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## EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

### September 14

*Legal and Risk Management Issues in the Emergency Department* Webinar

### September 15

*2021 Physician Leadership Development Conference: On-demand and Part 2* Virtual

### September 16

*WHA Information Center Data Tools for Everyday Use - 2021 Virtual Bag Lunch Webinar Series*  
*Session 4: Answering Your Business Questions with Kaavio - Part 1*

## Stop the COVID Spread! Coalition Launches Statewide Public Education Campaign to Encourage COVID-19 Vaccinations



WHA and its Stop the COVID Spread partners continue to develop and deploy public messaging aimed at fighting the spread of COVID-19 in Wisconsin. The latest example of the work the Association is doing to assist in the state's response to the pandemic is a PSA campaign scheduled to air on TV, radio and digital platforms that started this week encouraging vaccination.

The campaign's first message, viewable [here](#), pairs a Wisconsin physician and his patient together to share both medical and personal reasons for getting vaccinated.

WHA members are welcome to use this video in their communications channels to encourage vaccination in their areas.

Questions about this campaign or the materials available for use can be directed to WHA Vice President of Communications [Kelly Lietz](#).

## Wisconsin Hospitals State PAC & Conduit Fundraising Reaches 68% of Goal

### See full contributor list

The Wisconsin Hospitals State PAC & Conduit continues its annual fundraising campaign with a total of \$219,991 contributed to date by 157 individuals. That is 68% of its goal of raising \$325,000 from 300 individuals in 2021. Individual contributions range from \$25 to \$15,000.

See the 2021 contributor list to date on page 4.

The Wisconsin Hospitals State PAC & Conduit works to support candidates for state office who value hospitals and health systems. Contributors to the Wisconsin Hospitals PAC & Conduit include people across Wisconsin who care about the hospitals in their own communities. Hospital employees, community leaders, members of hospital boards and all members of the health care profession are encouraged to participate in Wisconsin Hospitals PAC & Conduit.

Individuals can make a one-time contribution for the 2021 campaign or set up a recurring contribution to spread out their commitment through the year.

To ensure your name is on the next list, you can make a personal contribution online at [www.whconduit.com](http://www.whconduit.com) or by contacting WHA's [Kari Hofer](#) at 608-268-1816 or [Nora Statsick](#) at 608-239-4535.



## **DHS Encourages Nursing Homes to Report Bed Availability Daily to SNF Bed Tracker**

### ***Hospitals can use tracker to locate post-acute care placements***

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is strongly encouraging nursing homes to report the number of skilled nursing facility (SNF) beds available in their location each day to EMResource as part of a bed tracking system. With the daily reports from nursing homes, DHS hopes the “SNF bed tracker” will provide a real time picture of bed availability across the state, which hospitals can use as they work to identify potential post-acute care placements for their patients. In an [EMResource Update](#), DHS wrote, “Reporting is optional, and strongly encouraged.” DHS has delivered the same message in its meetings with both nursing homes and hospitals.

Hospitals are reporting increasing numbers of patients who are ready to be discharged but remain in the hospital because an appropriate post-acute care placement is not available. Numbers vary by size of hospital and the region of the state, but individual hospitals have reported from around ten to more than 40 patients currently ready to be discharged but waiting for a post-acute care placement.

DHS is asking area hospitals and nursing homes to work together to populate and use the SNF bed tracker as a resource. In March, DHS hosted a training webinar for nursing homes to introduce the tracker’s reporting capabilities. The webinar recording can be accessed [here](#).

Hospital staff interested in accessing and using the system should provide their name, facility and email address to [DHSEMRsource@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:DHSEMRsource@dhs.wisconsin.gov).

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## **DQA: Memos Regarding Hospital Expansion and Waivers Still in Effect, Updated**

The Wisconsin Division of Quality Assurance (DQA) has notified hospitals that the pandemic related DQA memos regarding hospital expansion and waiver provisions are still in effect. DQA recently revised the memos to reflect current DQA contact information.

[DQA Memo 20-001](#) establishes the process for hospitals to expand their acute care inpatient services temporarily during the pandemic. [DQA Memo 20-002](#) provides clarification and guidance to hospitals, including temporary expansion sites, regarding the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issuance of blanket waivers of Medicare regulations under Section 1135 of the Social Security Act. The memo includes a table that outlines the CMS blanket waivers and any potential conflict with Wisconsin requirements.

Additional information is available on the [DQA Memos webpage](#).

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## **LHAREF Establishes Fund for Louisiana Hospital Workers Affected by Hurricane Ida**

The Louisiana Hospital Association Research and Education Foundation (LHAREF), a 501(c)(3) organization, has established the Louisiana Care Fund to assist hospital employees who experienced significant property loss or personal hardship as a result of Hurricane Ida but continued to care for patients before, during and after the storm.

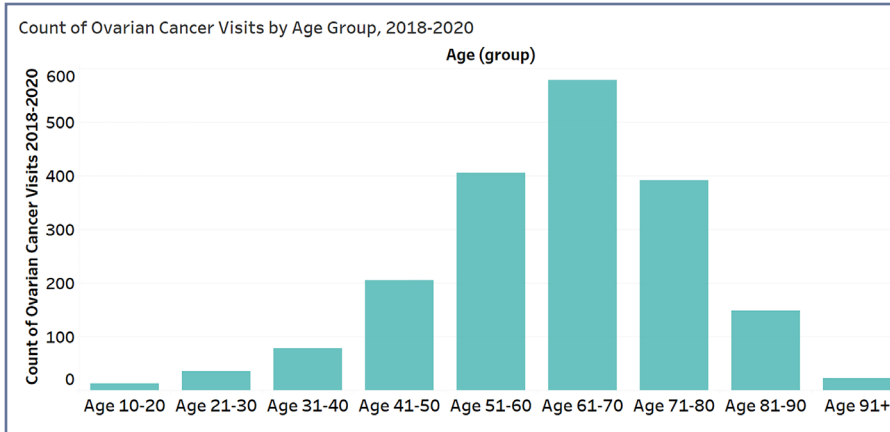
LHAREF invites donations online at [www.LouisianaCareFund.org](http://www.LouisianaCareFund.org) or by check payable to the Louisiana Care Fund, with a completed [donation form](#), to the LHA Research and Education Foundation, 9521 Brookline Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70809. Contributions are tax deductible, and all administrative services are being provided in kind so that 100% of donations will be used to assist hospital employees. Individuals who donate will receive a written or electronic acknowledgement, including information needed for tax purposes.

For more information about the Louisiana Care Fund, email [LouisianaCareFund@lhaonline.org](mailto:LouisianaCareFund@lhaonline.org).

## Fast Facts from the WHA Information Center: Ovarian Cancer



Ovarian cancer does not rank among the most common forms of cancer affecting women, but it is among the deadliest. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that roughly 21,000 women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer each year. By comparison, around 250,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer. Although the numbers seem small, ovarian cancer ranks fifth in cancer deaths among women. In fact, about 1-in-78 women are at risk of getting ovarian cancer. CDD data shows a steady decline in the annual rate of ovarian cancer in the U.S. since the late 1990s.



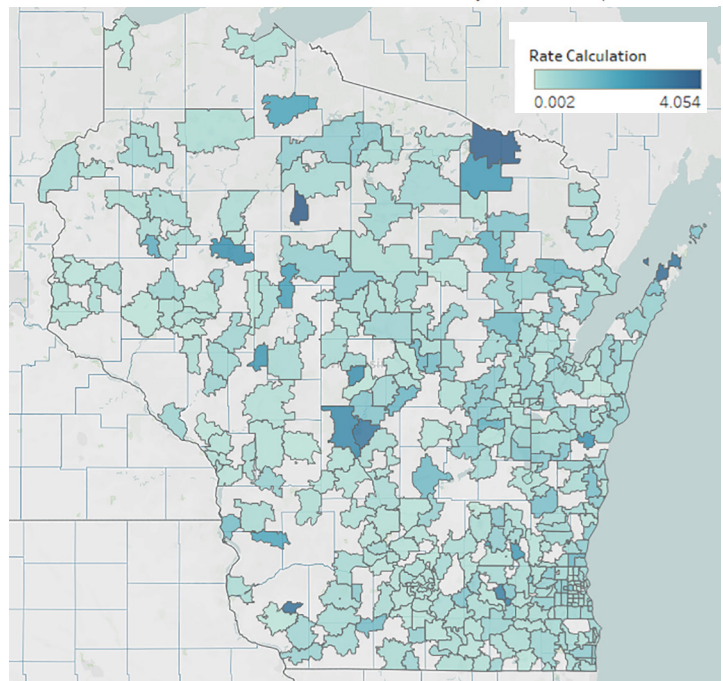
The WHA Information Center analyzed all inpatient, emergency department and outpatient claims from 2018 to 2020 to see how Wisconsin compares to national statistics. The average age of women who visited hospitals for ovarian cancer during this period was 63. Women aged 61-70 had the highest visit counts compared to all other age groupings. This is consistent with the national trend, as more than half of those diagnosed with ovarian cancer are 60 years or older. Over 50% of ovarian cancer visit patients were seen at an inpatient hospital. Medicare was the primary payment method for 50% of

patients, followed closely by commercial insurance. The overwhelming majority of patients (93%) seen for ovarian cancer were white.

Knowing the risk factors for ovarian cancer cited by the CDC is important to diagnosing and treating the disease. Consider the following when assessing ovarian cancer risk in women:

- Middle-aged or older;
- Has close family members (such as a mother, sister, aunt, or grandmother) on either the mother's or father's side, who have had ovarian cancer;
- Has a genetic mutation (abnormality) called BRCA1 or BRCA2, or one associated with Lynch syndrome;
- Has had breast, uterine or colorectal (colon) cancer;
- Has an Eastern European or Ashkenazi Jewish background;
- Has endometriosis (a condition where tissue from the lining of the uterus grows elsewhere in the body); and
- Has never given birth or have had trouble getting pregnant.

Rate of Patient Visit Counts for Ovarian Cancer by ZIP Code Population



## Political Action Fundraising Campaign Contributors

### Contributors \$10,000+ (Leaders Circle)

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(continued on page 5)

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