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HEAT HAS NEW TOOLS TO ALERT YOU TO IMPORTANT ADVOCACY ISSUES MORE QUICKLY



The Hospitals Education & Advocacy Team (HEAT) kicks off 2019 with a new logo and a new texting tool—which will allow WHA to get important advocacy information out to you more quickly.

“Last year, WHA updated their look and branding to better reflect its strong advocacy leadership in Wisconsin and Washington, D.C.,” said WHA Vice President of Advocacy Kari Hofer. “HEAT’s new look coordinates with WHA’s refreshed brand while still serving as a unique symbol for HEAT’s bipartisan spirit and strength at the capitol.”

As the leading voice on health care in Wisconsin, WHA’s **Hospitals Education & Advocacy Team (HEAT)** is the statewide network designed to facilitate YOUR grassroots involvement in health care public policy. The HEAT program provides you with the information, strategy, and assistance you need in order to share your insight on how legislative issues impact hospitals and the communities they serve.

In addition to a new logo, HEAT has also added SMS text alert capabilities this year. More people are using mobile devices as their primary mode of communication, and HEAT members who opt-in to receive text alerts will get notifications to their mobile device when action is needed on important health care issues. HEAT members take action on HEAT Alerts through their email, optimized for either desktop or mobile, as in the past. HEAT member participation at the highest level will be crucial this year, which is why HEAT is joining the mobile medium.



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EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

Throughout 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

WHA RECOMMENDS TO HHS REFORMS TO REDUCE EHR DOCUMENTATION BURDENS

WHA recommended several federal policy changes to reduce regulatory and administrative burden relating to electronic health record (EHR) use in a [comment letter](#) submitted to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) January 28. The comment letter was in response to a series of recommendations made in an Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology [report](#) focusing on addressing specific sources of EHR-related clinical burden released in December.

WHA thanked HHS for the report’s “thoughtful approach to identifying EHR-related sources of regulatory burden, and encourage[d] HHS to continue to seek input from the field to identify additional regulatory reforms to reduce EHR-related regulatory burden on organizations, administrators, physicians, and other clinicians when such regulations do not meaningfully improve health care quality, safety and efficiency.” Building upon input received from the WHA Physician Leaders Council and other member input in 2018 to reduce physician regulatory burden, WHA made several recommendations to HHS, with a particular emphasis on prioritizing reforms targeted at reducing clinical documentation burdens.

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WHA Recommends to HHS Reforms to Reduce EHR Documentation Burdens . . . Continued from page 1

Key WHA recommendations to HHS for policy change included:

- Review, simplify and update regulations and guidance regarding documentation requirements necessary to meet Medicare and Medicaid payment requirements
- Revise regulations and/or create regulatory safe harbors that will permit discrete data gathered by the EHR—as opposed to narrative notes—to satisfy Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) payment requirements
- Revisit and revise regulations and guidance that discourage physicians from delegating or incorporating clinical documentation to/from other staff and clinicians
- Explore regulatory changes to HIPAA to leverage EHR systems to standardize prior authorization processes and reduce associated documentation burdens
- Update Medicare Advantage and Medicaid managed care organization rules and contracts to drive commercial payer adoption of clinical documentation simplification and standardization reforms
- Continue and accelerate work to reduce EHR-related burden associated with CMS program reporting
- Focus future interoperability initiatives on care delivery systems that lack robust EHR usage and/or are highly fragmented
- Improve standardization and interoperability of public health and prescription drug monitoring program systems
- Encourage HHS to develop and advance metrics to monitor the impact of their strategies to reduce clinician EHR burden

View the [74-page HHS report](#) and [5-page WHA comment letter](#).

NEXT RESILIENCE WEBINAR: THE SCIENCE OF GRATITUDE ON FEBRUARY 12

Every member of your care team can benefit from participating in the free monthly webinar series focused on building workplace resilience for busy and stressed health care professionals. Each monthly session in the Health Care Workforce Resilience webinar series 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.



The next session, *Enhancing Resilience: The Science and Practice of Gratitude*, is scheduled for February 12. This session demonstrates a simple, enjoyable and effective tool for improving well-being by cultivating gratitude, which has shown improvements in resilience, sleep quality and depression. Encourage your team to [register today](#) for this complimentary series.

Each live session is 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.](#)



Jennifer Frank

WHA'S JENNIFER FRANK HONORED FOR HER LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE BY AHA AND HOSPITAL ASSOCIATIONS

WHA Vice President of Education and Marketing Jennifer Frank was recently awarded the A2E Health Care Leadership and Service Award. This award recognizes an individual who has devoted their professional time and effort to strengthening the goals and objectives of A2E and its respective members through dedicated service and outstanding leadership.

“Health care is a dynamic and changing industry, and it is critical that our educational programming and partnerships remain relevant and impactful in order to deliver value for our members. In leading WHA’s Education Department, Jennifer demonstrates so many of the attributes that are recognized and celebrated by the A2E Health Care Leadership and Service Award,” said Eric Borgerding, WHA President and CEO. “Jennifer is a valued and respected colleague, who works closely with her teammates at WHA, our members, and our partner organizations to deliver impactful and relevant educational programming that results in better care for Wisconsin patients and their families.”

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Among the many examples of Frank's excellent work and commitment is WHA's annual Advocacy Day, which brings more than 1,000 hospital advocates to Madison for education and citizen lobbying. Frank also provides exemplary support and service to WHA and its members, including many of WHA's key allied and partner organizations, such as the Partners of WHA and the Wisconsin Organization of Nurse Leaders, among others. Jennifer also serves as the lead staff to the WHA Foundation.

MORE THAN 2,000 KIDS VISIT WISCONSIN HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS FOR DENTAL CARE



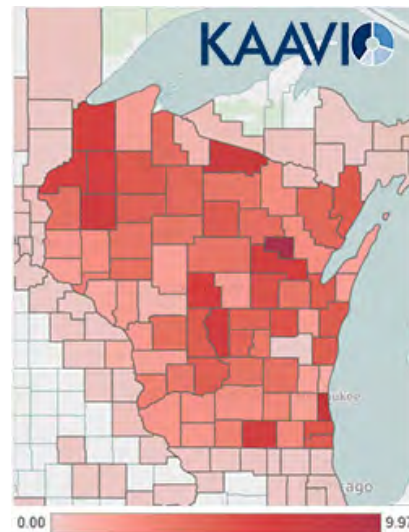
According to the WHA Information Center (WHAIC), there were 2,063 dental-related emergency department (ED) visits for children age 18 years or younger in Wisconsin between January 2017 and June 2018.

WHAIC's heat map shows where these ED visits are occurring throughout the state, using the rate per 1,000. The average total charge of those visits was \$517.

According to the Health Policy Institute, most dental ED visits are non-traumatic dental conditions and patients receive prescriptions for pain or antibiotics for infections in most instances. Patients who visit an ED with a non-traumatic dental condition would be better served in a dental office setting due to the availability of definitive care and the likelihood of continuity of care.

February is National Children's Dental Health Month, and the American Dental Association sponsors a month-long national health observance that brings together thousands of dedicated dental professionals, health care providers, and educators to promote the benefits of good oral health to children, their caregivers, teachers and many others.

[Visit the WHAIC website to learn more Fact Facts and view helpful WHAIC publications online.](#)



HEAT has New Tools to Alert You to Important Advocacy Issues More Quickly . . . Continued from page 1

"This year will be extremely important for health care in Wisconsin, and we're going to need everyone's involvement in the process to protect coverage and access to Wisconsin's high-quality care," said Eric Borgerding, WHA President/CEO. "The WHA advocacy team is doing everything it can to make sure that hospital and health system advocates' voices are heard by elected officials."

Current HEAT members will receive instructions this week on how to opt in. New HEAT members can opt in upon sign up. Text subscribers will only receive notifications on important public policy requiring grassroots action (called HEAT Alerts) about 5-6 times each year. The mobile information you provide is used for internal purposes only and will not be shared with any other organization. Other HEAT communications, like the *Capitol Connection* newsletter and Advocacy Day information will still be sent to your email.

If you are not already a HEAT member, we need your involvement this year! [Join HEAT today!](#)

For more information, contact WHA Vice President of Advocacy [Kari Hofer](#).