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WHA Recommends Reforms to HHS to Reduce EHR Documentation Burdens

WHA recommends several federal policy changes to reduce regulatory and administrative burden related to EHRs with an emphasis on reducing clinical documentation requirements

WHA recommended several federal policy changes to reduce regulatory and administrative burden related 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."

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Don't Miss the March 15/16 Physician Leadership Development Conference in Kohler

Friday's session features [Stephen Beeson, MD](#), leading a discussion on [engaging physicians](#)

Physician and advanced practice clinician leaders must represent both clinical and managerial interests, and those new to the role are challenged to move beyond their clinical training and often take a new approach to managerial decisionmaking, problem solving, communication and negotiation.



The annual WHA Physician Leadership Development Conference is an opportunity for Wisconsin hospitals and health systems to offer their physicians and advanced practice clinicians reputable, CME-qualifying education focusing on developing administrative and leadership skills—at a reasonable price, and with more limited travel time and expense.

New to the 2019 conference is a Saturday morning track of education specific to senior physician leaders, including chief medical officers, vice presidents of medical affairs, medical directors and others holding similar responsibilities. This new offering allows you to accompany your physician leaders to the Friday education, network at the Friday evening event, and then meet with your peers on Saturday morning to examine the role of senior physician leaders today and into the future, through a didactic presentation, an interactive reactor session, and a facilitated roundtable discussion.

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

Next Resilience Webinar on Feb. 12: The Science of Gratitude

Cultivating gratitude has shown improvements in resilience, sleep quality and depression. [Register now if you have not already done so!](#)

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.](#)

HEAT has New Tools to Alert You to Important Advocacy Issues More Quickly

Physicians have an important role to play in advocating for issues impacting their professional lives and those of their patients. Join WHA's [Hospitals Education & Advocacy Team \(HEAT\)](#) today.



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.

“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](#).

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

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.

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](#).