

PPE Report – Western District Meeting – April 6, 2026

Among the goals discussed at this year's WHA Advocacy Day, was a theme of breaking down barriers that keep hospitals from providing quality care to their patients. To quote "burdensome payer requirements and unnecessary or overly complex regulations stand between health care teams and patients". One example of WHA efforts toward easing these regulations is **Legislation AB 598/SB 578 or Next-Of-Kin Legislation**. As this report is being written, the Next-Of-Kin Bill is sitting on Gov. Evers' desk, having passed in the Assembly and Senate. Gov. Evers has said he will sign the bill. Next-Of-Kin Legislation will enable family members facilitate the transfer of their incapacitated loved ones from a hospital to nursing home or community-based residential facilities, in the absence of a power-of-attorney.

First of all, this issue should remind us all to make sure we have a power-of-attorney in place and on file at our hospital. Studies show that less than 1/3 of adults have a POA in place. Extended hospital stays are expensive and the guardianship process required for families to make the decision to move their loved-one to a nursing home is lengthy. In the mean time there are waiting lists for the bed being used by a patient who no longer needs hospital care.

Please thank your legislators for passing this important bill. To quote WHA regarding this legislation: it removes current statutory barriers to appropriate long-term care, expands important patient safeguards and frees up access to care and reduces unnecessary costs and delays for families.

In a past Partners Newsletter, Bill McCullough, retiring state PPE chairman, wrote an insightful article regarding large pharmaceutical companies attempting to create and implement models for 340B rebates. It outlines WHA's role in fighting this in court. It would be worth your while to visit this newsletter on the Partners of WHA website for a short, but informative read.

It's never too early to save the date for the 2027 Advocacy Day which will take place on April 21, 2027. Attendees of this day always come home informed, entertained, well fed and feeling like they have done their part in making a difference as partners of the WHA.

Trudy Wallin, Western District PPE Chair

March 24, 2026