Glidden).
 - Met with hospital workplace violence prevention consultants.
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Report shows record-setting rural hospital closures in 2020

The American Hospital Association released a [new report highlighting the many causes resulting in 136 rural hospital closures](#) from 2010-2021. A record 19 closures were reported in 2020 alone.

The reasons for closures include several longstanding challenges including:

- Low patient volume.
- Low reimbursement.
- Regulatory barriers.
- Staffing shortages.

The report notes continued financial challenges because of the COVID-19 pandemic and skyrocketing expenses for labor, drugs, supplies and equipment have also contributed to the closures.

IHA has supported several pathways to help Iowa rural hospitals remain open including federal support, the rural emergency hospital designation and extending Medicare-dependent hospital and enhanced low-volume adjustment programs.

CMS provides COVID-19 waivers and flexibilities resources

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services used a combination of emergency authority waivers, regulations, enforcement discretion and sub-regulatory guidance through the COVID-19 public health emergency. The waivers and regulations were implemented to ensure access to care and to give health care providers the flexibility to respond to COVID-19 and keep patients safe. Several of the waivers and flexibilities will end at the same time as the public health emergency.

To prepare for an eventual end to the public health emergency, CMS encourages health care providers to prepare for the end of the flexibilities and begin

reestablishing previous health and safety standards and billing practices. [CMS is providing fact sheets by provider type](#) summarizing the status of the Medicare blanket waiver and flexibilities by provider type.

Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra said he will provide a 60-day notice to states and health care organizations before the public health emergency ends.

Join CDC call for bivalent COVID-19 boosters

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will [host a clinician outreach and communication activity call](#) from 1-2 p.m. Tuesday, Sept 13, to discuss guidance for the bivalent COVID-19 booster doses.

The CDC also [released updated clinical guidance about mRNA vaccines](#). The updated guidance includes:

- Booster recommendations for people 12 and older.
 - Updated guidance about COVID-19 vaccination and multisystem inflammatory syndrome.
 - Update guidance for observation periods after COVID-19 vaccination.
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NewsStand

Iowa news

- [UnityPoint Health noted by Fitch and Moody's as among 14 systems with strong finances](#)
- [Virtual nursing helping one Iowa hospital retain staff](#)
- [Hospitalizations continue to inch upward](#)

National news

- [CVS makes \\$8 billion bet on the return of the house call](#)
- [The new COVID-19 booster could be the last you'll need for a year](#)
- [Stress, anxiety and depression may increase the risk of long COVID-19](#)

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

Online education

- [Infection Prevention and Antibiotic Stewardship](#): Tuesday, Sept. 13
- [2022 IHA Governance Webinar Series](#): Tuesday, Sept. 13 - Tuesday, Nov. 15
- [Advancing Health Equity in Iowa's Hospital Systems: Cases from the Frontline](#): Monday, Sept. 26
- [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

- [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
- [Charge Nurse Leadership Development Workshop](#): Monday, Oct. 24 - Tuesday, Oct. 25
- [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](#).

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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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100 EAST GRAND, SUITE 100, DES MOINES, IA 50309-1835 | P 515.288.1955 F 515.283.9366 |
WWW.IHAONLINE.ORG
