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Thursday, Sept. 15, 2022

## Today's headlines:

- [Genesis Health System and MercyOne announce intent to partner](#)
- [IHA submits comments about OPSS proposed rule](#)
- [LeaderPass is your one-stop shop for Annual Meeting materials](#)
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- [AHA to host a webinar about leveraging data to hold payers accountable](#)
- [Unpatched and outdated medical device concerns for cybersecurity experts](#)

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### Genesis Health System and MercyOne announce intent to partner

Genesis Health System and MercyOne have signed a letter of intent to develop a strategic partnership. The Genesis Health System board of directors unanimously selected MercyOne as its choice for partner after a exploration process that began in December 2021.

With the signing of the letter of intent, the organizations will begin conducting additional due diligence and ultimately work toward finalizing the terms of an agreement.

“Throughout our partnership exploration, our commitment was to select a partner willing to make significant investments in Genesis that will enhance our ability to grow, thrive and deliver more-seamless, integrated care in our region,” said Doug Cropper, president and CEO of Genesis Health System. “With this selection, we will be able to leverage the skill, talent and scale of national and regional resources while retaining local leadership and focus. This partnership will enhance support for our workforce retention and recruitment efforts and collaboratively address the most-pressing issues facing health care today.”

“MercyOne and Genesis Health System are both mission-driven organizations committed to delivering the highest quality care and best patient experience to all we serve across Iowa,” said Bob Ritz, MercyOne president and CEO. “We look forward to continuing discussions and shaping a framework to enhance access to personalized, convenient health care across eastern Iowa and western Illinois.”

Nothing changes operationally for either health care system because of the letter of intent or throughout the due diligence process, which will occur over the course of the next several months.

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### IHA submits comments about OPSS proposed rule

In submitted comments to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, [IHA](#)

[IHA broadly supported CMS' proposals to reduce regulatory barriers and reporting requirements](#) and provided additional comments about:

- Rural emergency hospital payment policy.
- Overall outpatient prospective payment updates.
- 340B drug payment policy.
- Hospital quality star rating.

[IHA previously submitted comments about the 340B proposal](#) in the proposed rule. IHA anticipates the final rule will be released before December with an effective date of Jan. 1, 2023.

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

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



### **LeaderPass is your one-stop shop for Annual Meeting materials**

The 2022 IHA Annual Meeting is in person this year and attendees will recognize LeaderPass from the last two years. IHA is again using the LeaderPass platform as the source for presentation materials, agendas, evaluations and speaker bios.

After registering for the Annual Meeting, participants can view the 2022 materials in their LeaderPass dashboard. Previous virtual annual meetings participants can log in to access their passes. New users must register a free user account. When the account is confirmed, participants can access their passes.

Here are some helpful tips for using LeaderPass:

- Use Chrome, Edge or Firefox as your browser. Safari and Explorer do not work as well.
- Switch to an incognito window.
- If you cannot connect to LeaderPass, try using another device or Wi-Fi network to access LeaderPass.
- If you still have trouble, it is likely a firewall issue, particularly if you are accessing it at work or on a company device. If you believe this is the issue, contact your IT department and have them whitelist <https://leaderpass.com/>.
- If you've logged in and don't see your pass, log out and log in again.
- Register for LeaderPass with the same email address you used to register for the 2022 Annual Meeting.
- If you have a LeaderPass account, ensure you are logging on to the existing account page and not the new-user page.

Email [IHAregistration@ihaonline.org](mailto:IHAregistration@ihaonline.org) with questions.



### **IHA PAC \$15,000 from goal**

The IHA PAC is getting closer to hitting its 2022 goal of \$125,000. To date, [members have raised \\$110,361 or 88% of its goal](#). The IHA PAC campaign deadline is Friday, Sept. 30.

Leadership contributions received the past week include:

- Carl Behne, CEO of [Burgess Health Center](#).
- Scott Curtis, vice president of network development at [MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center](#).
- Kevin DeRonde, CEO of [Mahaska Health](#).
- James Roetman, CEO of [Pocahontas Community Hospital](#).
- Keith Schrunk, Trustee of [Burgess Health Center](#).
- Jordan Voigt, president of [Genesis Medical Center-Davenport](#).

[Find PAC statistics and information about IHA advocacy online](#). [Email Becky Anthony](#) at IHA with questions about the IHA PAC.

### **AHA to host a webinar about leveraging data to hold payers accountable**

The American Hospital Association will host a webinar beginning noon Thursday, Oct. 6, about leveraging hospital data to hold payers accountable.

Melba Smith, executive vice president for public relations with AHA, and Tracie Gentry, executive vice president for public relations with AHA, will be speaking at the webinar.

link.ihaonline.org/m/1/42467087/02-b22258-695f07dffe464403875d4c91ee48eb95/3/839/27193322-7866-43e6-aa57-fa37535650c8  
MOIY SMITH, group vice president for public policy with AHA, and TRAVIS GENTRY, co-chief executive officer at Hy-Vee Health, will demonstrate how Vitality Index tracks payer-specific revenue cycle measures using de-identified claims data. Vitality index also can help identify opportunities to reduce operation challenges.

The Council on Health Information reviewed the AHA Vitality Index and approved support of Iowa hospital participation in the program.

[Register today to attend the webinar](#). An email with instructions to access the webinar will be sent after registering.

Contact AHA at 312-895-2547 with questions.

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## Unpatched and outdated medical device concerns for cybersecurity experts

The Federal Bureau of Investigation [identified an increasing number of vulnerabilities posed by unpatched medical devices](#) running on outdated software and lacking adequate security features.

Cyberthreat actors exploiting medical device vulnerabilities adversely affect health care facilities' operation functions, patient safety, data confidentiality and data integrity. Medical device vulnerabilities predominantly stem from device hardware design and device software management.

Routine challenges include:

- Inability to upgrade security features.
- Including a large number of devices on a network.
- Lack of device-embedded security features.
- Using standardized configurations or specialized configurations.

The FBI recommends health organizations secure medical devices, identify vulnerabilities and increase employee awareness reporting. [Contact your local FBI Cyber Squad](#) with questions.

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## NewsStand

### Iowa news

- [Iowa among states with greatest 'brain drains'](#)
- [UI Center for School Mental Health opens for patient referrals](#)
- [UnityPoint Health plans new clinic in Waukee](#)

### National news

- [Nurse practitioner will be fastest-growing job over next decade](#)
- [PAs push for permanent expansion of practice authority](#)
- [You haven't caught COVID-19 yet. Does that mean you're a super dodger?](#)

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

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### Online education

- [Advancing Health Equity in Iowa's Hospital Systems: Cases from the Frontline](#): Monday, Sept. 26
- [Swing-bed Fundamentals](#): Tuesday, Nov. 8
- [2022 IHA Governance Webinar Series](#): Tuesday, Nov. 15
- [Patient Rights': An Overview](#): Tuesday, Nov. 29
- [Pharmacy Conditions of Participation](#): Tuesday, Dec. 6
- [CMS Updates](#): Thursday, Dec. 15

### In-person meetings

- [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

### Visit IHA's Digital on Demand store for webinars and videos

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](#) 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.



