

IMS Advocate

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Key legislation

HSB 229 – Creates Iowa licensure for lay midwives. IMS opposes.

HF 35 – Requires certain new school buses to be equipped with seat belts. IMS supports.

HF 56 – Prohibits the use of thimerosal in pediatric influenza vaccinations. IMS opposes.

HSB 231 – Creates a licensing board for clinical laboratory science practitioners. IMS opposes.

HF 234; SF 16 – Require insurance coverage for mental health conditions, including substance abuse treatment. IMS supports.

SF 3 – Sets a .08 blood alcohol limit for boat operating. IMS supports.

SF 153 – Allows physician assistants to form a professional corporation. IMS opposes.

HF 478 – Requires coverage for diabetes education. IMS supports.

HF 540/SF 261 – Establish a pilot physician assistant mental health fellowship program and appropriate funding. IMS is monitoring.

SSB 1189/HSB 172 – Modify damages recoverable for negligent or wrongful injury/death. IMS opposes.

HF 38 – Requires schools to develop policies regarding emergency epinephrine use. IMS supports.

HF 6; SF 57 – Prohibit smoking on gaming floors. IMS supports.

HSB 230/SSB 1094 – Relate to use of medical records as evidence in civil trials. IMS opposes.

HF 247 – Creates health insurance mandate commission. IMS opposes.

Legislative activity picks up before funnel week

This week was very busy, as legislative leadership tried to advance bills before next week's first funnel deadline. To survive the funnel and remain viable, bills need to be out of their respective chamber's committees. Next week, we will learn if **HSB 229**, which would license direct-entry lay midwives, survives this session. IMS and others oppose this bill because it is contrary to Iowans' safety. IMS continues to strongly support **HF 234** and **SF 16**, which provide mental health parity for Iowans. IMS was pleased that this week the governor signed into law **SF 101**, which creates an Iowa shaken baby syndrome prevention program. IMS continues to oppose **SF 153**, which would allow PAs to form professional corporations. IMS has set up advocacy campaigns: 1) opposing the proposed direct-entry midwife licensure; and 2) supporting mental health parity. We need your voice on both issues! Simply visit the "VoterVoice" section under the "Legislative Advocacy" tab of our Web site, www.iowamedical.org, and take action now!

IMS comments on CMS' 2010 call letter to MA plans

Each year, CMS issues a "call letter" to Medicare Advantage (MA) Part C and Part D health plans advising them of regulatory requirements likely to impact them in the new fiscal year's bidding process. CMS first issues a draft of the call letter, allowing interested parties to comment. CMS reissued the draft 2010 call letter to reflect directions set forth by the new administration.

IMS filed comments focusing on the: 1) ongoing challenges of medical record demands by private fee-for-service (PFFS) risk adjusted MA plans; 2) unacceptable regulation by CMS of medical practices regarding fraud and abuse training programs through the MA contracting process; and 3) lack of a well-defined process for medical practices to file complaints with CMS regarding a MA plan. IMS is communicating these same concerns to the CMS Region VII Office in Kansas City and continues to work in concert with the AMA and other state medical societies on Medicare Advantage challenges.

Obama sticks to ICD-10 implementation deadline

The Obama administration announced that it will proceed with a Bush administration plan to delay implementation of the ICD-10 codes. In the final days of the Bush administration, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released two rules concerning ICD-10 implementation, but they were put on hold for further study in the first days of the Obama administration.

HHS announced on March 5 that it will proceed with the plan to push back compliance. The rule calling for updates of HIPAA standards governing electronic transactions is pushed to January 1, 2012, and the rule requiring replacement of ICD-9 codes with the ICD-10 codes is pushed to October 1, 2013. The original plans called for October 1, 2010, and October 1, 2011, compliance dates, respectively.



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IHC, IAFP offer free seminar series on medical homes

The Iowa Healthcare Collaborative (IHC) and the Iowa Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP) have convened the Medical Home Learning Community. This effort aims to align and equip practices for the journey toward the patient-centered medical home. Geared toward primary care clinics, this learning community will focus on practice transformation and exploring the standards for recognition of medical home status.

The free three-session program will have meeting dates in April, June, and September. All of the meetings will be in Johnston. For more information on this opportunity, visit the IHC Web site, www.ihconline.org, or call (515) 283-9332.

AMA offers guidance on developing code of conduct

The new Joint Commission Leadership Standard covering code of conduct took effect January 1, 2009. The standard requires, among other things, that hospitals have a code of conduct that defines acceptable, inappropriate, and disruptive behavior. It also requires that hospitals create and implement a process for managing these behaviors.

In response, the AMA adopted policy that calls for medical staffs to develop and implement their own code of conduct in the medical staff bylaws. The AMA policy also states that hospitals should have a code of conduct that is also applicable to members of the board, management, and all employees. The AMA has drafted a model code of conduct for insertion in medical staff bylaws. The model language and the entire *Physicians' Guide to Medical Staff Organization Bylaws* is available to AMA members at its Web site, www.ama-assn.org.

HHS issues 2009 poverty guidelines

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has issued its 2009 Poverty Guidelines, which are used administratively to determine financial eligibility for certain federal programs. In those guidelines applicable to the 48 contiguous states, for a family of 1, the poverty guideline is \$10,830; for 2, \$14,570; for 3, \$18,310; and for 4, \$22,050. Consult the HHS Web site, aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/09poverty.shtml, for additional information and to access a list of frequently asked questions.

IPS to discuss psychiatric medications at conference

At its upcoming spring meeting on April 4, the Iowa Psychiatric Society (IPS) will offer the program "Psychiatric Medications: A State-of-the-Art Practical Update." Sessions that day will discuss treatments for ADHD, schizophrenia, and depression. For more information and to register, visit www.iowapsych.org or call (515) 633-0341.

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