



## the Reporter

May 7, 2010

[www.ihatoday.org](http://www.ihatoday.org)

**IHA Memos and Notices** (*scroll right to view*)

### HEADLINES

[General Assembly Headed for Adjournment](#)

[CAH Bill Goes to Governor](#)

[Urge Legislators to Sign FMAP Extension Letter](#)

[IHA/MCHC PSO Approved by AHRQ](#)

[Register Now for IHA Quality Leadership Conference June 3](#)

[Illinois Hospitals' Charity Care/Community Benefits Up Again](#)

[Nominations Sought for IHA Awards](#)

[Briefly Noted](#)

[Studies and Surveys in the News](#)

### General Assembly Headed for Adjournment

The General Assembly is expected to adjourn today or tomorrow after the House takes final action on the FY2011 state budget. Early this morning, the Illinois Senate, voting along party lines, approved a \$26.1 billion operations budget. The budget includes a Medicaid appropriation for hospitals that matches the original appropriation proposed by the Governor, which IHA strongly supported. It also includes a reappropriation of \$150 million for the Hospital Capital Investment Program.

The Senate budget plan calls for funding to be allocated in large lump sums within various state agencies, with the Governor given broad authority to direct how the money is spent. The plan also delays payments of about \$4 billion to state pension systems until next January.

[\(top of document\)](#)

### CAH Bill Goes to Governor

### MEMOS/NOTICES

[IHA Nominating Committee Meeting/Election of Officers](#)  
TO: Chief Executive Officers, Member Hospitals and Health Systems

[Call for Nominations, 2010 IHA Awards](#)

TO: Chief Executive Officers, Member Hospitals and Health Systems

[Strategic Quality Improvement Opportunities](#)

[Healthcare and Family Services/Office of Inspector General Launching Inpatient DRG Audits](#)

(password required)

[Technical Bulletin #347: CMS Medicare Proposed Payment Rules for FY2011](#)

(password required)

[Technical Bulletin #348: Medicare Psychiatric PPS CMS FY2011 Final Notice](#)

(password required)

[IHFSRB Notices](#)

[IHA e-Update Archive](#)



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 11: [Constituency on Volunteers Gift Shop/Thrift Shop Workshop - Key Ingredients for Successful Shops](#)

May 12: [Contemporary Issues in Health Care Marketing: Green Marketing and the Healthy Hospital Movement in Health Care](#)

May 13: [An Uplifting Journey: Challenges and Successes of Implementing a Safe Patient](#)

A legislative initiative for Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs), **House Bill 5765**, was approved by the Illinois Senate Tuesday on a vote of 50-2. The bill, which requires that reimbursement to Critical Access Hospitals for Medicaid outpatient services be based on cost, now goes to Governor Quinn. The House previously approved the bill on a vote of 114-0. We thank our members for their outstanding efforts and advocacy that were instrumental in the General Assembly's overwhelming approval of this legislation.

[\(top of document\)](#)

### Urge Legislators to Sign FMAP Extension Letter

The U.S. House and Senate have passed their respective versions of the latest "jobs" bill that include a six-month extension of the enhanced Medicaid federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP). The two bills are to be conferenced into a single legislative package. Extending the temporary FMAP increase for six months would mean approximately \$700 million in additional Medicaid funding for Illinois.

Urge your Representative to sign the "[Dear Colleague](#)" letter being circulated in the House. In addition, thank Sens. Durbin and Burris for their support and urge congressional action on the FMAP extension before the Memorial Day Recess. To send customized e-mail messages, [click here](#).

[\(top of document\)](#)

### IHA/MCHC PSO Approved by AHRQ

The Midwest Alliance for Patient Safety, a joint patient safety organization (PSO) formed by IHA and the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council (MCHC), has been approved and listed as a federally certified PSO by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality as of April 28. The Alliance, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, will provide IHA and MCHC members and their affiliates with PSO services under the federal Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act. The Alliance, a PSO for Illinois providers by Illinois providers, will strive to solve the most pressing patient safety and quality concerns facing Illinois caregivers based upon our unique state circumstances and input from our members.

The Alliance Board of Directors, which met for the first time on April 8, includes IHA President Maryjane Wurth; MCHC President Kevin Scanlan; Peter Butler, executive vice president and COO, **Rush University Medical Center**, Chicago; and Robert Ritz, president and CEO, **St. John's Hospital**, Springfield.

An experienced patient safety professional, Monica Berry, has been appointed as the Alliance's executive director. Berry is a Certified Professional in Healthcare Risk Management and a Distinguished

[Handling Program Across a Five Campus Hospital System](#)

May 18: [Tools for Managing the Operating Budget](#)

May 18: [Outpatient RAC and Regulatory Initiatives - Now and Future](#)

May 19: [ICD-9-CM Coding Series: Coding for Neoplasms](#)

May 20: [Joint Commission Tracers 2010: Preparing for Unannounced Surveys](#)

May 20: [Prevention of Multi-Drug Resistant Organisms \(MDROs\) - The Interface of Practice and the Environment](#)

May 20: [Diagnosing & Treating the Financially Challenged Hospital/Health System](#)

*Upcoming Webinars*

June 22: [Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act: Implications for Hospitals](#)

June 23: [Airflow Design Trends for Health Care Facilities](#)

[Education Programs](#)

[Governance Education](#)

[COMPdata Programs](#)

Fellow in the American Society for Healthcare Risk Management.

IHA and MCHC members were recently asked to respond to an online survey on their most immediate patient safety needs and concerns to help the Alliance set priorities and initial activities. The deadline for submitting the survey is May 14. For more information, contact [Monica Berry](#) at 312-906-6169.

[\(top of document\)](#)

### **Register Now for IHA Quality Leadership Conference June 3**

Dr. David Goodman, co-principal investigator of the Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care, is one of more than a dozen exceptional speakers at IHA's annual Quality Leadership Conference on June 3 in Lisle. Over the years, Dartmouth Atlas has prompted considerable debate and discussions about health care spending, including regional variations in Medicare hospital readmissions, expenditures, and end-of-life care. Goodman will provide information about Illinois hospital specific data.

“Transforming Care... Changing Lives” will help prepare health care leaders and board members for quality and patient safety issues that will become even more prominent as the changes under health care reform unfold. In addition, IHA's Quality Care Institute will be officially unveiled at the conference. A bonus quality and COMPdata training session for participants will be held on June 4 at IHA's Naperville offices. For detailed information, [click here](#) and for registration, [click here](#). For more information, contact [Pat Merryweather](#) at 630-276-5590.

[\(top of document\)](#)

### **Illinois Hospitals' Charity Care/Community Benefits Up Again**

For the fourth consecutive year, charity care and overall community benefits provided by Illinois hospitals have increased substantially. According to new figures, based on annual community benefit reports filed with the Attorney General's Office, the charity care provided by the 109 reporting hospitals in the fiscal years ending through September 30, 2009 was nearly \$500 million, an increase of 17% over the year before and an increase of nearly 100% since 2005. Overall community benefits were more than \$4.86 billion, an increase of more than 4% over the previous year and an increase of 32% since 2005. To see the latest statewide community benefits data, see our [web site](#).

IHA is planning to publish its fourth annual community benefits report with story and photo contributions from more than four dozen hospitals and systems. *Illinois Hospitals Serving Their Communities: More than Medicine*, is expected to be published this summer. [Click here](#) to see the 2009 report.

## Nominations Sought for IHA Awards

Each year IHA honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the Association, to the health care delivery system and to the welfare of Illinois communities. Awards are presented at the annual IHA Leadership Summit in September. Members are urged to nominate their colleagues or legislators for the Excellence in Service Award, Excellence in Public Service Award or Distinguished Service Award. [Click here](#) for detailed information. Nominations are due by June 4.

[\(top of document\)](#)

### Briefly Noted

- | **HB5351**, which permits the Illinois Supreme Court or any circuit court to adopt rules permitting the video conferencing of involuntary commitment hearings, was given final legislative approval by the state Senate this week. The bill also permits psychiatrists to provide testimony in commitment hearings using video technology. This legislation, long advocated and supported by IHA's Behavioral Health Constituency Section, will reduce the burdens associated with participation in such hearings, especially by psychiatrists.
- | The Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the Dept. of Healthcare and Family Services began its new audit program for inpatient DRGs last month. Two hospitals are currently being audited, and the OIG plans to audit as many as 50 hospitals this year. [Click here](#) for IHA's detailed memo (password required). For more information, contact [Teresa Hursey](#) at 630-276-5524 or [Jo Ann Spoor](#) at 217-541-1187.
- | IHA has issued technical bulletins (password required) on two Medicare payment issues. On May 4, CMS published its annual proposed rule for [Medicare inpatient acute service payments](#). In addition, CMS has published its notice of payment rate changes for the [Medicare Inpatient Psychiatric Prospective Payment System](#).
- | The Illinois Dept. of Healthcare and Family Services' Spring Outreach Tour begins May 11 at several locations in northern Illinois. Information will be provided on FamilyCare; AllKids; Illinois Healthy Women; Illinois Breast & Cervical Cancer Program; Veterans Care; and other programs. For details and registration, [click here](#).
- | Fingerprint background checks, as required by the Health Care Worker Background Check Act, are being implemented as of May 1 in Kankakee, Livingston, Ford, and Iroquois counties. Currently more than 1,600 facilities have the ability to initiate the checks through Illinois' Health Care Worker Registry. [Click here](#) for more information.
- | A Polish-language version of the Illinois Attorney General's

flyer alert on defective drop-side cribs is now available. To download that flyer as well as English- and Spanish-language versions, go to IHA's [web site](#).

- | For the first time, a health care worker has been [convicted and imprisoned](#) under HIPAA regulations for accessing confidential patient records without authorization.
- | “Celebrating Health, Hope and Healing” is the theme of this year’s National Hospital Week celebration May 9-15. IHA salutes its members for their unending commitment to providing quality care for Illinois residents.

[\(top of document\)](#)

### **Studies and Surveys in the News**

- | A [report](#) on a telephone survey of 99 tax-exempt hospitals and systems conducted by the Access Project and Community Catalyst says that only about a quarter of the hospitals distributed information about qualifications for discounts or free care and fewer than half provided program applications, although 85 of the hospitals described their charity care policies on their web sites or in phone calls with surveyors. AHA took issue with the report, saying that hospitals use many different methods to tell patients about their financial assistance programs. In Illinois, under the Fair Patient Billing Act and the Hospital Uninsured Patient Discount Act, hospitals are required to notify patients about financial assistance in several ways.

[\(top of document\)](#)

[Click here to read this week's IHA memos and notices.](#)