



photo: Bartlett Regional Hospital, Juneau



Alaska Hospital & Healthcare Association

For over 70 years, the Alaska Hospital & Healthcare Association (AHHA) has served as a non-profit trade association representing Alaska's hospitals, nursing homes, and a growing number of healthcare partners across the continuum of care. AHHA supports members in their roles as community providers and essential employers in cities, towns, and villages across Alaska.

Our mission is to advance the shared interests of Alaska healthcare to build an innovative, sustainable system of care for all Alaskans.

What We Do:

- Lead advocacy efforts in support of policy and legislation that impact members.
- Bring together members and stakeholders for education, training, and collaborative work.
- Provide funding, research, and other collateral in support of member facilities.

Spotlight Challenge: Delayed Discharge

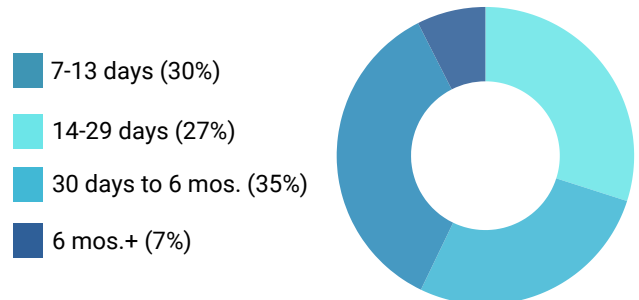
Addressing transition delays and optimizing the flow of patients throughout Alaska's healthcare system is an ongoing priority for AHHA and our members. AHHA has implemented a new monthly survey to gather and track data on delayed discharge. In March 2024, acute care hospitals across the state reported close to 150 patients awaiting discharge for 7 or more days to post-acute care settings. **This equates to 10% of the total bed capacity in Alaska.**

Top three barriers to discharge reported:

- Skilled Nursing Bed not available
- Lack of guardianship or healthcare proxy
- Insurer coverage issues

AHHA is working alongside facilities to address and streamline administrative functions that delay discharge from hospitals.

Patients by Length of Time Awaiting Discharge



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"This Sunday, we will have had a patient in house waiting for long-term care for a full year."

- Case Manager from an Alaska Hospital

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Federal Issues for Alaska



Oppose Site-Neutral Payment Cuts

Eliminating or reducing payments to hospital outpatient departments prevents local hospitals from subsidizing and providing critical services to communities, especially in rural Alaska.



Hold Commercial Health Insurers Accountable on Prior Authorization and Denials

Healthcare needs more oversight and accountability over abusive insurer practices like claim denials, service authorizations, payment delays, and pharmacy benefit managers. Results from a National Survey on Payment Delays and Denials show that 15% of all claims submitted to private payers are initially denied and then over half of those are ultimately paid after multiple, costly appeals costing hospitals and health systems about \$10.6 billion.



Pass the Safety from Violence for Healthcare Employees (SAVE) Act H.R. 2584/S. 2768

Rising rates of physical violence and verbal abuse toward healthcare staff is a mounting challenge that cannot be tolerated. AHHA supports making it a federal crime to assault or intimidate a healthcare worker or other hospital employee.



Pass Protecting Rural Seniors Access to Care Act S. 3410 / H.R. 5796

CMS' minimum staffing rule for skilled nursing facilities is an unfunded, one-size-fits-all, impossible standard amid a historic and nationwide labor shortage. AHHA supports prohibiting the Secretary from finalizing the proposed rule, and establishing an advisory panel to focus on the nursing home workforce.



Protect the 340B Drug Pricing Program

This program helps 340B hospitals stretch limited federal resources to reduce the price of outpatient pharmaceuticals for patients and expand health services to better serve patients and communities in Alaska.



Secure Capital Funding for Alaska Hospital Infrastructure

Alaska's hospitals have capital projects that range from replacing old infrastructure to creating services like inpatient behavioral health and onsite childcare. Both federal and local funding sources are crucial for maintaining Alaska's healthcare infrastructure into the future.



Prevent Cuts to Medicaid DSH Payments

The Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) program provides essential financial assistance to hospitals that care for our most vulnerable populations in Alaska, especially when it comes to behavioral health. The need for Medicaid DSH supplemental funding remains essential for supporting our mission to treat all patients, regardless of ability to pay.