



Thursday, October 8, 2020

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Update Archives

CHA Comments on CMS’s Calendar Year 2021 OPSS Proposed Rule



Earlier this week, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) submitted [comments](#) on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Calendar Year 2021 Outpatient Prospective Payment System Proposed Rule.

Focusing its comments on CMS’s proposed further reduction to reimbursement for outpatient drugs acquired through the 340B program, CHA highlighted how the agency’s proposal would undermine the program’s statutory intent to stretch scarce federal resources as far as possible.

Additionally, CHA renewed its request, articulated earlier this year in the association’s letter to the Fiscal Year 2021 Inpatient Prospective Payment System Proposed Rule, for CMS to adopt a policy that limits any wage index reductions to no more than 5 percent from year to year.

Meredith Reuben Wins Top Leadership Award



Connecticut businesswoman Meredith Reuben, EBP Supply Solutions, has won the Top Leadership Award for 2020 among midsize employers in the Hearst Connecticut Media Top Workplaces competition. The Yale New Haven Health System and Bridgeport Hospital Board member, and active CHA supporter, has been the chief executive at EBP for the past 30 years. EBP, a family-owned wholesale distributor of supplies to the cleaning and food-service industries that was founded in 1918, has seen rising demand for its products in response to the spread of COVID-19.

EBP Supply Solutions provided education sessions to healthcare workers in Connecticut and New Hampshire as part of CHA’s initiative to decrease ICU infections within both states. As part of this effort, EBP provided its two-day Cleaning Management Institute Certification Course to CHA members from the company’s Milford location.

Hearst says Reuben’s Top Leadership selection is driven by her efforts to make EBP quick and flexible in response to shifts on the supply and demand sides, particularly during the pandemic. The publisher also acknowledged Reuben’s emphasis on employees’ health and safety, reflecting a focus on workers’ wellbeing that goes back to her days as an attorney for the National Labor Relations Board before she joined EBP. EBP Supply Solutions was recognized as well, marking the third-straight year on the Top Workplaces list for the Milford firm, which employs 161.

Attorney General Tong Joins Fight to Stop Unfair Pharma Practices



In [letters](#) to leading pharmaceutical manufacturers, Connecticut Attorney General William Tong urged many of the nation’s largest pharmaceutical manufacturers to cease activities that undermine the 340B program.

As has been recently documented, a number of drug companies have engaged in tactics that are contrary to the requirements under the 340B statute and regulations. Such actions include erecting barriers to the use of contract pharmacies and requiring superfluous claims data reporting.

The 340B program, which requires pharmaceutical manufacturers to provide discounts on covered outpatient drugs to certain providers, is an important part of the work done by hospitals to serve vulnerable communities.

In mid-September, CHA [wrote](#) to U.S. Department Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex Azar expressing significant concern with these same practices. Notably, late last month, the HHS General Counsel [wrote](#) to Eli Lilly expressing “significant concern” with the drug companies activities related to 340B.

Education Updates

CHA Leadership Development Series–Building Resilience

Tuesday, October 13, 2020
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Virtual Program

As we work to manage the demands and stresses of leading through these difficult times, it is important to build personal resilience. This virtual, [90-minute program](#) will help participants work through a deliberate process to learn the neuroscience behind calm and threat responses, and to recognize and strengthen resilience. Register online [here](#).

Cyber Threat Update and Cyber Risk as Enterprise Risk Webinar

Tuesday, October 27, 2020
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Virtual Program

Cybersecurity continues to be a dangerous threat and growing concern to hospitals and health systems. Add to data-breaches, ransomware and other typical threats the concerns associated with a world-wide pandemic and the picture is complex and changing. CHA is pleased to host a webinar featuring John Riggi, Senior Advisor for Cybersecurity and Risk at the American Hospital Association, to keep members up to date and prepared. [Learn more](#) about the program and [register here](#).

Best Practices for Nonhazardous and Hazardous Sterile-to-Sterile Compounding

(Rescheduled to November from May 2020)

Virtual Training Sessions for Different Professional Groups

During the weeks of November 2 and November 9, CHA is offering three separate opportunities for training by industry expert CriticalPoint on USP Chapters <797> and <800>. These virtual training sessions will provide CHA members with additional knowledge and skills necessary to perform best practice nonhazardous and hazardous sterile-to-sterile compounding. Click [here](#) for full event information. Click [here](#) to register for the [hospital pharmacists and pharmacy technicians](#) session; [here](#) for the hospital engineers, architects, and facilities personnel session; and [here](#) for the quality professionals and infection preventionists session.