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Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026, 10:52 AM

Subject: WHA Quality Alert: WHA Q1 Quality Snapshot and Poster Showcase Video, IPPS Proposed Rule, Clinical Simulation Scholarship

Good morning! We're proud to release our newest **Quality Snapshot** and **Poster Showcase video**, which highlight and celebrate outstanding quality improvement in hospitals across Wisconsin. We're also excited to share that **WHA Foundation clinical simulation training scholarships are now open for application**, and that the **CMS FY 2027 IPPS proposed rule has been released** and is available for your review, as outlined below.

2026 Quarter 1 Quality Snapshot and Health Care Quality Showcase Video Highlight Wisconsin's Collective Impact

The [2026 Quarter 1 Wisconsin Hospitals Quality Snapshot](#) is now available, showcasing how Wisconsin hospitals, working together, continue to demonstrate national leadership in health care quality, patient safety and patient experience. Drawing on trusted, nationally recognized measures, the snapshot highlights statewide performance, recognition and improvement efforts that reflect the collective impact of hospitals across urban, rural, and critical access settings.

The Quality Snapshot provides an objective, statewide view of hospital quality performance and improvement activity, grounded in nationally recognized measures and transparent data. By bringing together results, recognitions and examples of improvement, the snapshot supports informed dialogue among hospitals, policymakers, partners, and communities, and helps illustrate how collaboration across care settings contributes to progress in health care delivery. It serves as a practical resource for communicating quality priorities, aligning efforts, and reinforcing the importance of continued engagement in statewide improvement initiatives.

The results and stories featured in the snapshot are made possible through statewide collaboration. Wisconsin hospitals actively participate in shared initiatives focused on improving patient outcomes, enhancing value, advancing rural and behavioral health, supporting the health care workforce, and addressing some of the most complex challenges facing care delivery today. By working together, hospitals strengthen not only individual performance, but the overall quality and reputation of Wisconsin's health care system.

This culture of collaboration and shared learning is also reflected in the Health Care Quality Showcase, featured in the Quality Snapshot and recently captured in a [new video](#) from the showcase following WHA's 2026 Advocacy Day. The Showcase brings together hospitals from across the state to share real world quality improvement projects, highlight innovative approaches and engage in peer-to-peer learning. The video emphasizes the importance of creating opportunities for hospitals to openly share successes, challenges and lessons learned as they work to advance patient care and safety statewide.

Hospital leaders are encouraged to review and share the 2026 Quarter 1 Quality Snapshot and the Health Care Quality Showcase video with boards, teams, and community stakeholders. Together, these resources highlight the strength of Wisconsin's collective approach to quality improvement and help ensure that the state's quality story remains current, visible, and relevant to those who rely on and support Wisconsin's health care system.

WHA invites you to join us in promoting the snapshot's key messages by sharing on social media and tagging WHA social media for greater reach. The following are WHA's official social media channels with an accompanying [customizable graphic](#).

WHA Social Media Handles:

- Facebook: [Wisconsin Hospital Association](#)
- LinkedIn: [Wisconsin Hospital Association](#)
- Instagram: [@wihospitals](#)
- X: [@WIHospitalAssn](#)

2026 Clinical Simulation Training Scholarship

WHA Foundation is once again offering scholarships to Wisconsin member hospitals, allowing them to designate an interdisciplinary team to participate in clinical simulation training focused on **stroke, severe sepsis/septic shock, or high-risk OB delivery**. Please see details below.

Scholarship Application Deadline: Friday, May 15, 2026

Application Materials

For complete information on scholarship eligibility and criteria, please click [here](#).

To complete the *2026 Clinical Simulation Training Application*, please click [here](#).

CMS Issues FY 2027 IPPS/LTCH PPS Proposed Rule

On April 10 the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule to update fiscal year (FY) 2027 Medicare payment policies and rates under the Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) and the Long-Term Care Hospital (LTCH) Prospective Payment System (PPS).

The FY 2027 IPPS/LTCH PPS proposed rule was published at the Office of the Federal Register Public Inspection Desk at the [federal register](#). To view the published version of the FY 2027 IPPS/LTCH PPS proposed rule, go to the Federal Register [webpage](#) and click on the PDF.

Proposed changes to the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program and other quality reporting programs are included in the regulation. Details regarding proposals for various quality reporting programs can be found on the pages listed below:

Among the notable items included in the proposal are:

- A 2.4% net pay bump that includes a 3.2% market-basket increase, offset by a 0.8% productivity cut.
- Expanding the Comprehensive Care for Joint Replacement (CJR) model to all eligible hospitals nationwide.
- Decreasing Medicare DSH payments by approximately \$546 million based on updates to the estimated uncompensated care pool.
- Changes to provider-based regulations for how CMS treats the "same patient population."
- The creation of 14 new and deletion of 18 current MS-DRGs.
- Changes to the CMMI Transforming Episode Accountability Model (TEAM).
- Changes to various inpatient quality reporting and value-based programs.
 - Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program pp. 19527-19538
 - Hospital Value-Based Purchasing Program pp. 19538-19546
 - Hospital-Acquired Condition Reduction Program pp. 19546-19547
 - Crosscutting Quality Programs pp. 19564-19580
 - Hospital IQR Program pp. 19580-19605
 - PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospital Quality Reporting Program pp. 19605-19612
 - Promoting Interoperability Program pp. 19618-19655

CMS will accept comments on the FY 2027 IPPS/LTCH PPS proposed rule until June 10 at 5 p.m. ET and will respond to comments in the FY 2027 IPPS/LTCH PPS final rule, to be issued by August 1. Comments can be submitted electronically or via regular mail or express/overnight mail. Please review the FY 2027 IPPS/LTCH PPS proposed rule for specific instructions for each method and submit using only one method.

WHA will also be submitting comments on behalf of our members. If you would like something included in WHA's response, please send to [Nadine Allen](#) by May 15. For more information on the proposed rule, please see the [FY 2027 IPPS/LTCH PPS Proposed Rule Fact Sheet](#).

Thanks,

Nadine

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