

In This Edition:

- ♦ Washington Update
- ♦ NDHA Education Update
- ♦ Public Health Foundation Webinar
- ♦ CMS Launches New Medicare App
- ♦ NDHA's 2019 Convention Sponsors
- ♦ ND Dept of Health - Flood Evacuation Exercise
- ♦ Training Available: Project ECHO, UND-SMHS

Attachments:

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

- ♦ AHA's 2019 Report

NDHA Contacts

Phone: 701-224-9732
Fax: 701-224-9529
Web Site: www.ndha.org

Tim Blasl, President
Jerry Jurena, Past President
Melissa Hauer, General Counsel/VP
Callen Cermak, Finance Manager
Lori Schmautz, 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>

*This edition of the Informer
is sponsored by*
2018-2019 Associate Member



Washington Update ~ John Flink

Most of the buzz in the past week in Washington has been about the president's State of the Union speech and the progress of the 17-member conference committee negotiating a final version of the Department of Homeland Security funding measure. Sen. Hoeven is one of seven Senate negotiators working on a package that addresses border security and other homeland security priorities.

In health care news, AHA used its annual Rural Health Care Leadership Conference this week to release its 2019 rural advocacy agenda as well as a new report (attached) outlining the challenges that threaten rural hospitals' ability to maintain access to health care services in their communities. The report underscores the importance of local access to essential health services, as well as the economic impact rural hospitals have on their communities, according to an AHA news release. It also includes a number of legislative and regulatory recommendations aimed at strengthening health care in rural areas.

Meanwhile, stakeholders addressed a variety of rural health issues at a Rural Health Summit convened in Washington last week by Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar and Health Resources and Services Administration Administrator George Sigounas. I was one of 25 health care representatives invited to participate in the forum.

Participants addressed rural health challenges such as access to care, telehealth, workforce development, the opioid epidemic and rural health system transformation. In my comments, I stressed the need to expand graduate medical education opportunities in rural and frontier areas and the importance of tailoring rural delivery system reforms to frontier communities.

On Capitol Hill, rising drug prices was the subject of two congressional hearings late last week, marking the start of what is expected to be a year-long investigation of drug pricing by several congressional committees.

At a House Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing, members from both parties voiced concerns, saying relentless increases were unsustainable and unacceptable. "There is strong bipartisan consensus that we must do something to rein in out-of-control prices increases." Committee Chair Elijah Cummings (D-MD) said. (Rep. Armstrong serves on the panel.)

The Senate Finance Committee also held its first hearing on the issue. Witnesses at both hearings included patients who described their struggle to afford life-saving prescription drugs as well as policy experts who explored ways to lower drug costs. Finance Committee Chair Charles Grassley (R-IA) and senior Democrat Ron Wyden (D-OR) pledged to bring drug company executives before the panel in the near future.

In other news, the Department of Veterans Affairs last week published proposed rules to implement provisions of the MISSION Act of 2018, which requires the agency to establish a new Veterans Community Care Program by June.

continued.....

Washington Update continued.....

The rule would grant eligible veterans access to care from qualifying non-VA entities or providers without prior approval from VA for services provided at urgent care facilities and walk-in clinics. Specifically, the VA proposes a 30-minute average drive time standard for veterans seeking primary care, mental health and non-institutional extended care services. For veterans seeking specialty care, the VA is proposing a 60-minute average drive time standard.

In addition, the VA is proposing appointment wait-time standards of 20 days for primary care, mental health care and non-institutional extended care services. It is proposing a 28-day wait-time standard for specialty care.

The rule also would establish co-payment obligations for veterans. The department will accept comments on the proposed rule through March 4.

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.

February 2019

Pre-Employment Screening & Interview Questions

Date: 02/19/2019 From: 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM

- View event description & link to register

Morrison County, MN Rural Opioid Program

Date: 02/26/2019 From: 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM

- View event description & link to register

Strategies for Successful Leadership in a Health Crisis

Date: 02/28/2019 From: 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM

- View event description & link to register

Mark your calendars for

NDHA's 85th Annual Convention and Trade Show!

October 1-3, 2019 | Holiday Inn, Fargo, ND

Public Health Foundation Webinar - February 13, 2019: Perspectives on Oropharyngeal Cancer

Please join the Public Health Foundation (PHF) for a webinar featuring immunization experts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), [Perspectives on Oropharyngeal Cancer: Scientific Overview, Clinical Expertise, and Personal Experience](#), on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 from 2-3pm EST.

This educational webinar will help you understand the burden and epidemiology of oropharyngeal cancer as well as the natural history from HPV infection to oropharyngeal cancer. You will learn how to address common questions from your patients about oropharyngeal cancer and the HPV vaccine, as well as the differences between oral cancers and oropharyngeal cancers. An HPV oropharyngeal cancer survivor will also share his story about the process of diagnosis, treatment, and recovery from this disease, which accounts for nearly 13,000 cases each year in the United States. Oropharyngeal cancer recently surpassed cervical cancer as the most common cancer caused by HPV.

CDC immunization experts will answer your questions during the Q&A portion of this event. The webinar is free and open to healthcare providers and others – but registration is required. [Please visit the PHF website to learn more about this event and register today.](#)

FOLLOW NDHA ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER!



CMS Launches New Medicare App

Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) launched a new app that gives consumers a modernized Medicare experience with direct access on a mobile device to some of the most-used content on [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov).

The new “What’s Covered” app lets people with Original Medicare, caregivers and others quickly see whether Medicare covers a specific medical item or service. Consumers can now use their mobile device to more easily get accurate, consistent Original Medicare coverage information in the doctor’s office, the hospital, or anywhere else they use their mobile device. In addition to the “What’s Covered” app, through Blue Button 2.0 the agency is enabling beneficiaries to connect their claims data to applications and tools developed by innovative private-sector companies to help them understand, use, and share their health data.

“eMedicare is one of several initiatives focused on modernizing Medicare and empowering patients with information they need to get the best value from their Medicare coverage,” said CMS Administrator Seema Verma. “President Trump is delivering on his commitment to Medicare by modernizing tools that deliver health information in the most convenient way possible. This new app is the next in a suite of products designed to give consumers more access and control over their Medicare information.”

CMS created the app to meet the needs of the growing population of people with Medicare. The Medicare population is projected to increase almost 50 percent by 2030—from 54 million beneficiaries in 2015 to more than 80 million beneficiaries in 2030. As of 2016, about two-thirds of Medicare beneficiaries indicate they use the Internet daily or almost daily (65 percent). Questions about what Medicare covers are some of the most frequent inquiries that CMS receives. There are approximately 15 million page views annually for coverage-related content on [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov) and 1-800 MEDICARE receives over 3 million coverage-related calls each year.

[Follow this link to read the full article.](#)

The What’s Covered app is available for free in both Google Play and the Apple App Store. The app is available in Google Play at: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=gov.medicare.coverage>, and is available in the Apple App Store at: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/whats-covered/id1444143600?mt=8>.

NDHA’s 85th Annual Convention & Trade Show - Thank You 2019 Sponsors!

Gold Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



ND Department of Health - Flood Evacuation Exercise

The Emergency Preparedness Section of the North Dakota Department of Health will be conducting an evacuation exercise on Wednesday, **April 24, 2019**. This exercise is being presented to assist hospitals, long-term care facilities and other entities with compliance to the CMS requirements. The deadline for registration ends on Friday, April 19, 2019. Please note that you must register for the exercise. Only those pre-registered will be allowed to participate. The registration link below will provide additional exercise information. [Registration form.](#)

Training to be held at: ND DoH EPR Offices | 1720 Burlington Drive | Bismarck, ND 58504

Training Available: Project ECHO, UND-SMHS

This training applies to emergency rooms of our hospitals. Please feel free to enroll in this training at no cost using the links below. This is the second part of a seven part series.

Addressing Substance Use Disorder in 2019: An Interprofessional Approach to Pain Management and Recovery *A Seven Part Series*

Withdrawal Management Using Non-Pharmacological Interventions

February 13, 2019 • 12:00 – 1:00 pm Central

Presenter: Marvis Doster, RN, CARN • **Facilitator:** Lisa Faust, MD



Upon completion of this program, the learner will be able to:

1. Understand the ASAM defined levels of care and approaches to withdrawal management.
2. Identify the signs and symptoms of opioid intoxication withdrawal and medical and non-medical interventions utilized to address them and facilitate referral to appropriate services.
3. Learn alternatives approaches for assisting patients in achieving improved physical and emotional well-being in recovery from acute and post-acute withdrawal.

Who Should Attend?

All members of the healthcare team to include, but not limited to:

- Physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, rehabilitation therapists, behavioral health providers, social workers, pharmacists, medication assisted treatment (MAT) prescribing providers, and prescribing providers interested in becoming MAT providers

For additional information contact:

Julie Reiten at 701-777-4173 or
julie.a.reiten@und.edu

Why Attend?

Because you will...

- Participate in case-based clinical discussions focused on the treatment of opioid use disorder.
- Gain up-to-date knowledge of opioid use disorder treatment through brief didactic presentations on topics of interest to learners
- Improve your confidence in managing patients with opioid use disorder

For registration information contact:

Abby Moore at 701-777-6588 or
abby.moore.1@und.edu

The University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians should claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under contract number HHS250201600015C. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.

Training provided in collaboration with ATTC, funded by SAMHSA NOA 1H79T1080200.