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NEW ASSESSMENT APPROVED BY BOARD

At its Jan. 8 meeting, IHA's Board of Trustees approved a resolution authorizing the Association to pursue a new statewide hospital assessment program based on the model recommended by the 36-member Medicaid Hospital Reimbursement Task Force. The Board vote was 23 yes, with two abstentions. The task force's recommendation followed numerous meetings over the past 10 months.

The model reviewed by the Board includes the same hospital protections that are in the present assessment program and attempts to modernize the state's Medicaid payment system and maximize benefits to hospitals over a four-year phase-in period. A memo with a detailed description of the model and its impact was sent to members last week.

The Board also passed a resolution instructing IHA staff to continue its work on developing proposals for how IHA can assist in addressing the financial challenges confronting the Cook County Bureau of Health Services.

With the Board's action, IHA will begin more detailed discussions with the Illinois Dept. of Healthcare and Family

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THIS WEEK'S MAIL

[Final Revised Draft of IRS Form 990](#)
To: CEOs, CFOs

[Revised Illinois Certificate of Death](#)
To: Patient Registration Dept.

Illinois Healthcare Law
(password required)
To: Members, Illinois Association of Healthcare Attorneys

[This Week's Mail Archives](#)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan. 15: [IHA-IHI Action Initiative Conference Call - Get Boards on Board](#)

Jan. 23: [Regulatory Inspections Education Program](#)

[Click here to view all programs.](#)

COMPdata: [Click here to view list of programs.](#)

Services to finalize an assessment proposal to be submitted to the General Assembly and the Governor.

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BOARD VOTES ON CON AND PRICING

The IHA Board passed two resolutions at its Jan. 8 meeting that will guide the Association's position on future legislation addressing Certificate of Need (CON) reform and on providing discounts for the uninsured.

The Board adopted the report of IHA's Task Force on Health Planning Reform, which will provide input to the state task force charged with recommending CON changes to the Governor and General Assembly by March 1. The report recommended changes to streamline and increase the predictability and accountability of the CON process; to level the playing field by regulating by service and activity, not by provider; to take into consideration a project's impact on safety net services; and to increase the size of the Planning Board and ensure member expertise in health care.

The Board also directed IHA staff to explore the possibility of legislation requiring hospitals to provide discounts to the uninsured. Criteria for legislation that might be supported by IHA have been developed to respond to **HB 684**, the Hospital Discriminatory Pricing Act, which would require hospitals to provide discounts to 110% of the Medicare payment rate to any uninsured patient regardless of income, assets, residency, or medical necessity.

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NEW IHA BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Gary Kaatz, President and CEO, **Rockford Memorial Hospital**, was appointed treasurer of the IHA Board of Trustees at its Jan. 8 board meeting. Four new board members, replacing Kaatz and three other departing board members, are: David Hefner, President, **University of Chicago Hospitals** (class of 2008); Michael O'Grady, President and CEO, **Norwegian American Hospital**, Chicago (class of 2009); Randall Dauby, CEO, **Hamilton Memorial Hospital District**, McLeansboro (class of 2010); and Jeffrey Brickman, Regional President & CEO, **Provena Saint Joseph Medical Center**, Joliet, and **Provena St. Mary's Hospital**, Kankakee (class of 2010), Region 2C Trustee.

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COLLABORATIVE'S FOCUS ON UTIs TIMELY

IHA's 2008 IHA Patient Safety Collaborative, "Targeting Hospital Acquired Conditions: Keeping Patients Safe," focuses on catheter-associated urinary tract infections (UTIs) as well as injuries due to falls and pressure ulcers. A study in January's *Clinical Infectious Diseases* reports that up to 1 in 4 patients have a urinary catheter placed during their stay, that UTIs are the most common hospital acquired infection (40% of hospitalization-related infections), and that 80% of UTIs occur in patients with urinary catheters.

While hospitals have long worked to reduce these conditions, they continue to persist, and have received attention from the public, government, the media and insurers. Now in its fourth year, IHA's Patient Safety Collaborative is recognized nationally as a respected catalyst for change, accelerating implementation of best practices to achieve *sustainable* results in the hospital setting.

It's not too late to join the hospitals that are committed to finding the best ways to approach these issues from a fresh perspective. There has been a waiting list for participation in previous collaboratives. For information, contact [Becky Steward](#). For information on the collaborative, [see our web site](#). ([top of page](#))

RECORD YEAR FOR IHA PAC

For the fifth year in a row, IHA PAC set a new record for its annual campaign, raising \$289,719 in 2007, breaking the previous record of \$273,014. There were 138 participating hospitals and 1,045 club level contributors.

A strong PAC is a key component of IHA's advocacy strategy. You can help strengthen our voice by contributing to the IHA PAC. For more information, contact [Nancy DeMarco](#) at 217-541-1158. ([top of page](#))

CLARIFICATION ON NEW LAWS

Below are clarifications of three of the laws summarized in last week's edition of the *Reporter*.

-- Sexual Assault Survivor Treatment: Updates hospital requirements and allows for HFS payment for certain follow-up treatment that is given outside the hospital with a provider of the survivor's choice.

-- Language assistance services: Requires health care facilities

to submit their policies to IDPH; post a notice regarding the languages for which interpreters are available; and train employees on how to make services available to patients.

-- Newborn HIV Testing: The consent and other provisions of the Perinatal HIV Prevention Act were modified to conform with the latest changes to the AIDS Confidentiality Act effective June 2008; reporting of perinatal exposure from mothers who had been diagnosed HIV-positive prior to labor and delivery is required.

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BRIEFLY NOTED

P Remember to check "This Week's Mail" (links at upper right) for important member communications (items formerly included in the "Friday Mailing").

P CMS has announced 10 markets, including Chicago, for recruitment for its voluntary post-acute care provider demonstration project to develop a common patient assessment tool. Facilities may be within a two-hour radius of the city.

P Mary A. Byrne has joined the Illinois Purchasing Collaborative (IPC) as director, contract operations, responsible for developing regional health care contracts for IPC member hospitals. She may be reached at 630-276-5785 or mbyrne@ihastaff.org.

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