Wednesday, October 11, 2017

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U.S. House Committee Explores 340B Program

Today, the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing, “Examining How Covered Entities Utilize the 340B Drug Pricing Program.” The goal of the hearing was to better understand how covered entities, including hospitals, use the savings from the program and how they track that information. This is the second hearing on the 340B program conducted by the Energy and Commerce Committee this year.

While all members on the committee hailed the benefits of the drug pricing program, many in the majority argued that the program lacks transparency which hampers oversight capabilities. Witnesses included hospitals and health systems as well as patient advocacy groups.

During her remarks, Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-9)—the only Illinois House member serving on the subcommittee—highlighted the benefits to patients provided by 340B and referenced the work Advocate Health Care does in her community.

IHA is offering three complimentary webinars on best practices on maintaining and supporting a successful 340B Drug Pricing Program, sponsored by Murer Consultants, Inc. For more information please click here.

Staff contact: Cristina Batt

AHA Releases Community Benefits Study

Yesterday, AHA released a study showing that hospitals’ and health systems’ community benefit activities outweigh the value of their federal tax exemption by a factor of 11 to one. The analysis, prepared by Ernst & Young, estimated that in 2013, non-profit hospitals were exempt from $6 billion in federal taxes and provided an estimated $67.4 billion in community benefits, as reported on Form 990 Schedule H. The study is based on Medicare hospital cost reports for approximately 3,000 non-profit hospitals and does not account for other non-profit specialty
Register for IHA Forum on Physician/APP Models

Policy Meets Practice: Optimizing Provider Teams offers practical insights into operationalizing recent legislative changes and engaging critical care team members so all are working to the top of their licenses and competencies. This IHA Clinical Services forum on physician and advanced practice providers (APP) models will be held on Nov. 30 in Naperville.

The following healthcare professionals are encouraged to attend:

- Physician leaders
- Healthcare administrators;
- Senior management;
- Advanced Practice Nurses;
- Physician Assistants;
- Risk Management staff;
- Government Affairs; and
- Professional interests.

The event will kick off at the Chicago Marriott Naperville at 3 p.m., with an hour of networking with key legislators who supported recent updates to Illinois' Nurse Practice Act, Physician Assistant Practice Act and Controlled Substance Act. The learning exchange forum from 4-6 p.m. focuses on strengthening team-based care, increasing access to care and improving health outcomes.

This event is exclusively for IHA's Clinical Services members and IHA member physician leaders. Click here to register.

To learn more about Clinical Services, please contact Cathy Grossi.

Staff contact: Christina Boyd

IHA Webinar Focuses on Infant Safe Sleep

Three safe sleep experts will share current practices, challenges and opportunities to improve safe sleep education in hospitals during IHA's Improving Hospital Education on Safe Sleep webinar on Oct. 19 from 10-11:30 a.m. They'll discuss best practices and current hospital policies and safe sleep education programs.

Faculty are:

- Jean Silvestri, MD, Clinical Director of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago;
Nancy Maruyama, RN, Executive Director of SIDS of Illinois, Inc. in Lisle; and

Amy Hill, Associate Director of the Injury Prevention and Research Center at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago.

The webinar is complimentary and designed for hospital leaders and staff in the following units: mother/baby, infant nurseries, neonatal intensive care, and pediatric and emergency departments.

Click here to register.

Staff contact: Lance Kovacs

Briefly Noted
Today, the Cook County Board officially repealed the soda tax by a vote of 15-2. The penny-per-ounce tax on sweetened beverages will be removed effective Dec. 1.

President Trump yesterday announced that Eric D. Hargan of Illinois will serve as acting Secretary of Health and Human Services. Hargan was confirmed and sworn in as deputy secretary last week.