

August 20, 2007

MEDICAID MANAGED CARE WOULD HARM ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

We are intensifying our advocacy efforts to oppose mandatory risk-based managed care for the Medicaid program because it could jeopardize the hospital assessment program. IHA strongly opposes the language inserted into the Human Services Budget Implementation Act in **Senate Amendment #2 to HB691** ([click here](#)), which has passed the Senate and could be considered in the House as early as Tuesday. The language imposes mandatory managed care on Medicaid recipients in at least two counties, making it virtually impossible to continue the hospital assessment program, which would affect all hospitals in the state. Mandatory Medicaid managed care also threatens patients' access to quality care and would likely cost the state more than the current system.

To be sure that language implementing mandatory Medicaid managed care is eliminated from the Budget Implementation Act before it is voted on, it is critical that members contact their legislators, explaining how the language could harm the hospital assessment program and urging them to oppose it.

STATE AGREES TO BORROW FUNDS FOR ASSESSMENT PAYMENTS

After lengthy discussions among IHA and the Governor's office, Comptroller, Attorney General, and Treasurer, the state agreed to pursue short-term borrowing in order to fund the FY2007 supplemental appropriation of \$1.2 billion for the hospital assessment program. The appropriation was included in **SB241**, which was signed into law Aug. 13 by the Governor.

In pressing for disbursing the hospital payments, IHA emphasized that it is important that the payments be made by Aug. 31, when the spending authority for the appropriation bill expires. Otherwise the state would have to use FY2008 funding to make the FY2007 payments. IHA is in constant contact with the state to resolve procedural issues that might delay payments.

GOVERNOR HAS NEW HEALTH PLAN

Last week the Governor announced plans to veto \$500 million in spending from the budget passed earlier by the General Assembly and use those funds to expand eligibility for health care programs. His brief outline of the plan indicated that programs such as breast cancer treatment, Family Care, All Kids, working families' premium assistance, and access to care for low-income uninsured adults would be expanded to make 717,000 people newly eligible for these programs at a cost of \$463 million.

As the *Reporter* went to press, further details had not yet been released, but there is speculation about whether the Governor can implement his plan without further action by the legislature and the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules. IHA will oppose any method of financing the plan that reduces Medicaid payments or extends the payment cycle.

SUMMIT OFFERS INSIGHTS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Register now for IHA's annual Leadership Summit Sept. 6-7 in Galena. "Doing things right" is a great educational opportunity for you to join your colleagues and hear from nationally-known experts on key topics while networking with your counterparts from across the state. IHA

President Ken Robbins will offer his insights and observations on 2007's key events, including this year's historic overtime legislative session. Aug. 23 is the early bird deadline for discounted registrations, available at our web site ([click here](#)).

IHA REGIONAL TRUSTEES ANNOUNCED

The following have been elected to serve as Regional Trustees for 2008: Dave Schertz, Administrator, **OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center**, Rockford (Region 1A); Keith Steffen, Administrator, **OSF Saint Francis Medical Center**, Peoria (Region 1B); Peter Murphy, President and CEO, **St. James Hospital and Health Centers**, Chicago Heights and Olympia Fields (Region 2C); and Keith Page, President and CEO, **Anderson Hospital**, Maryville (Region 4).

BRIEFLY NOTED...

✓ **Get quality help.** IHA provides exceptional, knowledgeable resources for questions on quality issues and reporting. For state regulations, go to <http://www.ihatoday.org/issues/quality/statereq.html>. For questions on Consumer Guide data reporting, send to ubhelp@ihastaff.org. For the Hospital Report Card Act, send nurse staff questions to nursestaffreporting@ihastaff.org and SCIP questions to perfmeas@ihastaff.org.

✓ The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is hosting a training and compliance program on the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act in Chicago on Sept. 12. Register at hoffman.kimberly@epa.gov by August 20. For more information, contact Donna Twickler at twickler.donna@epa.gov.

✓ "Hospital-Based Palliative Care: The Nuts and Bolts" will be held Oct. 2 at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Co-sponsored by the UIC Medical Center Department of Health Social Work and the Center to Advance Palliative Care, the workshop will assist professionals in starting

a palliative care program. For more information, call 312-996-9885 or [click here](#).

✓ Hospital CEOs were sent a brief electronic survey to assess hospitals' needs in serving deaf, hard-of-hearing and limited English proficient (LEP) individuals and families via an e-mail sent last week. Please forward the survey to the appropriate person for completion by Aug. 29. For more information, contact Barb Haller at bhaller@ihastaff.org or 630-276-5474.

✓ The state's All Kids program was analyzed in a report released by the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. In its first year, All Kids covered 54,000 previously uninsured children and surpassed enrollment targets. One challenge is implementation of the Primary Care Case Management and Disease Management initiatives, which are intended to help fund All Kids. The study can be seen by [clicking here](#).

✓ A new Kaiser Family Foundation report, *Health Care Costs: A Primer*, says insurance premiums rose 87% between 2000 and 2006, more than four times the growth in wages. Related factors such as new technology, changes in disease prevalence and population changes are also discussed. The full report is available by [clicking here](#).

✓ Congratulations to **Provena United Samaritans Medical Center**, Danville, on its 125th anniversary of serving Danville and the Central Illinois area.

✓ "Talking with Your Doctor," The National Institutes of Health's online guide, offers seniors assistance in preparing for and understanding doctor visits. Available at NIHSeniorHealth.gov, it provides oversized print and other features.