



the Reporter

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THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

[ASSESSMENT SUPPLEMENTAL MOVING PRESIDENT'S BUDGET HITS HOSPITALS HARD CMS LISTS HOSPITALS FOR SCIP IMPROVEMENT HEALTH DECISION DAY NEEDED: AARP POLL MARK YOUR CALENDAR: IHA LEADERSHIP SUMMIT BRIEFLY NOTED](#)

ASSESSMENT SUPPLEMENTAL MOVING: CONTACT YOUR STATE SENATOR NOW

It is critical that members contact their state Senators now to act on a supplemental appropriation for the Hospital Assessment Program for FY2008. **SB1863**, a supplemental appropriation bill for the program, is beginning to move in the General Assembly. The Senate Appropriations I Committee will hold a hearing Feb. 13 on the bill sponsored by Sen. Jeff Schoenberg (D-Evanston).

Under the current assessment program, two quarterly payments to hospitals – totaling \$600 million – were originally due to be made in September and December. The next quarterly payment of \$300 million is due to hospitals next month.

Contact your Senator and ask him/her to support **SB1863** and urge his/her colleagues on the Appropriations I Committee to approve the bill. If your Senator is a member of the Appropriations I Committee, be sure to contact him/her by NOON on Feb. 13, before the hearing (an advocacy alert on this issue, including the list of committee members and their contact information, is on our web site).

You can send an email or letter to your Senator from our web site.

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PRESIDENT'S BUDGET HITS HOSPITALS HARD

President Bush's proposed \$3.1 trillion budget for FY2009 was released on Feb. 4, with cuts of \$182 billion from Medicare over

THIS WEEK'S MAIL

[Save-the-Date: IHA's 2008 Leadership Summit](#)
TO: CEOs

[Technical Bulletin #309: Hill-Burton Program Income Qualification Guidelines](#)
TO: CEOs; CFOs;
Government Relations
Personnel; Patient Account
Managers

[Medicare Recovery Audit Contractor Update](#)
TO: CEOs; CFOs;
Compliance Officers;
Directors of Patient Financial
Services

[Public Act 95-0442: Expanded Reporting Requirements for Pharmacies Dispensing Controlled Substances](#)
TO: CEOs

[UB-04 Seminars](#)
TO: CFOs; Patient Account
Managers

[Targeted Quality Improvement Support - Pneumococcal and Influenza Vaccinations for Pneumonia](#)
TO: CEOs; Medical Staff
Directors; Quality Directors;
Infection Control
Professionals

[Quality Improvement and Public Reporting Update](#)
TO: CEOs; Chief Medical
Officers; Chief Nursing
Officers; Directors of Quality;
COMPdata Contacts

[CMS Releases List of Hospitals Targeted for SCIP Improvement](#)
TO: CEOs; Chief Medical
Officers; Directors of Quality;
Directors of Infection Control
& Prevention; COMPdata
Contacts; Public Relations
Directors

the next five years, and \$17 billion from Medicaid. With the demand for hospital services increasing with rising numbers of uninsured and 77 million baby boomers approaching Medicare eligibility, these cuts would balance the budget at the expense of jeopardizing access to critical health care services.

Illinois providers would see their Medicare payments reduced by \$383 million in FY2009 alone; the reduction in Illinois for the five-year period from 2009–2013 is estimated at nearly \$4.5 billion. A summary of the provisions and hospital-specific impact sheets will be forwarded to member hospitals next week.

Reps. Richard Neal (D-Mass.) and Phil English (R-Penn.) are asking their colleagues to sign a letter asking the House Budget Committee Leaders to reject the nearly \$200 billion in Medicare/Medicaid cuts, including \$135 billion from hospitals.

Send a letter asking your U.S. Representative to sign the Neal-English letter from our web site.

Numbers count! It is critical for all legislators to hear from their hospitals' leaders. Budget committees are expected to start deliberations at the beginning of March.

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CMS LISTS HOSPITALS FOR SCIP IMPROVEMENT

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a list of roughly 1,000 hospitals on Feb. 5 "targeted for improvement for Surgical Care Improvement Program (SCIP)," including a number in Illinois. The list is based on measures for SCIP Infection-1 (antibiotic administered prior to surgery) and SCIP Infection-3 (antibiotic discontinued within 24 hours after surgery) reported through March 2007, but CMS has not yet disclosed the methodology it used for generating the list. The list was released in conjunction with the unveiling of a new statement of work effective Aug. 1 for Medicare's 53 quality improvement organizations (QIOs), which will be required to work with the listed facilities. In addition, about 4,000 nursing homes nationwide were also listed, focusing on measures for pressure ulcers and use of restraints.

CMS included recommendations by the Institute of Medicine and Government Accountability Office that QIOs focus more on protecting Medicare patients, patient care transitions, patient safety and prevention. QIOs will concentrate their efforts on facilities with the greatest opportunity for improvement and must provide direct quality improvement support, use standardized tools and meet specific milestones to retain their contracts.

More detailed information is available on our web site.

[This Week's Mail Archives](#)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb. 11: [Region 2A, 2B & 2C Meeting](#)

Feb. 21: [Infusion Confusion: What's Your Solution? Updates for 2008 OPPS](#) (Webinar program)

Feb. 27: [Prevention Strategies for MRSA in Rural Communities](#)

[Education Calendar](#)

[Sponsorship Opportunities](#)

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HEALTH DECISION DAY NEEDED: AARP POLL

A recent AARP survey of 1,013 adults age 35 and older revealed that most believe they're in good health and know where to find their parents' important paperwork, but many have not yet completed the same paperwork, including advance directives, for themselves. The poll highlights the need for National Healthcare Decisions Day, to be held April 16, 2008. Tools and resources are available for IHA member hospitals, and two Webinars are scheduled for March. [_____](#)
The AARP poll is available by clicking here.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR: IHA LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Mark your calendar for IHA's 2008 Leadership Summit, to be held Sept. 11-12 at Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa in Galena. This is an exceptional opportunity for hospital CEOs, senior leaders and trustees to attend inspirational and educational sessions while enjoying the networking and recreational activities offered at Eagle Ridge. Featured speakers include Tony Snow, former White House press secretary, and best-selling author Bertice Berry. Additional information and registration materials will be available in the near future.

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BRIEFLY NOTED

✓ **Register now!** Blue Cross/Blue Shield's annual quality survey awards points for participation in IHA's Patient Safety Collaborative, which focuses on three hospital-acquired conditions this year. For more information on the program or payment options, contact [Becky Steward](#) 630-276-5585.

✓ A new study by the nonprofit Urban Institute estimates that up to 27,000 Americans may have died in 2006 because they did not have health insurance. "Uninsured and Dying Because of It" updates the Institute of Medicine's 2002 analysis on the impact of lack of insurance on mortality by using U.S. Census Bureau data with an alternative calculation. The full report may be seen by [clicking here](#).

✓ Governor Blagojevich will give his annual state of the state address on Feb. 20, when he will unveil his state budget proposal. Health care is expected to be among his top priorities.