



IHA Daily Briefing: Sept 14

Monday, September 14, 2020

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Illinois Poison Center Leader Named AAPCC President-Elect

On Sept. 13, Carol DesLauriers, PharmD, DABAT, assistant vice president of the Illinois Poison Center (IPC), became president-elect of the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC).

DesLauriers joined the AAPCC Board of Directors in 2017. In fall 2022, she will assume the presidency for a two-year term, leading the national organization that represents the nation's 55 poison centers.

With 17 years under her belt at IPC—part of the Illinois Health and Hospital Association—DesLauriers contributes to her field by educating the next generation of healthcare professionals and serving state government.

DesLauriers also holds the following positions:

- Faculty, Toxikon Consortium Medical Toxicology Fellowship Program;
- Member, Illinois Department of Public Health's Health Injury and Violence Prevention Strategic Planning Committee;
- Clinical Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science in North Chicago;
- Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Illinois College of Pharmacy in Chicago;
- Affiliate Clinical Faculty, Southern Illinois University School of Pharmacy in Edwardsville; and
- Governor appointee, Illinois Adult Use Cannabis Health Advisory Committee.

"Our passion for the mission drives us all toward the same ultimate goal: to see our poison centers succeed, today and in the years to come," said DesLauriers.

The AAPCC supports poison centers, including IPC—the nation's first poison center—in their public health mission to prevent poisonings, provide education, conduct scientific research and treat individuals exposed to poisoning.

See the [press release](#).

HFS Posts Update to Practitioner Fee Schedule

The Dept. of Healthcare and Family Services has posted an update to the practitioner fee schedule ([*click here*](#)) as required under the updated Hospital Assessment Program enacted in [Public Act 101-0650](#) (SB2541). In general, this update should

increase all physician rates to at least 60% of the current Medicare rates. All rates which, prior to this update were greater than 60%, are not affected. New rates are effective for dates of service July 1, 2020 and after.

President's Plan Links Drug Costs to Foreign Nations

On Sunday, President Trump signed a [new executive order](#) (EO) that ties payments for certain Medicare drugs to the costs that these treatments sell for abroad. Specifically, the EO establishes a "most-favored-nation price" which links costs for certain Medicare Part B and Part D drugs to the lowest price paid among countries who are members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and have a similar per-capita gross domestic product.

The EO establishes demonstration programs under Medicare Parts B and D, under which Medicare would pay no more than the most-favored-nation price for certain drugs and biologics. The EO is strongly opposed by the pharmaceutical lobby, which refers to the policy of linking prices to foreign nations as government price controls.

AHA Releases 340B Hospital Community Benefit Analysis

The American Hospital Association (AHA) last week released a [new analysis](#) highlighting the value of the 340B drug pricing program. The analysis shows 340B tax-exempt hospitals provided more than \$64 billion in total benefits to their communities in 2017 (the most recent year data is available), and that these hospitals' total community benefits represented 13.8% of total expenses in the same year.

"Hospitals and health systems of all kinds, sizes and forms of ownership deliver a wide variety of benefits designed to meet the unique needs of their communities," said AHA President and CEO Rick Pollack. "This new report once again confirms the immense value of the 340B drug savings program, which allows those eligible hospitals in particular to provide a unique range of important programs and services to their patients and communities, many of which would otherwise be unavailable."

Register: IHA Hypertension Webinar on Sept. 22

Untreated hypertension is linked to severe COVID-19 illness, increasing the urgency to help patients manage high blood pressure. "[Under Pressure: 2020 Illinois Hypertension Summit](#)," a free webinar co-hosted by IHA, will provide best practices for treating this common condition.

On Sept. 22 from 10 to 11:55 a.m., you'll get valuable insight from these experts:

- Patrick C. Harper, PharmD, MPH, CPH, USPHS; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Epidemiology Assignee, Division of Chronic Disease, Illinois Department of Public Health;
- Kerri Lanum, MS, Clinical Information Specialist, Northern Illinois University; and
- Tina Zlomie, Principal Epic Trainer, Ambulatory, Ambulatory Curriculum, Epicare Ambulatory Training Environment, Riverside Healthcare.

They'll discuss the differences between anti-hypertensive medication, as well as strategies to improve outcomes. This can't-miss discussion will benefit nurses, physicians, pharmacists and health educators. Visit our [registration page](#) to view the agenda and learn about continuing education credits. Register today.

CDC COCA Call on Telehealth and Health Equity

A CDC Clinician Outreach and Communication (COCA) call, "Telehealth & Health Equity: Considerations for Addressing Health

Disparities during the COVID-19 Pandemic,” will be held Tuesday, Sept. 15, at 1 p.m. CDT. Presenters will discuss the intersection of telehealth and health equity and implications for health services during the pandemic. Presenters will identify long-standing systemic health and social inequities that contribute to COVID-19 health disparities, while highlighting opportunities and limitations of telehealth implementation as an actionable solution.

Zoom link: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1602147588>

iPhone one-tap: +16692545252, 1602147588# or +16468287666, 1602147588#

Telephone: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 646 828 7666

Webinar ID: 160 214 7588

NIH Launches COVID-19 Blood-Clotting Treatment Trials

The National Institutes of Health announced last week that it has launched *Phase 3 clinical trials* evaluating the safety and effectiveness of varying types of blood thinners to treat adults diagnosed with COVID-19. Part of the *Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines (ACTIV)* initiative, these trials will be conducted at more than 100 sites around the world and will involve patients in various clinical settings — those who have not been hospitalized, those currently hospitalized and those discharged after hospitalization for moderate to severe disease.

Collectively known as ACTIV-4 Antithrombotics, the trials will provide critical insights that could help guide the care of patients with COVID-19, particularly those who suffer from life-threatening blood clots. Trial planning and development work is being done through a collaborative effort with a number of universities, including the University of Illinois at Chicago.

State, National, Global COVID-19 Updates

The Illinois Dept. of Public Health (IDPH) announced today 1,373 new COVID-19 cases and five deaths. The total number of cases in the state is 262,744 in 102 counties, with a total of 8,314 deaths. IDPH says that in the past 24 hours, 35,930 test specimens have been processed, with a positivity rate of 3.8%. The preliminary seven-day statewide positivity rate from September 7 to September 13 is 3.6%. Statewide COVID-19 hospitalizations in the past 24 hours increased from 1,422 patients to 1,431 patients. Of that figure, 335 patients were in the ICU, with 131 patients on ventilators.

Today's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) figures show more than 6.5 million confirmed and presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 in the U.S., with 193,705 deaths.

Today's WHO Coronavirus Disease Dashboard shows more than 28.9 million COVID-19 cases globally, with more than 922,000 deaths. The Region of the Americas (includes the U.S.) continues to lead the world with more than 14.8 million cases and more than 511,000 deaths.

Briefly Noted

The Illinois Dept. of Public Health will host a COVID-19 situational update webinar on Wednesday, September 16 at 11 a.m. to provide the latest information on the COVID-19 outbreak and Illinois preparedness efforts. Register [here](#).

On Friday, Governor J.B. Pritzker announced more than two dozen appointments to Illinois boards, including Carol DesLauriers, IHA assistant vice president and Illinois Poison Center leader, to the Adult Use Cannabis Health Advisory Committee, and Stacy Grundy, assistant instructor at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, to the Health Facilities and Services Review Board.

