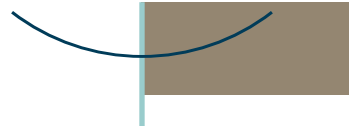


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CHC Digest



News & Notices

More Bad News About Racial Disparities in Healthcare

A group of researchers from [Yale University's School of Public Health](#) and the [Urban Institute](#) focused on 133,821 patients who were treated for one of 10 surgical procedures at hospitals in New York City or the adjacent counties of Westchester (to the north) and Nassau (to the east) between 2001 and 2004. The study, published Monday in the journal [Archives of Surgery](#), found that, "For all 10 procedures, white patients were more frequently treated by both high-volume hospitals and surgeons than were black, Asian and Hispanic patients." Follow this link to read more: [Los Angeles Times, Karen Kaplan, 02/15/2010](#).

U.S. Adults Forgo Routine Immunization: Report

[Reuters, JoAnne Allen](#)

Tens of thousands of American adults die each year from pneumonia, influenza and other infectious diseases that could be prevented by routine vaccinations, according to a report released on February 4, 2010. The immunization report says adults need vaccinations for new diseases and booster shots for diseases they were vaccinated against as children, because the immunity may wane over time. Click the subtitle above to access the full report.

Swine Flu Still Spreading, Though at a Reduced Rate

The odds of a third wave of pandemic H1N1 influenza hitting this spring seem to be declining, but authorities are concerned that the virus is still spreading, though at a reduced rate from its peak, and is not disappearing as would be expected in a normal influenza outbreak, federal officials said Friday. About 155 million doses of vaccine are now available, 124 million doses have been shipped, and an estimated 70 million people -- about 23.4% of Americans -- have been vaccinated, says Dr. Anne Schuchat, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. Read the full report [here](#).

2009 H1N1 and Seasonal Influenza and Hispanic Communities: Questions and Answers

These questions and answers summarize the current understanding of the impact of 2009 H1N1 and seasonal influenza virus on Hispanics/Latinos, describe some of the barriers to uptake of 2009 H1N1 and seasonal influenza vaccines, and outline potential strategies for improving health and increasing vaccine coverage in Hispanic/Latino communities.

http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/qa_hispanic.htm

News & Notices (continued)

Abbreviated Pandemic Influenza Plan Template for Primary Care Provider Offices: Guidance from Stakeholders

This planning tool was developed based on input from stakeholders (PCPs, PCP office managers, hospitals, local and state public health departments, and local and state emergency management agencies) during a CDC-sponsored meeting in August 2009. It is intended to assist PCPs and office managers with preparing their offices for an increase in patient calls and visits, whether during the 2009-2010 influenza season or future influenza seasons.

http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/pdf/abb_pandemic_influenza_plan.pdf

Especially for FQHC's

HRSA Announcement: Policy Information Notice 2010-01: Confirming Public Agency Status under the Health Center Program and FQHC Look-Alike Program

The purpose of this Policy Information Notice (PIN) is to describe the documentation that will be considered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in confirming public agency status for organizations that self-identify as public agencies (also referred to in previous PINs as "public entities" or "public applicants") for Health Center Program grant funding authorized under section 330 of the Public Health Service Act, as amended, and/or for Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike designation. The PIN is posted on the internet at <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/policy/pin1001/>

The Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) will conduct a national conference call to review this PIN and respond to grantees' questions on March 16, 2010 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Dial-in: 1-800-779-9086; Passcode: 7079687). In advance of that call, participants are encouraged to carefully review the PIN and submit any questions to the BPHC/Office of Policy and Program Development email box OPPDGeneral@hrsa.gov so that they can be addressed during the conference call.

For questions regarding this announcement, please contact BPHC's Office of Policy and Program Development at OPPDGeneral@hrsa.gov

CHC Program Updates

From The Director

(Updates courtesy of Carla Chance)

CMS Proposed Rules Governing "Meaningful Use"

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is accepting comments until March 15 regarding the proposed rulemaking that provide incentive payments for the "meaningful use" of certified EHR technology. The proposed rule outlines the provisions governing the EHR incentive programs. The proposed rule would phase in the criteria for demonstrating meaningful use in three stages.

The proposed Stage 1, which begins in 2011, criteria for meaningful use focus on the following areas:

- * Electronic Capture of health information in a coded format
- * Using information to track certain clinical conditions
- * Communication information for care coordination
- * Reporting of clinical quality measures and public health information

The proposed criteria are tied to proposed measures that all Eligible Professionals (EPs) and hospitals must meet in order to demonstrate that they are meaningful users.

According to the National Association of Community Health Centers it appears that there are several issues that could impact community health centers and have asked the Primary Care Associations to coordinate efforts in responding to CMS prior to March 15. **IPHCA will host a conference call on Tuesday, March 8 from noon to 1 pm. Please contact Carla Chance via e-mail at cchance@indianapca.org if you would like to participate on the call.** Call in information and supporting documents will be sent to those interested.

CHC Program Updates (continued)

Emergency Preparedness

(Updates courtesy of Jenifer Nelson)

ICS-100 HC Regional Training

In the month of April the Indiana Primary Health Care Association and the Indiana Rural Health Association will jointly present regional ICS-100 training in a classroom environment. Jenifer Nelson, IPHCA, and Dana Stidham, IRHA, will offer this Introduction to Incident Command Systems module at no cost; anyone at your health center is welcome to attend. Continental breakfast and lunch as well as an Incident Command System Field Guide will be provided to all registered participants. Watch for additional information! The trainings will be held as follows:

Southern Indiana	Washington, IN	Wednesday, April 14 th	9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Central Indiana	Greenfield, IN	Wednesday, April 21 st	9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Northern Indiana	Bremen, IN	Wednesday, April 28 th	9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tornado Season: April to July



<http://www.weather.com/ready/tornado/risk.html>

As the weather starts to warm up with spring, there is more to watch for than tulips and daffodils. Tornado season typically begins in April and goes through July. Indiana is in the region called “Tornado Alley” that is more likely to experience tornadoes and stretches from Texas to Nebraska.

Here are some suggestions from The Weather Channel on how to stay up-to-date on the weather:

- * Watch The Weather Channel
- * Check for severe weather alerts here: <http://www.weather.com/newscenter/alerts/national/severeWxAlertsNational.html>
- * Listen to NOAA Weather Radio
- * NOAA Watches, Warnings and Advisories for IN can be found here: <http://www.weather.gov/alerts/in.html>
- * Get free severe weather alerts on your phone and in your email from the Weather Channel by accessing here: <http://www.weather.com/services/twcalerts.html>.

Upcoming IPHCA Emergency Management Events

March 10, 2010	Table Top Exercise (TTX): Earthquake with Pipeline ruptures	1:00—3:30 EST Webinar
April 1, 2010	Red Cross Online Continuity of Operations Tool	12:30—1:00 EST Webinar
May 2010	Alternate Care Sites	Conference Call
June 2010	Redundant Communications Equipment and Tools	Webinar
July 2010	Community and Partnerships	Conference Call



For questions regarding IPHCA's training activities or registration, please contact **Stephanie Suddeth**, Member Services Specialist, at 317-630-0845 or ssuddeth@indianapca.org.

This information brought to you by your Community Health Center Services Team.

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Emergency Management Program Director

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And Our Contractor:

Felice Vargo
Director of Workforce Development

Upcoming IPHCA Events

For updated information please view IPHCA's Event Calendar at: <http://www.indianapca.org/eventscalender/index.html>

February

- * February 25, 2010: Online Coding Seminar "Chart Auditing III"

March

- * March 4, 2010: Online Coding Seminar "Chart Auditing IV"
- * March 9, 2010: Online Coding Seminar "Understanding Modifiers I (E/M)"
- * March 10, 2010: Table Top Exercise (TTX): Earthquake with Pipeline ruptures Webinar, 1:00—3:30 EST
- * March 18, 2010: Online Coding Seminar "Chart Auditing V"
- * March 23, 2010: Online Coding Seminar "Understanding Modifiers II (Surgery)"
- * March 25, 2010: Online Coding Seminar "E/M and Surgery Coding"
- * March 30, 2010: Online Coding Seminar: "99211—The 'Do's' and 'Don'ts'"

April

- * April 1, 2010: Red Cross Continuation of Operations Plan Webinar, 12:30—1:00 EST
- * April 8, 2010: Online Coding Seminar "ICD-9-CM Diagnosis Coding I"
- * April 13, 2010: Online Coding Seminar "Behavioral Health"
- * April 22, 2010: Online Coding Seminar "ICD-9-CM Diagnosis Coding II"
- * April 27, 2010: Online Coding Seminar "Coding for Inpatient, Nursing Home and Out-of-Clinic Services"

Other Training Opportunities

- * Third Annual Recruitment and Retention Webinar Series, Presented by OACHC and the National Rural Recruitment and Retention Network (3RNet). Scheduled topic on **March 18, 2010**: Issues in Immigration with Bob Aronson, National Expert on Immigration Law.
- * "Health Literacy and Clear Communications" spring workshop, sponsored by the Indiana Society for Public Health Education. **March 30, 2010 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm** at the Ball State University Alumni Center. [Register online now!](#)
- * Indiana Joint National Public Health Week Conference, "A Healthier America: One Community at a Time" will be held at the IUPUI Campus Center on **April 6-7, 2010**. The abstract submission system for the 2010 meeting is internet-based. To find the instructions and forms necessary for submitting your abstract, please click [here](#). You can also download the registration brochure here: [registration brochure 20101.pdf](#)
- * The Indiana Minority Health Coalition cordially invites you to attend the 2010 Minority Health Initiative Annual Luncheon. Theme: Healthy Babies, A Healthy Future: Preventing Infant Mortality. **Wednesday, April 21, 2010 from 10:30am to 1:30pm at the Indianapolis Marriot Downtown**. To register by phone call (31) 926-4011, or register online at www.imhc.org.
- * Third Annual Recruitment and Retention Webinar Series, Presented by OACHC and the National Rural Recruitment and Retention Network (3RNet). Scheduled topic on **April 22, 2010**: The Why, Who, When and What of Background Investigations, Credentialing and Privileging.
- * Indiana Stroke Prevention Task Force Conference: Stroke in Indiana—2010 and Beyond. **June 4, 2010** in the Lilly Conference Center at the Marten House Hotel.