

## In This Edition:

- ◆ NDHA Advocacy Day
- ◆ Washington Update
- ◆ ND HFMA Annual Institute 2019
- ◆ NDHA Education Update
- ◆ ND Infection Prevention Conference
- ◆ SAMHSA: Provider's Clinical Support System - Grant Info

## Attachments:

Click on link to view attachments:  
<https://www.ndha.org/resources/publications/>

- ◆ ND HFMA Annual Institute Brochure

## NDHA Contacts

Phone: 701-224-9732  
Fax: 701-224-9529  
Web Site: [www.ndha.org](http://www.ndha.org)

*Tim Blasl, President*  
*Jerry Jurena, Past President*  
*Melissa Hauer, General Counsel/VP*  
*Callen Cermak, Finance Manager*  
*Lori Schmutz, Executive Assistant*  
*Pam Cook, Education Director*

A portion of this publication is supported by The Center for Rural Health's Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program. Visit their site at <https://rural-health.und.edu/projects/flex>

**NDHA** JANUARY 29, 2019  
North Dakota Hospital Association Est. 1934

## ADVOCACY DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

It's a great opportunity to visit with your state legislators.

## Washington Update ~ John Flink

The partial government shutdown continues to dominate the news in Washington. But, despite that, three weeks into the new Congress, committee assignments have been finalized, committee hearings are being scheduled and lawmakers are introducing bills. Here's a preview of how the year shapes up so far.

Drug pricing is at the top of everyone's agenda and is likely to be the first health care issue lawmakers tackle. The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee – on which Rep. Armstrong will serve – will hold the first drug pricing hearing on January 29. Other committees are expected to schedule their own hearings in the weeks ahead.

There is bipartisan, bicameral concern as well as concern from the Trump administration about drug prices, but no consensus on solutions. NDHA will certainly advocate for action to reduce drug costs while also stressing the need to ensure adequate supplies of critical medicines.

There also is bipartisan, bicameral interest in addressing "surprise billing" and transparency. As you know, patients are upset about large bills from physicians and other providers who are not in their insurance plan's network. Again, there is no consensus on how to address this concern, but hearings are expected in the next few months.

Hospitals, rightfully, want to protect patients from surprise bills, but also want to make sure the lawmakers don't add a heavy layer of regulatory requirements on an already overburdened system. The AHA has a task force working on principles and solutions.

Rural health advocates are optimistic that a bipartisan rural package can be developed. This could include legislation to authorize new models for the delivery of care, support for telehealth and expanded broadband capability and some shorter-term fixes such as to the CAH 96-hour rule and direct supervision of certain services. Adequate funding for federal workforce development programs will also be an NDHA priority.

Initiatives to reduce the federal deficit also may come forward, especially as Congress grapples – probably in late spring or early summer – with raising the limit on borrowing to finance current spending obligations. As in the past, we are concerned that Congress will look to reduce Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement. Preventing additional cuts will be a top priority as we move through the year.

*continued on next page.....*

*Washington Update continued.....*

Initiatives to reduce the federal deficit also may come forward, especially as Congress grapples – probably in late spring or early summer – with raising the limit on borrowing to finance current spending obligations. As in the past, we are concerned that Congress will look to reduce Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement. Preventing additional cuts will be a top priority as we move through the year.

Preserving access to insurance and Medicaid coverage will also remain a top priority for NDHA. There will certainly be efforts to reverse Trump administration policies that have de-stabilized the Affordable Care Act's insurance markets and reduced the number of Americans with insurance coverage.

As in the past, NDHA's priority is to ensure that as many North Dakotans as possible have health insurance coverage. As part of this effort, hospitals will work to delay Medicaid disproportionate share hospital payment cuts due to take effect October 1.

There is likely to be a lively debate over Medicare-for-all proposals, especially in the House. Medicare-for-all has become a label for several concepts floating around Congress, including – but not limited to – lowering the eligibility age for Medicare, allowing people under age 65 to buy into Medicare or resurrecting the public option that was discussed and rejected during the ACA debate. With a Republican Senate and White House, no one expects Medicare-for-all to be enacted, but it is likely to animate the political environment in Washington.

AHA has already stated that it will oppose Medicare-for-all, preferring, instead, to strengthen the coverage elements of the ACA. No doubt there will be other issues that arise as the year unfolds. Throughout these debates, NDHA will seek to achieve several policy goals:

- Health care coverage and access to high quality services for all residents of North Dakota;
- Preservation of access to high quality care in rural and frontier areas;
- Delivery system reforms that reward quality of care and greater value for the dollars spent on medical treatment;
- Predictable and sustainable revenue streams;
- An adequate supply of health care professionals; and
- A common-sense approach to regulating health care providers that ensures accountability, but allows for flexibility to support a transforming health care system.

Finally, as I mentioned above, committee assignments have been finalized for the 2019 – 2020 Congress. Sen. Hoeven will continue to serve on the Appropriations, Agriculture, Energy and Natural Resources and Indian Affairs Committees. Once again, he will chair Indian Affairs.

Sen. Cramer will serve on the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs; Environment and Public Works; Budget; Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs panels.

In addition to serving on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Rep. Armstrong will serve on the Judiciary Committee.

That's the lay of the land as we kick-off the 2019 Congress. Watch for updates as key issues emerge throughout the year. The AHA Annual Meeting April 7 – 10 will offer a great opportunity for NDHA members to weigh in on these and other issues. I encourage you to consider attending this year's conference.

## ND HFMA Chapter: Annual Institute 2019

Registration is now open for the ND HFMA Annual Institute to be held Wednesday, February 27, 2019 through Friday, March 1, 2019 at the Radisson Hotel in Bismarck, ND.

This conference features several topics on revenue cycle and updates from in-state and regional payers. Please see the attached flyer for the schedule of events and registration details.

Take advantage of our early-bird discount on registration now through Friday, February 8, 2019!

- Go to: <http://www.cvent.com/d/lbqqr3>
- Final registration due Tuesday, February 19, 2019

Brochure is in the Informer attachments for your review.

## NDHA Education Update

Registration Fees for webinars are \$175 for NDHA members, and \$300 for non-members. This fee is per connection, not per person. You can have as many people gather in one location to watch on one connection as you'd like.

Seminars have their own fee schedule so you will have to review the information to determine the fee for each seminar.

### January, 2019

How to Address Bullying in the Workplace  
Date: 01/29/2019 From: 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM  
Click [HERE](#) for more info & to register.

### February, 2019

Pre-Employment Screening & Interview Questions  
Date: 02/19/2019 From: 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM  
Click [HERE](#) for more info & to register.

*February continued...*

Morrison Cty, MN Rural Opioid Program  
Date: 02/26/2019 From: 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM  
Click [HERE](#) for more info & to register.

Strategies for Successful Leadership in Healthcare  
Date: 02/28/2019 From: 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM  
Click [HERE](#) for more info & to register.

## North Dakota Infection Prevention Conference

**March 20-21, 2019 | Radisson Hotel | Bismarck, ND**

This conference, coordinated with all healthcare settings in mind, provides an opportunity to refresh and expand your knowledge on key components of a successful infection prevention and control program, as well as allow you to network with your peers and subject experts.

### *Intended Audience*

- Infection Preventionists
- Infection Prevention committee Members
- Nurses, Environmental Services staff, Quality Improvement and Central Processing staff
- Anyone needing infection prevention and control education

Register now to get the Early Bird Rate! [Click HERE](#).

## SAMHSA: Provider's Clinical Support System-Medication Assisted Treatment Grant

The purpose of this program is to expand the number of Drug Addiction Treatment Act (DATA) 2000 waived providers, increase understanding of the importance of medication-assisted treatment, and ultimately increase access to MAT through expanded prescribing of FDA-approved medications for the treatment of opioid use disorders.

SAMHSA plans to issue 1 grant of up to \$2,000,000 per year for up to 3 years.

Application Due Date: Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Click [HERE](#) for more information.