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SAVE THE DATE: ADVOCACY DAY 2019



Mark your calendars now for WHA’s premier event, Advocacy Day, to be held Wednesday, April 17 at the Monona Terrace in Madison.

This must-attend event draws more than 1,000 health care advocates from across the state. With much at stake for health care in Wisconsin’s upcoming legislative session, your participation in this year’s program and legislative meetings will be especially important. Bring a friend and join us for a day of learning, networking, and advocacy. There is no cost to attend this event; however, registration is required. We’ll be sending information about our keynote speaker and how to register soon, so stay tuned for more updates!

MEDICARE UNDERPAID HOSPITALS BY \$53.9B IN 2017

Underpaid by \$2.2 billion In Wisconsin alone

The American Hospital Association released its annual survey of Hospitals for 2017, the most recent year of available data. Among its findings were that Medicare underpaid hospitals by nearly \$54 billion in 2017, accounting for the difference between what Medicare paid and what it cost hospitals to provide Medicare services. In Wisconsin, Medicare underpayments increased from \$1.77 billion in 2016 to more than \$2.15 billion in 2017, with another \$215 million in uncollected bad debt. This is not surprising as aging demographics in our state mean more Wisconsinites are becoming eligible for Medicare and accessing Medicare services.

Overall, both Medicare and Medicaid paid hospitals about 87 cents on the dollar nationally. Wisconsin’s Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements lag well behind national averages, paying roughly 75 cents on the dollar for Medicare and 65 cents on the dollar for Medicaid. This failure of the government to pay the full cost of care results in a hidden health care tax on everyone else; it creates a cost shift in the form of higher health insurance premiums for businesses and individuals, who make up the difference.

WHA-led initiatives like the disproportionate share hospital (DSH) Medicaid program have helped improve these deficits, and despite these challenges, Wisconsin continues to have some of the highest quality care in the nation. WHA will continue to advocate aggressively on the state and federal side to inform lawmakers on what they can do to reduce the hidden health care tax and help Wisconsin maintain its well-deserved reputation for delivering high-value, high-quality health care.

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

Started January 2019
Health Care Workforce Resilience
 Free Member Webinar Series

March 15, 2019
Physician Leadership
Development Conference
 Kohler, WI

April 17, 2019
Advocacy Day
 Madison, WI

HUNDREDS PARTICIPATE IN FIRST WORKFORCE RESILIENCE WEBINAR



On January 8, more than 450 registrants, representing more than 115 individual hospital organizations and all the major health systems in Wisconsin, participated in the first installment of the 12-part series focused on health care workforce resilience. The *Health Care Workforce Resilience* series is offered jointly by WHA and the Wisconsin Medical Society, is available at no cost to members, and is presented by renowned health care workforce resilience expert J. Bryan Sexton, PhD, Director of the Duke Patient Safety Center at Duke University Health System.

The first session, *Prevalence and Severity of Burnout: Workforce Resilience as Care Quality*, focused on the concept that burnout is increasingly common and can compromise clinical and operational outcomes, but it's treatable. Each monthly session includes engaging and evidence-based content, is delivered in bite-sized doses, and shares practical tools and strategies immediately applicable for all members of the health care team, regardless of role.

Even if you missed this first session, you can still participate in the series. You can access the recorded session and participate in upcoming sessions by [registering today](#).

- Each live session will be recorded and available on-demand, allowing you to view them at your convenience, but pre-registration is required.
- Each session is also approved for 1.0 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit*[™] and 1.0 Nursing credit hour, for those who participate in the live webinar or view the recording within 30 days.
- [View the full list of series topics and dates and register now](#).

Learn more about WHA's educational opportunities at
www.wha.org/EducationandEvents