



# ReConnect

## NEWSLETTER

Welcome to ReConnect, AHS's organization-wide newsletter designed to acknowledge the important issues and great work you as staff, managers, nurses, physicians and leaders do every day to enable us to fulfill our mission of Caring, Healing, Teaching and Serving All. Why ReConnect? We recognize that no one method of communication reaches each of you. ReConnect is an additional way to share your great accomplishments with each other and also external stakeholders who share our vision of providing equitable care and delivering quality health outcomes to vulnerable populations. Remember this is your newsletter. If you have feedback, story ideas or critical information that you would like to share, please submit them to [pace@alamedahealthsystem.org](mailto:pace@alamedahealthsystem.org).

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## Alameda Health System Opposes New Public Charge Rule

As a public hospital serving one of the most diverse counties in the nation, Alameda Health System is committed to Caring, Healing, Teaching and Serving All by providing an array of services to our community members.

On October 10th, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published a proposed rule that would change the determination of public charge, making it harder for immigrants and their families to become lawful permanent residents if they receive public benefits. "Public Charge" refers to individuals who may depend on government benefits as their main source of support.



Individuals seeking to enter the United States or who already reside here and apply for a green card are subject to the "public charge test" and must demonstrate that they are not likely to become a public charge, i.e. not likely to receive public benefit. The proposed rule would expand the definition of public charge by increasing the types of public benefits, including non-emergency Medicaid and Medicare Part D low income subsidy, and lowering the threshold for public charge determination. [Here is a chart that compares the changes to the rule.](#)

AHS serves a diverse population who speak multiple languages and come from different backgrounds, including many immigrants and their families. For decades, we have provided care to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay, immigration status, or other individual circumstances. We have strong concerns that the new draft regulation could discourage our immigrant communities from seeking health care services that they are eligible to receive for fear of impacting their ability to become permanent legal immigrants.

The proposed rule will likely have a negative impact on the health of the entire community. [Read more.](#)

If you have any questions regarding the proposed rule on public charge, please contact Terry Lightfoot, Director of Public Affairs and Community Engagement (PACE) at 510-535-7626 or [tlightfoot@alamedahealthsystem.org](mailto:tlightfoot@alamedahealthsystem.org).

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## Guten Tag

AHS leadership provided an informational learning session and tour to 20 rising leaders of the German Managed Care Association.

Participants flew to the Bay Area from different facets of the health care industry, including hospitals, physician associations and pharmaceutical companies, who are working together on projects that will improve their system as a whole.

[Read the full article here.](#)



## Fighting Opioid Addiction

Oakland has the highest rate of opioid-related emergency department visits in Alameda County, four times higher than Fremont. Andrew Herring, M.D., emergency physician at AHS-Highland Hospital is addressing this overwhelming epidemic through the ED-BRIDGE program which was featured on the front-page of the New York Times. [Read about Dr. Herring's grant from](#) the California Health Care Foundation to help Highland and seven other hospitals treat addiction in the ED using buprenorphine.

## Diversity in Leadership

Alameda County is one of the most diverse counties in the nation. As a health care system it is imperative that our staff reflect the diversity of our patient population to best provide culturally competent care. Find out how AHS Chief Operating Officer, Luis Fonseca is working hard to position AHS to deliver [Care for the Future](#).



## Infection Prevention is Everybody's Business



## Infection Prevention Week

According to the CDC, approximately 1 in 25 hospitalized patients will contract a health care-associated infection. International Infection Prevention Week (October 14-20), celebrates the importance of infection prevention and patient safety. Having good hand hygiene is the single most effective way to prevent the spread of infections. As we approach flu season, please keep in mind the flu vaccine helps protect you, your family at home, and your patients. As a reminder, all AHS employees, contractors and volunteers are required to participate in the [Annual Flu Program](#).

## Let's be Engaged

The AHS Community Engagement team will be out and about in the East Bay sharing information about services offered by our health system. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these events please email [pace@alamedahealthsystem.org](mailto:pace@alamedahealthsystem.org).



[Alameda Health Fair](#)  
Saturday, October 20, 2018  
Alameda Hospital  
2070 Clinton Ave.  
Alameda, CA 94501



[Día de los Muertos](#)  
Sunday, November 4, 2018  
Fruitvale District  
Oakland, CA

Visit AHS Connects

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