

# THE VALUE OF AHA MEMBERSHIP



2024

# Getting Results In Congress, Regulatory Agencies And The Courts

Throughout the year we took our members' case to Congress, the regulatory agencies and the courts, shaping rules and regulations to support the field and securing favorable decisions.

## Preventing Payment Cuts

FROM *The Washington Post* [View in browser](#)

# 2022

THE HEALTH

Presented by [the Coalition to Protect America's Health Care](#)

By [McKenzie Beard](#)

AHA president: Site-neutral reforms would jeopardize access to care, increase inequities



In March we convinced Congress to postpone potential cuts to the **Medicaid disproportionate share hospital program** and fended off so-called **site-neutral payment reductions**. In September, AHA President and CEO Rick Pollack discussed advocacy priorities for the lame-duck session.

**Hospitals urge Congress to prevent 'unconscionable' pay cuts**

Alan Condon - 24 hours ago

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The American Hospital Association has urged lawmakers to eliminate Medicaid disproportionate share hospital reductions for two years and reject proposals to expand site-neutral payment cuts as well as policies that would increase regulatory burdens on hospitals and health systems.

## Streamlining Prior Authorization



The AHA joined CMS officials at Inova Fairfax Medical Campus in Virginia for a roundtable discussion about the patient impact of current **prior authorization** practices and procedures and the need for reform.

**THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.**

English Edition | Print Edition | Video | Audio | Latest Headlines | More

HEALTH | HEALTHCARE

### Health Insurers Must Streamline Prior Authorization Decisions, New Rule Says

Requires some health plans to provide more information on denials and the status of decisions

By [Stephanie Armour](#) [Follow](#)

Updated Jan. 17, 2024 1:15 pm ET

The AHA worked with CMS to help shape rules that require insurers to act faster on prior authorization.

## Protecting Health Care Workers from Violence

Two AHA-sponsored briefings on Capitol Hill draw attention to the bipartisan **Safety from Violence for Healthcare Employees (SAVE) Act**, which would make it a federal felony to assault a health care worker. In January, Rep. Dr. Larry Buschon, R-Ind. and Rep. Madeleine Dean, D-Pa. spoke in support of the bill. In July, Sen. Joe Mancin, I-W.Va, author of the Senate bill, appeared on a panel alongside AHA members to advocate for its passage.



Modern Healthcare  
NEWS BLOGS OPINION EVENTS & AWARDS MULTIMEDIA DATA & INSIGHTS NEWSLETTER

January 30, 2024 04:37 PM | 20 HOURS AGO

### Lawmakers, AHA seek support for health worker anti-violence bill

MICHAEL MCAULIFF [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Email](#)

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The Honorable Larry Buschon, M.D.      The Honorable Madeleine Dean

## Key Court Wins on Priority Issues

In August a federal court struck down a sweeping **noncompete ban**, agreeing with the AHA that the ban was “unreasonably overbroad” and that the FTC lacks authority to implement the regulations.

**Federal judge blocks FTC noncompete ban**

Judge Ada Brown wrote Tuesday the FTC's near-total ban is “unreasonably overbroad without a reasonable explanation.”

[READ MORE >](#)

PHARMALOT STAT+

### Pharma loses a key battle over a state law concerning 340B pharmacies

Working with our state, regional and metropolitan hospital associations, we developed model legislation and ignited a series of state laws to prevent drug companies from illegally denying us discounts for purchases under the **340B program**. We continue to help defend those laws in state courts.

**OCR's Online Tracking Technology Bulletin: AHA Lawsuit Scores a Win; HHS Withdraws Appeal**

on Tuesday, 3 September 2024 in [Health Law Alert](#): Erin E. Busch, Editor

Share This [Share](#)

The American Hospital Association (“AHA”) and a group of hospitals scored a recent victory in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas in the case of...



Led by AHA General Counsel Chad Golder, we achieved an important legal victory to preserve the use of **online tracking technologies** that allow providers to share important health information with patients and the public.

# Speaking Up For Our Members

Early in 2024, the health care field was hit with the most significant and consequential cyberattack in history. When the AHA learned of the ransomware attack against UnitedHealth Group's Change Healthcare, we took immediate action, reaching out to our contacts at the White House, FBI, HHS and Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to provide information and secure support.

As UnitedHealth Group downplayed the severity of the issue, we responded aggressively to set the record straight, inform the media and testify before Congress. When Congress held two hearings with the UnitedHealth Group CEO in May, they held the organization accountable. Thanks to the advance work of the AHA and our members, the hospital perspective came through loud and clear. A few weeks later, we ensured that Change Healthcare, not hospitals, held responsibility for notifying patients of any data breach.



AHA helped secure funding and regulatory relief for the field.



AHA Executive Vice President for Government Relations and Public Policy Stacey Hughes participated in a Wall Street Journal panel to discuss the fallout from the Change Healthcare cybersecurity breach.



Molly Smith, AHA's group vice president for public policy, and many AHA leaders spoke to numerous national media outlets regarding the impact of the Change Healthcare cyber breach.



John Raggi, AHA's national advisor for cybersecurity and risk, testified in front of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health on the need for hospital support.

At hearings of the Senate Committee on Finance and House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, lawmakers criticized UnitedHealth Group for its inadequate response.

In the weeks that followed, the AHA continued to work closely with the White House, federal agencies and others to enhance channels for the exchange of cyberthreat information, as well as provide resources for risk mitigation, including significant discounts on cybersecurity services from firms including Microsoft, Google, AON, Censinet, Critical Insight and Cylera. We also gathered and shared lessons and insights from the field, particularly related to cyber risk from third-party relationships. These resources are available at [aha.org/cybersecurity](https://aha.org/cybersecurity).



# Speaking Out About Your Value And Your Challenges

As your national voice, we are always telling your story. We pushed out messages to highlight the continued challenges you face and the tremendous value you deliver for patients, families and communities.

**Drug shortages were the highest in a decade, adding as much as 20% to hospitals' drug expenses. Drugs in short supply increased costs due to:**

- Price increase of the drug in shortage
- Extra labor needed to find, procure, and administer alternative drugs
- Purchase of drugs outside of traditional suppliers and group purchasing agreements
- Training staff to ensure medication safety using alternative therapies
- Increase in the price of substitute drugs
- Adverse events related to use of alternative therapies

**New AHA report paints dire financial picture for hospitals**

A new report from the American Hospital Association finds that reimbursement is not keeping pace with the high costs of labor, drugs and supplies.

The 2024 Costs of Caring report outlined the continued pressures hospitals and health systems face. We maintained focus on the story throughout the year with the release of infographics on key findings, such as the impact of drug shortages on rising costs and a brief on the impact of AI on Medicare Advantage and commercial claims denials.

**Protect Access to Patient Care**  **Learn More**



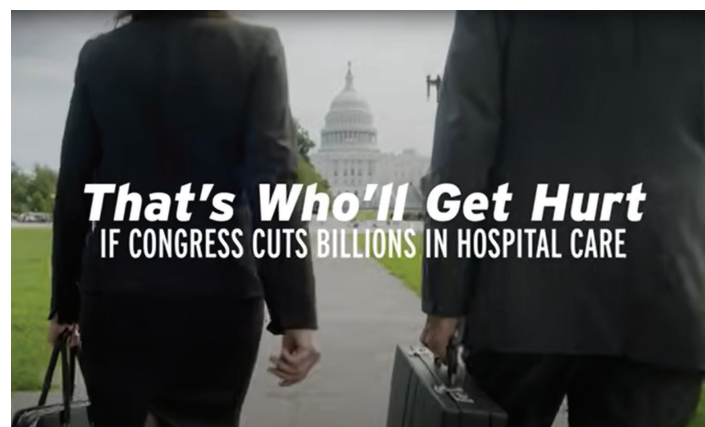
**Financial Management**  
**AI linked to surge in Medicare Advantage, commercial claims denials: AHA**  
 Jakob Emerson - 19 hours ago

Administrative costs now account for more than 40% of hospitals' total expenses for delivering patient care, with a significant portion driven by the rising number of care denials stemming from the growing use of artificial intelligence tools by insurers.

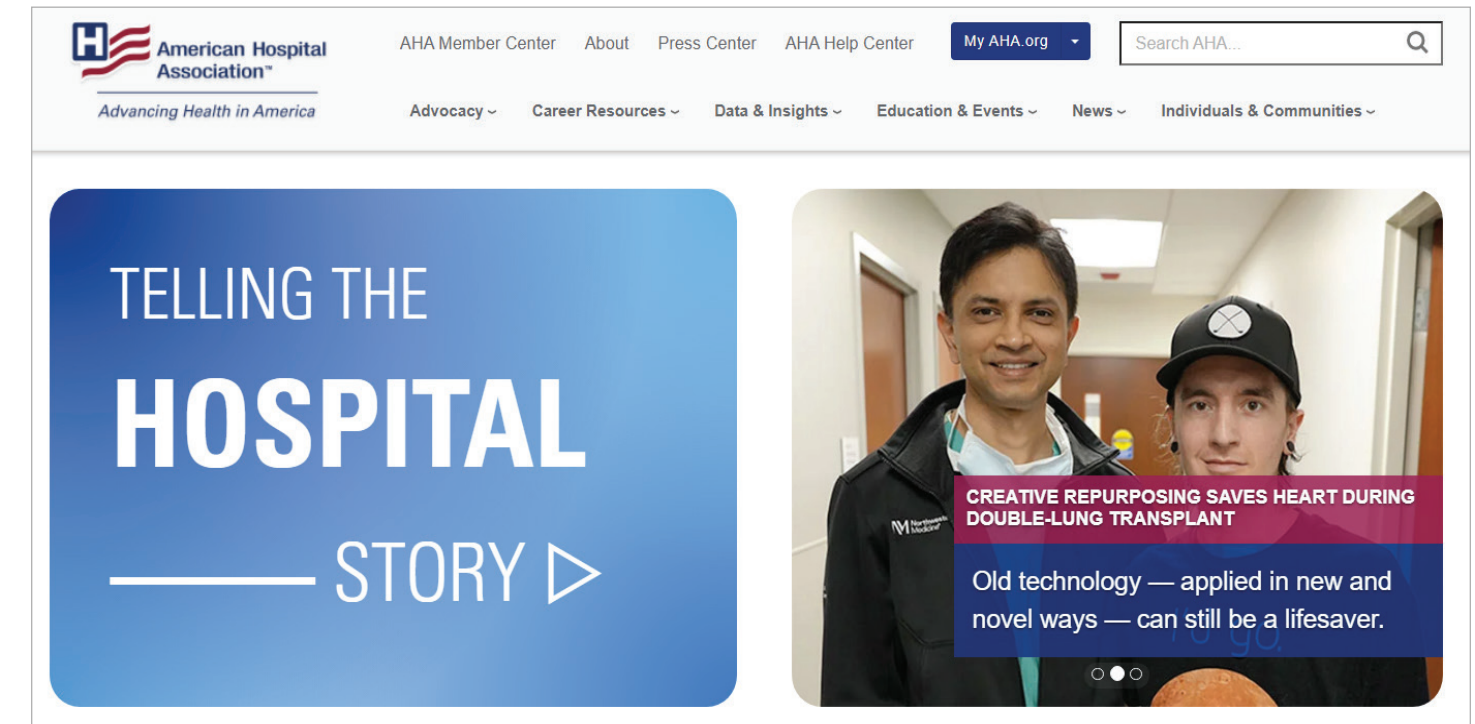
Between 2022 and 2023, claims denials surged by an average of 20.2% for commercial plans and 55.7% for Medicare Advantage plans, according to a Sept. 10 brief from the American Hospital Association shared with *Becker's*.

National advertising raised awareness of the need to protect hospital and health systems from funding cuts.

**That's Who'll Get Hurt**  
 IF CONGRESS CUTS BILLIONS IN HOSPITAL CARE



AHA's dedicated webpage, "Telling the Hospital Story," features examples of the amazing work hospitals and health systems do every day to care for patients and communities and also updates members on our efforts to push back on negative messaging. The AHA shares these stories on a variety of digital platforms and with key audiences.



**Setting the Record Straight**

Blog

**A Weak Attempt at Pitting Hospitals Against Each Other: Arnold Ventures Uses Third Way to Advance Its Latest Advocacy Strategy**

Aug 16, 2024

For unclear reasons, Arnold Ventures, a private LLC backed by hedge fund billionaires John and Laura Arnold, has repeatedly targeted hospitals as part of a widespread misinformation campaign.

**Telling the Hospital ...**

*"You can start here and we can take you anywhere."*

**TELLING THE HOSPITAL STORY SERIES**

How a Rural Hospital That's Part of a System Can Provide Total Care

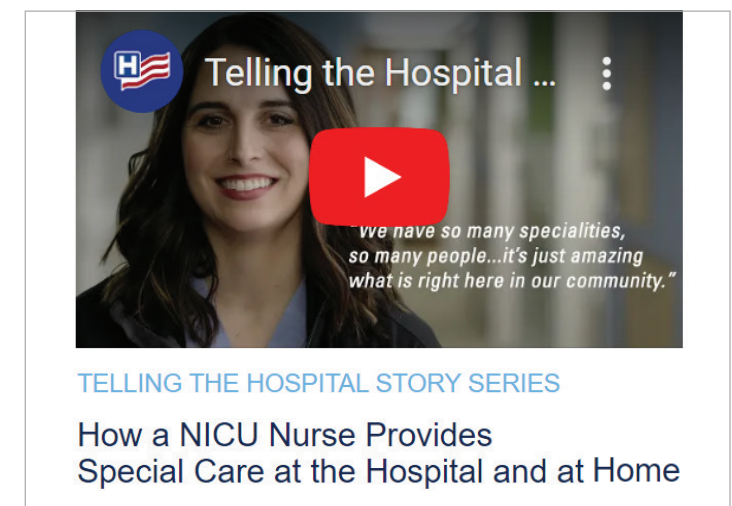


**Telling the Hospital ...**

*"We have so many specialties, so many people...it's just amazing what is right here in our community."*

**TELLING THE HOSPITAL STORY SERIES**

How a NICU Nurse Provides Special Care at the Hospital and at Home

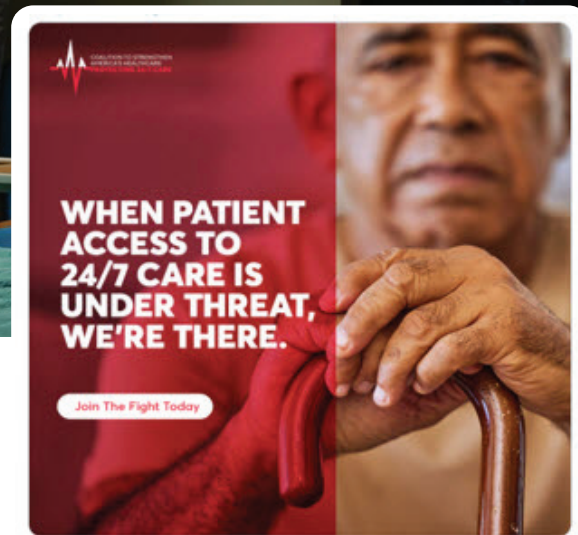
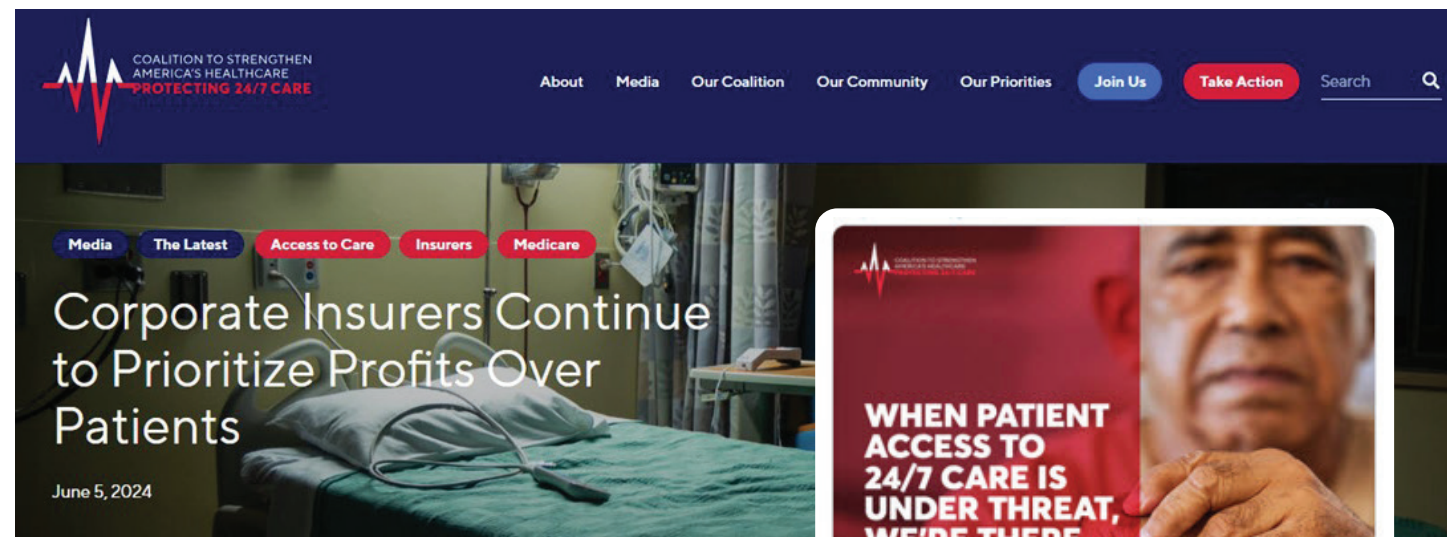




COALITION TO STRENGTHEN AMERICA'S HEALTHCARE  
**PROTECTING 24/7 CARE**

# The Coalition To Strengthen America's Healthcare

The AHA provided leadership for the relaunch of the Coalition to Strengthen America's Healthcare, a group with more than 2.5 million supporters dedicated to conveying that hospital and health systems are the heart of 24/7 care that patients rely on. The rebrand included a new website, earned media, ads and partnerships designed to amplify the Coalition's message. To learn more about the work of the Coalition, visit [www.strengthenhealthcare.org](http://www.strengthenhealthcare.org).



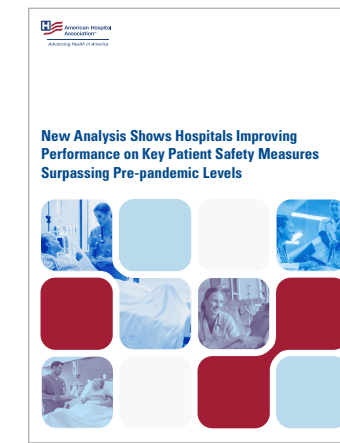
Nancy Howell Agee (right), CEO of Carilion Clinic and Coalition Chair, addresses access challenges at an event hosted by Politico.



A panel, including hospital and health system leaders, discussed the challenges of rural health care at an event hosted by the influential political news daily Punchbowl News.

# Supporting and Strengthening The Field

The AHA collaborated with members on the field's most pressing issues, sharing ideas, resources and information to drive progress on patient safety, equity and behavioral health.



An AHA report released in September showed that hospital performance in key patient safety and quality measures was better in the first quarter of 2024 than it was just before the COVID-19 pandemic, and that hospitals made these improvements while caring for more complex patients with more significant health needs. The report is part of the AHA Patient Safety Initiative, which we launched at the end of last year to reaffirm hospital and health system leadership and commitment to patient safety. More than 1,700 AHA member hospitals have signed on to join the initiative. Learn more at [www.aha.org/patientsafety](http://www.aha.org/patientsafety).



During the fourth annual Accelerating Health Equity Conference May 7-9 in Kansas City, Mo., professionals from hospitals, health systems and community organizations convened to eliminate health disparities and improve health outcomes for all. Joy Lewis, AHA senior vice president of health equity strategies, opened the conference.



Throughout the year, the AHA continued to advocate for funding and support for behavioral health issues and released resources for the field, including case studies and podcasts on successful strategies to address maternal mental health.

# Networking, Learning And Sharing Strategies To Advance Health



At AHA's Annual Meeting in April CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure described how CMS continues to hear from patients and providers over some commercial insurer prior authorization denials and delays, noting that the volume of frustration has "just exploded."



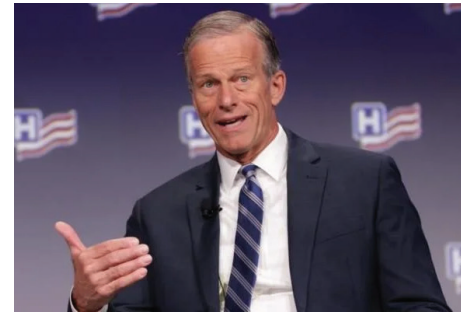
AHA President and CEO Rick Pollack discussed the role of health systems in care innovation and disruption with Warner Thomas, president and CEO, Sutter Health, at the AHA Leadership Summit.



AHA EVP and COO Michelle Hood leads a panel discussion on innovation at the Rural Health Care Leadership Conference in February.



AHA Board Chairs past, present and future took the stage at the Leadership Summit. Left to right, chair-elect designate Marc Boom, M.D., CEO of Houston Methodist; incoming chair Tina Freese Decker, president and CEO, Corewell Health; past chair John Hauptert, president and CEO, Grady Health System; and chair Joanne Conroy, M.D., CEO and president, Dartmouth Health.



Senate Minority Whip John Thune, R-S.D., updated AHA members at the Annual Meeting on progress to extend telehealth waivers.



Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., urged hospitals to speak up about the challenges and realities they face. "People don't want to hear a speech, they love to hear a story — and you've got plenty of them," Durbin said.

## Save The Dates



The conference convenes senior executives, physician leaders, trustees and nurse executives from rural hospitals and health systems to share insights and strategies to transform rural health care delivery and business practices.



Joanne Conroy, AHA Board Chair



AHA members have the opportunity to meet face to face with elected officials and key policymakers at this 3-day event in May.



Rick Pollack, President and CEO, AHA



The Accelerating Health Equity Conference brings together thought leaders, front-line workers and health care pioneers to advance the discussion on dismantling structural barriers and achieving equitable outcomes for all.



Juana Slade, Director of Diversity and Language Services, AnMed Health, winner of 2024 Carolyn Boone Lewis Equity of Care Award



Health care leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs and others gather to explore opportunities to leverage data and insights to address the field's most pressing challenges.



Tina Freese Decker, AHA Board Chair-Elect

Rounding out these events are a variety of conferences led by the **American Organization for Nursing Leadership (AONL)** and **AHA's professional membership groups**, designed to advance operational excellence within your organization.

# Keeping You Informed

## AHA Today

### AHA Today

Our flagship e-newsletter brings you the news, insights and resources you need 6 days a week, directly to your inbox. Visit [www.aha.org/news](http://www.aha.org/news).

## Events & Education

### AHA Events & Education

Every Wednesday we share upcoming webinars, calls, events and conferences. Subscribers to AHA Today receive this email. Visit [www.aha.org/news](http://www.aha.org/news).

## Special Bulletin

### Special Bulletins, Alerts and Advisories

AHA Special Bulletins get you the key takeaways on breaking news, while Alerts let you know when we need you to weigh in with your federal lawmakers or regulatory agencies. AHA Advisories provide in-depth summaries of regulations, legislation, litigation or other issues affecting the field. Visit [www.aha.org/action](http://www.aha.org/action).



### AHA.org

Our website provides you with a customizable dashboard to stay on top of the topics that matter most to you. Need help logging in? Email [ahahelp@aha.org](mailto:ahahelp@aha.org) to set up an account and password.



### Podcasts & Videos

Our Advancing Health podcast channel features conversations with hospital and health system leaders on a variety of issues that affect patients and communities. Visit [www.aha.org/advancing-health-podcast](http://www.aha.org/advancing-health-podcast) to listen. Video series, including Leadership Dialogues with AHA's Board Chair, spotlight leaders in the field talking about cutting-edge topics. Watch the Leadership Dialogues [www.aha.org/leadership-rounds](http://www.aha.org/leadership-rounds).



### My AHA Connect App

Exclusively for AHA members, this mobile app lets you access the latest updates on health care policy, contact your congressional legislators, and more. Visit the Apple App Store or Google Play store and search for "American Hospital Association."

## Trustee Insights

### Trustee Insights

This monthly, multimedia package provides resources and education specifically for this audience on both governance topics and the forces driving the nation's health care system. To subscribe, visit [trustees.aha.org](http://trustees.aha.org).



### Market Scan

Brought to you by the AHA for Center for Health Innovation, this weekly e-newsletter delivers the latest intelligence on health care disruption and health system transformation. Visit [www.aha.org/center](http://www.aha.org/center).