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2024

Iowa Hospital Association
WEBINAR SERIES

Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) Series

10 a.m.-Noon Tuesday, July 16, July 30, Aug. 13

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Medicare-certified hospitals must follow CMS regulations and interpretative guidelines for the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act. This three-part series will focus on problematic areas of EMTALA concepts, adequacy of medical screening and on-call physician issues.

INTENDED AUDIENCE

- Behavioral health and psychiatric staff.
- CEOs.
- Chief medical officers.
- Chief nursing officers.
- Compliance officers and legal counsel.
- Department directors.
- Emergency department staff.
- Nurses.
- Physicians.
- Quality improvement staff.
- Risk managers.
- Safety officers.

Tuesday, July 16

Part One focuses on the basic requirements of EMTALA, available resources to hospitals and EMTALA definitions.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Describe basic EMTALA requirements.
- Describe why EMTALA is the most-frequently cited deficiency nationwide.
- Discuss where EMTALA applies in the facility.
- Review examples of how the hospital can keep current on regulation changes.

Tuesday, July 30

Part Two will discuss EMTALA issues such as:

- Adequacy of medical screening examinations.
- Appropriate transfers.
- Certification of false labor.
- EMTALA sign issues.
- Observation, inpatient and outpatient.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Describe an adequate medical screening examination for behavioral health, obstetrics and other patients.
- Describe an appropriate certification of false labor.
- Illustrate an appropriate transfer and discuss what must be included on the transfer form.
- Review what language must be on EMTALA signs.

Tuesday, Aug. 13

Part Three will focus on physician involvement with the EMTALA process including on-call physician schedules, on-call physician rules, when an on-call physician must appear in the emergency department and how to deal with difficult patient situations such as leaving against medical advice and leaving without being seen.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Describe on-call physician rules, including when the on-call physician must appear in the emergency department.
- Describe the Office of Inspector General's role and recent on-call physician deficiencies and fines.
- Describe the organizational quality-improvement program role with EMTALA.
- Examine documentation requirements for difficult patient situations.

SPEAKER

Nancy Ruzicka is a consultant on state and federal rules, regulations and interpretative guidelines. Ruzicka previously worked as director of integrity and compliance and privacy official at MercyOne Des Moines and director of regulatory compliance at UnityPoint Health-Des Moines. She also has more than 20 years of experience with the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals. Ruzicka holds master's degrees in health law and business administration and a bachelor's degree in pharmacy, all from Drake University. She is certified in health care compliance and maintains her Iowa pharmacy license.

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