

the Reporter

January 27, 2012

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IHA Ramps Up Advocacy in Advance of Spring Session

Governor Quinn will set the stage for the spring legislative session with his State of the State address to the Illinois General Assembly next week (Feb. 1). He is expected to paint a grim picture of the state budget and call for major cuts and untested changes to the Medicaid program. IHA continues to meet with key state officials, legislators and legislative staff to discuss these and other issues of critical importance to hospitals.

As part of our statewide PR/advocacy campaign, members are strongly urged to contact your state legislators now and set up appointments to personally meet with them, either in their district or Springfield offices or at your hospital.

Legislators need to know that your hospital – and all hospitals across the state – must be financially healthy in order to sustain health care services for your patients and their constituents in the short-term and to make the necessary improvements to transform the health care delivery system in the long-term. Imposing Medicaid cuts and

IHA Memos

[HFS Issues RFP for Care Coordination Innovations Project](#)

[Legislative Visits - The Cornerstone of Effective Advocacy](#) (IHA guide to assist hospital leaders and their staff schedule and conduct visits with their legislators)

[CON Docket: January 2012](#)
(password required)

[ICT Trust Newsletter](#)
(February 2012)

[IHA e-Update Archives](#)



Calendar of Events

Feb. 2: [National Baldrige Criteria and Illinois Performance Excellence Application Process Made Easy](#); presented by Illinois Performance Excellence

Feb. 7: [Communicating Effectively with Patients Who are Limited English Proficient, Hearing Impaired or Visually Impaired](#)

Feb. 16: Illinois Association of Healthcare Attorneys (IAHA) Quarterly Lecture - [Advanced Practitioners: Emerging Issues on Scope of Practice](#) (IAHA is an affiliate of IHA)

Feb. 22: [Managing Potential Violence in the Work Place](#); presented by the Association of Occupational Health Professionals in Healthcare and Illinois Compensation Trust

Feb. 23: [Ethics Training Series: Decisional Capacity](#)

sweeping program changes will undermine hospitals, many of which are struggling to survive and face mounting financial pressures.

To assist you in your meetings, IHA has sent members a range of helpful materials including IHA's preview of key legislative issues for hospitals; key messages on the Medicaid and property tax issues; a PowerPoint presentation; and IHA's guide on "Legislative Visits – The Cornerstone of Effective Advocacy." For more information on these materials or if you have questions, contact [Danny Chun](#) at 630-276-5558.

Following the Governor's State of the State address, IHA will provide additional advocacy/communication tools and resources for member use.

As a reminder, IHA's annual region/legislative meetings start Feb. 27 for Regions 3A, 3B and 4. This is an excellent opportunity for hospital leaders to meet with IHA President & CEO Maryjane Wurth and local state legislators to discuss critical hospital concerns and issues. [Click here](#) for the schedule.

Members are also urged to send patient or program stories to IHA exemplifying how your hospital serves your communities and provides care to patients, regardless of income or status, including Medicaid, low-income or uninsured patients. To submit stories, go to our grassroots advocacy website, [Protect Illinois Health Care](#).

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State Launches "Care Coordination Innovations Project"

As part of Medicaid reform and the state's commitment to incentives for improved health outcomes, Governor Quinn and the Illinois Dept. of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) this week issued a [solicitation](#) to providers for the "Care Coordination Innovations Project." The project is part of the state's plan to implement legislation requiring at least 50% of its Medicaid clients to be in coordinated care programs by 2015. (See IHA's [memo](#).)

According to the Governor's [press release](#), HFS is looking for "innovative proposals to demonstrate that providers can build their own provider networks with care coordination services and achieve better health outcomes and cost savings than under the current fragmented system, without involving traditional HMOs, as most other states have done."

Phase I of the Project seeks **letters of intent** from applicants, known as "Care Coordination Entities" or "Managed Care Community Networks," that are **due by Feb. 29. Detailed proposals are due on May 25.**

If IHA can be of assistance, please contact [Lori Williams](#) at 217-541-1164 or [Barb Haller](#) at 630-276-5474. Additional information can also be found on the [HFS website](#). Questions about the solicitation process

[Informed Refusal and Substituted Judgment](#)

Feb. 28: [EMTALA and Physician On-Call Requirements: Ensuring Compliance](#)

[2012 Education & Events Calendar](#)

[IHA 2012 Event Sponsorship](#)

[2012 careLearning Course Catalog](#) (listing of web-based programs)

can be emailed to HFS.carecoord@illinois.gov.

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CMMI Issues "One Year of Innovation" Report

The U.S. Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) this week released "[One Year of Innovation](#)," a report summarizing its progress over the past year. The national center, set in place by the Accountable Care Act, is charged with testing and implementing groundbreaking ways to cut costs while improving patient care. To date, there are 16 initiatives, funded with more than \$2.7 billion in federal money, that will involve more than 50,000 providers over the next five years. Among the initiatives are the *Partnership for Patients*, which will help more than 3,200 hospitals and other organizations reduce hospital-acquired conditions. Another initiative is testing whether doctors and hospitals can save money by forming accountable care organizations that receive a set amount for each patient and then coordinate care. CMMI has \$10 billion in total funding to spend through the end of 2019.

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Obama: Little Mention of Health Care in Speech

In his State of the Union speech this week, President Obama focused on his plan for revitalizing the economy, providing Congress with an agenda to achieve a sound economy through areas such as education, immigration reform, manufacturing, and energy. He did not focus on his landmark health care reform law, but did say, "I will not go back to the days when health insurance companies had unchecked power to cancel your policy, deny your coverage, or charge women differently than men." The President also said he is prepared to make more reforms to rein in the long-term costs of Medicare and Medicaid and strengthen Social Security.

Also this week, the U.S. House of Representatives Rules Committee cleared the way for the House to vote on repealing the long-term care provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) when it reconvenes next week. And Republicans in the House are drafting legislation to replace the ACA if it is struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court later this year. The Republican bill would include malpractice reform, high-risk insurance pools for people with pre-existing conditions, tax breaks for individuals and small businesses, and also would allow people to buy cheaper coverage from insurers in another state.

AHA will hold its next Hospital Advocacy Day on Wednesday, Feb. 15 in Washington, D.C. This is another excellent opportunity for members to meet with key legislators to reinforce our message of "*Don't Cut Payments for Hospital Care*." For more information, contact [Kimberly Parker](#) in IHA's Washington office, who will coordinate Capitol Hill visits for members.

Registration Now Open for AHA Annual Meeting

Registration is now open for the 2012 AHA Annual Membership Meeting, “Champions of Care,” May 6-9 in Washington, D.C. During this important election year, this is an excellent time to join your counterparts from Illinois and around the country to hear from leaders in health care, politics and the media while taking Illinois hospitals’ message to our Congressional delegation.

Prominent keynote speakers include former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, former White House press secretary Robert Gibbs and former White House senior advisor Karl Rove. [Click here](#) to register. Information about IHA-related activities will be available soon.

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Leapfrog Releases Elective Early Delivery Data

On Wednesday, the Leapfrog Group [released](#) 2011 data on elective early deliveries (prior to 39 weeks) from 757 nationally reporting hospitals showing nearly a 10 % improvement compared to 2010. Using an under 5% target rate, 39% of reporting hospitals nationwide met or exceeded that target, compared to 30% of reporting hospitals in 2010. While there is still wide variation among hospitals nationwide, 65% of reporting hospitals improved their performance. Click [here](#) to see hospital-specific data, including Illinois hospitals.

The Leapfrog Group is working with other national health care organizations, such as the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Institute for Healthcare Improvement and Catalyst for Payment Reform, to ensure adherence to clinical guidelines through health benefit design, education and payment reform. Elective early delivery data is included in the first set of quality measures for the Medicaid program with reporting to begin December 2013.

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IHA's Medicaid Payment Cycle Survey Due February 10

On Tuesday, member Chief Financial Officers received a memo asking them to complete IHA’s survey on Medicaid and State of Illinois PPO Aging Accounts Receivable Balances for the October-December 2011 quarter by Feb. 10. This information is used to monitor the payment cycle to anticipate any trends that are developing that could negatively impact members.

Previous survey results for the quarter ending Sept. 30, 2011, showed that the average time accounts were outstanding for Medicaid was 128 days and for the State of Illinois PPO 199 days. (The majority of hospitals report their accounts receivable based on discharge date.)

If you have any questions, please contact [Jo Ann Spoor](#) at 217-541-1187.

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Ethics Training Webinar Series Begins February 23

IHA, in collaboration with Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, is offering an Ethics Training webinar series. This five-session series begins with “Decisional Capacity, Informed Refusal and Substituted Judgment” on Feb. 23 from 1:30-3 p.m. CST. Participants can choose to enroll in the full series of monthly webinars or select individual sessions. For series details and registration information, [click here](#).

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Briefly Noted

- | The federal government approved an Illinois nursing home bed tax, generating approximately \$145 million a year in state revenue along with an estimated \$110 million in matching Medicaid money. State officials say that 86% of the revenue will be given to facilities to pay for additional staffing and \$20 million will be used to hire more inspectors. The tax is \$6.07 per resident, per day.
- | Hospital staff responsible for language assistance services should plan to attend IHA’s Feb. 7 program, “Communicating Effectively with Patients Who Are Limited English Proficient, Hearing Impaired or Visually Impaired.” For more information and to register, [click here](#).
- | Arthur Kohrman, M.D., has been appointed by Gov. Quinn to serve as the acting director and medical officer of the Illinois Dept. of Public Health. He will serve for the next 60 days while the search for a permanent director continues. Dr. Kohrman replaces previous interim director Dr. Kenneth Soyemi.
- | **Vanguard MacNeal Hospital**, Berwyn, is the latest Illinois hospital to achieve Magnet nurse recognition status from the American Nurses Credentialing Center, which honors health care organizations that provide the best in professional nursing practice and patient care. To date, [33 Illinois hospitals](#) have earned this distinguished award, more than any other state.
- | Check out the latest hospital achievements such as which hospitals made the list of Top 100 Integrated Healthcare Networks and HealthGrades awards recipients at IHA’s [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

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Studies and Surveys in the News

- 1 The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) issued its first [report](#) on national priorities this week, but failed to specify any diseases or conditions the agency would target for comparative effectiveness research. Instead the report focuses on five broad areas: improving health care systems; comparative assessment of options for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment; communication and dissemination research addressing disparities; and accelerating patient-centered outcomes research and methodological research.

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1151 E. Warrenville Road, P.O. Box 3015, Naperville, IL 60566
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