Our Mission
Mercy Iowa City heals and comforts the sick and works to improve the health of the community in the spirit of Jesus Christ and the Catholic tradition of the Sisters of Mercy.

Our Values
Respect ■ Excellence ■ Compassion ■ Stewardship ■ Collaboration

For more information about Mercy’s legislative agenda, please contact:
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As a member of the Catholic health ministry, Mercy Iowa City grounds its advocacy in its mission, values, and commitment to health care that works for all. With input from the Iowa Hospital Association, Mercy will focus on the following legislative issues for 2015. You are invited to become informed and advocate for these positions with elected officials.

For more information: Iowa Hospital Association (IHA), www.ihaonline.org

Medicaid Rebasing
Hospital inpatient and outpatient rebasing was set to occur in FY2014 but was delayed due to budget constraints. Further delay/failure to fund rebasing creates “winners” and “losers” in the Medicaid program, with some hospitals receiving lower overall reimbursement.

Mercy’s position: The Iowa General Assembly should fully fund the Medicaid hospital rebasing process for inpatient and outpatient services in FY 2016. Further delay threatens access to care for Medicaid recipients.

Telehealth
Iowa remains one of only four states without a law covering telehealth services.

Consistent payment structures would promote adoption of telehealth services and more economical and accessible care for all residents.

Mercy’s position: Provide consistent reimbursement from all payers for all types of telehealth services at the same rate as face-to-face encounters.
   - Allow providers the autonomy to make decisions based on their professional judgment.
   - Enable providers to ensure privacy and security of telehealth services.

Behavioral health
Iowa has moved to a regional rather than a county-based system. However, more needs to be done to address difficulties in placing individuals in the appropriate care setting and ultimately reduce health and societal costs.

Mercy’s position: Continue support for sub-acute service development.
   - Expanded telehealth opportunities for behavioral health services.

Interstate Physician Licensure Compact
Such a compact with states that have similar licensing requirements would help with physician recruitment, promoting telehealth services, and managing population health in markets that cross state lines.

Mercy’s position: This multi-state proposal needs to be passed by Iowa Legislature without amendment in order to make Iowa’s law consistent with the other states in the compact.

Iowa Health Information Network
IHIN is now “embryonic” and under the umbrella of IDPH.
   - It needs to become fully operational, sustainable and valuable to a wider number of health care provider.
   - Proceed with caution in transitioning it to the private sector.

Mercy’s position: Oppose any system that imposes mandatory utilization or connection fees on Iowa’s hospitals.

Voter Voice
Join the Iowa Hospital Association Action Network and become an advocate to help keep health care a top priority with state and federal legislators.

Sign up at www.ihaonline.org.

Once registered you will receive IHA Legislative Action Alerts directly to your e-mail providing you an easy and effective way to contact your legislators.