



## the Reporter

January 30, 2009

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### U.S. HOUSE PASSES ECONOMIC RECOVERY BILL

The U.S. House this week passed its version of economic recovery legislation (H.R.1) by a vote of 244-188. The package includes a number of provisions that will help Medicaid providers during the recession.

The legislation increases federal matching funds for Medicaid by \$89.5 billion through December 2010 - including a 4.9% increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) Medicaid matching rate for every state; a 2.5% increase for Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) allotments; an extension of the moratorium on six onerous Medicaid rules through June 2009; and an expansion of the moratorium to include the Medicaid rule for hospital outpatient services. The legislation also reinstates through September the Medicare indirect medical education adjustment for teaching hospitals' capital costs; invests \$20 billion for health IT infrastructure; and gives Medicare and Medicaid incentives to encourage doctors and hospitals to use health IT.

Next week, the U.S. Senate is expected to begin debate on its version of the bill which does not include Medicaid rule moratoria or

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### THIS WEEK'S MAIL

#### [IHFPB Notices](#)

TO: CEOs; VPs, Planning, Marketing & Business Development

#### [Technical Bulletin #324](#)

TO: CEOs; CFOs; Government Relations Personnel; Patient Accounts Manager

#### [Upcoming CareLearning Webinars](#)

TO: CEOs; CNEs; Health Educators

[IHA Web Site Survey](#) - Please take a few minutes to give us your suggestions to make the IHA web site better for you!

#### [This Week's Mail Archives](#)



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Feb. 2:** [The CMS Death Penalty: Could It Happen Next Week at Your Hospital?](#)

**Feb. 3:** [Infusion Confusion: We've Got Your Solution](#)  
(Beginner Session)

**Feb. 5:** [Infusion Confusion: We've Got Your Solution](#)  
(Advanced Session)

**Feb. 5:** [Meeting the Joint](#)

increased DSH allotments.

Contact your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators Durbin and Burris to urge support for inclusion of key issues in a final recovery package, including the Medicaid moratoria, an FMAP increase with a strong maintenance of effort provision, and the application of any temporary FMAP increase to DSH payments, with a corresponding increase in DSH allotments to accommodate the enhanced federal match. To send letters from IHA's web site, [click here](#).

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## UPDATE ON HOSPITAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

IHA continues to push for state action to initiate the new hospital assessment program so payments can be made to hospitals as quickly as possible. Over the past two months, IHA has had extensive discussions and meetings with the Governor's Office of Management and Budget, the Comptroller's Office and the Dept. of Healthcare and Family Services. We also plan to meet shortly with Governor Pat Quinn. Quinn was sworn in as governor late Thursday after the State Senate voted to remove Rod Blagojevich from office.

IHA has provided key state officials several different strategies on how the State can provide the initial cash flow to start the program. The Comptroller and his staff have been very responsive and have pledged their support to resolve this issue as quickly as possible.

Members are urged to contact [Governor Quinn](#) and [Comptroller Hynes](#) to emphasize to them the importance of continuing their efforts to start the Hospital Assessment Program.

In addition, IHA is talking to key reporters around the state to make them aware of this delay and the impact on hospitals. Contact [Danny Chun](#) if your hospital is willing to talk to the news media.

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## U.S. SENATE APPROVES SCHIP BILL

The Senate voted Thursday to approve a bill that would spend \$31.5 billion more to provide health insurance to an additional four million low-income children, along with the current seven million children covered by the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). The next step could be a House-Senate conference committee to resolve the differences, including an IHA/AHA backed House provision banning physician self-referral to hospitals in which they have an ownership interest. The Senate version does not contain the

[Commission Anticoagulant National Patient Safety Goal Reducing the Likelihood of Patient Harm](#)

**Feb. 10:** [Continuous Service Readiness \(CSR\) Seminar and Workshop](#)

**Feb. 10:** [Making the Business Case for Quality Improvement](#)

**Feb. 10:** [Working with Hospital Volunteers Webinar Series: Growing Your Own - Components of a Great Youth Program](#)

**Feb. 11:** [Best Practices in Denial Management Today](#)

[Education Programs](#)

[COMPdata Programs](#)

[Sponsorship Opportunities](#)

provision. Urge your members of Congress to retain the self-referral ban in the final SCHIP bill by [clicking here](#).

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## NATIONAL HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY IS APRIL 16

The second annual [National Healthcare Decisions Day](#) (NHDD) will be held on April 16. Hospitals will reach out to their communities, including their employees, to encourage individuals to talk about end-of-life planning with their loved ones and doctors. Federal Medicare law requires hospitals to provide community education on advance directives, and participation in NHDD is one way hospitals can fulfill this obligation.

The Joint Commission will be encouraging accredited facilities to participate. For example, a hospital can publicize the day on its web site or in its newsletter, inviting people to come in for information on advance directives. Social workers or pastoral care staff can be on hand to give guidance on how to start the discussion or to show people the forms to use. Other more formal programs can include a one-hour public seminar with a local attorney who is an expert on advance care planning. IHA will once again promote the participation of our member hospitals. For more information, contact [Kathleen Pankau](#) at 630-276-5598.

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## START PLANNING FOR AHA APRIL MEETING

AHA's annual meeting will be held Apr. 26-29 in Washington, D.C. Details regarding IHA events, including a special reception and congressional visits, will be sent to CEOs and Government Relations staff shortly. Reserve your room quickly and easily at IHA's designated hotel, the Fairfax at Embassy Row, by [clicking here](#).

[Click here](#) for more information or contact [Barb Filiung](#) at 630-276-5482.

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## TWO MEMBER HOSPITALS IN AHA PUBLICATION

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program at **Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center**, Chicago, and the Will-Grundy Medical Clinic of **Provena Saint Joseph Medical Center**, Joliet, are featured in the fourth edition of AHA's [Community Connections](#). The publication

highlights programs that demonstrate the variety of ways that hospitals benefit their communities.

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## BRIEFLY NOTED

- HHS has published FY2009 updated federal poverty guidelines in the Federal Register. [Click here](#) for a detailed memo to members.
- AHA's American Society for Healthcare Human Resources Administration will host a [webinar](#), "The New Labor Environment: Employee Free Choice Act and Other Legislative and Regulatory Initiatives," on Feb. 24.
- The Dept. of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) has issued a [notice](#) that effective with claims received on or after April 1, 2009, HFS will return any laser-generated UB-04 forms to providers. The black and white format of these claims interferes with the imaging process.
- [Illinois DocAssist](#) helps primary care clinicians screen, diagnose and treat the mental health and substance use problems of children and youth, offering training, resources and referral systems.
- [Click here](#) for a quick survey about IHA's web site and offer your input as we redesign our web site this year.

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