President's Perspective – Another Successful Critical Issues Summit

Last week, we held our annual Critical Issues Summit in Wichita. This summit is designed for senior-level administrators, hospital trustees and others interested in hospital governance. We had an excellent turnout, and we were very pleased with the discussions.

Our meeting focused on the following sessions:

- A refresher on various hospital payment methodologies from our partners at BKD
- The board's role in improving health care quality and patient safety, with Ann Scott Blouin, who provided an overview of key quality and patient safety issues and the board's role in evaluating and governing these functions.
- The age of consumerism and seeing healthcare through an "outsider's" eyes, with Ryan Donohue, who explored in-depth findings from cross-country research on what drives consumer perceptions and behaviors.
- Strategic planning in uncertain times, with Pam Knecht, an interactive session that described why strategic planning is critical, how to create an effective strategic plan, and what the board's role should be in the strategic plan development and monitoring processes.
- The future of rural Kansas, a panel discussion featuring leaders from across the state that discussed efforts underway to respond to the many challenges facing rural Kansas and identify ways we can collaborate to build a better future.

We are always happy when KHA can provide educational programs with nationally recognized speakers right here in Kansas. It also is gratifying to be able to rely on some in-state experts to help us provide a more local feel.

What makes the Critical Issues Summit such a special program for KHA is the fact that so many hospital trustees from across the state attend. Governance issues have elevated in importance over the last several years, and the strong attendance from hospital board members demonstrates the commitment that Kansas hospitals have to good governance.

Thanks to those who took the time last week to attend, and contribute to, this important meeting.

--Tom Bell
Mark Your Calendar for KHA's District Meetings
The Kansas Hospital Association Spring District Meeting dates and locations have been set. These meetings are provided at no charge and are a great informational and networking opportunity for all CEOs, trustees and senior staff. Join us at 8:30 a.m. for networking. Meeting times will be from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with lunch provided. You are free to attend at any location, so pick the location that best fits your schedule.

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The agenda will be released soon. Please direct questions to Melissa Willey at (785) 233-7436. --Cindy Samuelson

COVID-19 Resources Available on KHA Website
As everyone is aware, the COVID-19 situation is quickly evolving worldwide and is in the United States. With such a rapidly changing situation, it is becoming increasing difficult to keep up with the latest information and recommendations from trusted sources. In an effort to help keep Kansas Hospital Association members informed, KHA has updated our website to provide the latest information on COVID-19. The web page contains many resources from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, American Hospital Association and the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Additional resources will be added as they become available.

Links to current COVID-19 resources are listed below. We anticipate this page will be updated regularly. We hope these resources will help you to prepare for COVID-19 and provide education to your staff and communities. If you have questions, contact Ron Marshall at (785) 233-7436.

- KDHE has begun weekly COVID-19 webinars every Thursday at 10:00 a.m.
- Kansas Department of Health and Environment - COVID-19 – web page
- ASPR TRACIE - Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Information Gateway
- ASPR COV-19 Healthcare Planning Checklist
- CDC Hospital Preparedness Checklist
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - COVID-19 – web page
- Kansas Health Alert Network Update
- KDHE Toolkit for COVID-19
- KDHE Epidemiology Patient Under Investigation
- COVID-19 Algorithm Example for Healthcare Facilities
- AHA Advisory COVID-19
- AHA COVID Talking Points
- AHA COVID-19 – web page
- University of Nebraska Medical Center - COVID-19 – web page
- The World Health Organization - COVID-19 – web page
- CMS News Release Announcing the Actions to Address the Spread of the Coronavirus
- CMS Memo QSO-20-12-ALL
- CMS Memo QSO-20-13-Hospitals

--Ron Marshall

On Wednesday, March 4, the Kansas Hospital Association received the following CMS news release regarding "Actions to Address Spread of Coronavirus." Attached is the related CMS Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Quality, Safety & Oversight Group memorandum # QSO-20-12-All sent to State Survey Agency Directors.

On Thursday, March 5, CMS released to State Survey Agency Directors a guidance, #QSO-20-13-Hospitals for hospitals receiving or caring for patients under investigation for COVID-19.

KHA will continue to provide you with information as we receive it. Feel free to refer to the KHA website for additional resources. If you have questions, please contact Ron Marshall at (785) 276-3125.
--Ron Marshall

CART Data Abstraction Training – April 3
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Abstraction and Reporting Tool is a powerful application for the collection and analysis of quality improvement data. Through data collection, retrospective analyses and real-time reporting, CART enables hospitals to evaluate and manage quality improvement efforts. Whether a hospital is seeking Medicare certification or undertaking its own quality improvement initiatives, CART is ideal for the data collection and analyses essential to the success of all quality improvement efforts.

Navigating the data collection process can be complicated. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment, in partnership with the Kansas Hospital Association and the Kansas Hospital Education and Research Foundation, is offering CART abstraction training. This training will give the rare opportunity to abstract medical records together, as a group, utilizing CART.

The training will be from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Friday, April 3, at the Hotel at Old Town in Wichita. Specific topics covered in this training include:

- Overview of the Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project;
- Components of quality data collection;
- Group abstraction of medical records;
- How to report CART data to QualityNet; and
- Review of medical records with the specification manual.
Reporting of MBQIP data is required for continued eligibility for Small Hospital Improvement Program funding. This course is offered once a year, and individuals new to data abstraction should plan to attend.

For more information, please contact KHERF at (785) 233-7436.
--Susan Cunningham

**Hospital Associations Argue Against Final Rule**

Last week, 37 state hospital associations filed an *amicus curiae brief* in support of the American Hospital Association's lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' final rule entitled "Price Transparency Requirements for Hospitals to Make Standard Charges Public." The brief focuses on the severe burden to hospitals and health systems if they are required to comply with the final rule. Massive amounts of pricing information would need to be collected, often manually, then published for every insurer, every health plan and each service provided by the hospital without a corresponding benefit to consumers. Fifteen Kansas hospitals responded to KHA's request for information related to the proposed requirement for hospitals to disclose their negotiated rates, and several of these comments are included in the brief. We will keep you posted as this lawsuit moves ahead.

--Deborah Stern

**Appropriate Use Criteria Program**

The Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014, Section 218(b), established the [Appropriate Use Criteria Program](https://www.cms.gov) to increase the rate of appropriate advanced diagnostic imaging services provided to Medicare beneficiaries. Examples of such advanced imaging services include: computed tomography; positron emission tomography; nuclear medicine and magnetic resonance imaging.

Under this program, the ordering practitioner will be required to consult a qualified Clinical Decision Support Mechanism to provide a determination of whether the order adheres to AUC. This program impacts all physicians and practitioners that order advanced diagnostic imaging services and is required when the testing is done in an applicable setting (defined as a physician's office, hospital outpatient department, an ambulatory surgical center or independent diagnostic testing facility). Advanced diagnostic imaging services performed in a Critical Access Hospital are not subject to AUC. However, an ordering professional in a CAH or rural health clinic would need to consult AUC through a qualified CDSM if the service is furnished outside of the CAH or RHC and in an applicable setting.

On Jan. 1, 2020, the AUC Program began operating in an Education and Operations Testing Period, which means that claims are being reviewed for the appropriate AUC consultation information, but not denied if information is missing. Currently, the program is set to be fully implemented on Jan. 1, 2021, and claims that are billed without the appropriate documentation will not be paid. Additional information regarding AUC for advanced diagnostic imaging is outlined in [Medicare Learning Network Matters SE20002](https://www.medicare.gov).

--Tish Hollingsworth
April 2020 HFMA Leadership Summit and HFMA/KAHPAM Joint Annual Meeting

On behalf of the Sunflower (Kansas) Chapter of Healthcare Financial Management Association and the Kansas Association of Healthcare Patient Access and Account Managers, we would like to invite you to attend the following April 2020 events.

EVENT #1
Sunflower HFMA Leadership Summit – April 9
The Sunflower (Kansas) Chapter of Healthcare Financial Management Association Leadership Summit registration check-in and continental breakfast from 8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude by 5:00 p.m. The morning session will consist of an A&A Update – FASBs and GASBs...Oh My! presented by Tyler Bernier and Katharine Johnston with Eide Bailley, while the afternoon featured speaker will be Kevin McCarthy, and his widely sought-after program: Welcome to the Blind Spot Zone. The registration fee is $129 for HFMA members and $179 for non-members.

EVENT #2
HFMA & KAHPAM Joint Annual Meeting – April 10
The Sunflower (Kansas) Chapter Healthcare Financial Management Association and the Kansas Association of Healthcare Patient Access and Account Managers Joint Annual Meeting topics for discussion will include: Update to the Transition to the VA Community Care Network in Kansas, Emerging Health Plans, Pricing Transparency, Legislative Update and How to Best Utilize Financial Counselors in Your Organization and the Patient Experience. Registration check-in and continental breakfast will be from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. The meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m. and conclude by 4:30 p.m. The registration fee is $59 for HFMA or KAHPAM members and $109 for non-members.

COMBINED EVENTS
Register as an attendee for both the April 9 Sunflower HFMA Leadership Summit and the April 10 HFMA & KAHPAM Joint Annual Meeting and receive a $40 discount off the total registration. The discounted registration fee is $148 for members and $248 for non-members.

Register Now

--Tish Hollingsworth

Federal Focus
MLN Connects Provider eNews Available
Updates to MLN Connects Provider eNews were issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. eNews includes information about national provider calls, meetings, events, announcements and other MLN educational product updates. The latest issue provides updates and summaries of the following:

- COVID-19: New ICD-10-CM code and interim coding guidance
- Quality Payment Program: Merit-based Incentive Payment System 2019 data submission period open through Tuesday, March 31
- Skilled Nursing Facility Patient Driven Payment Model claims issue
- Quality Payment Program: 2020 resources
U.S. Supreme Court to Hear Affordable Care Act Appeal
The U.S. Supreme Court granted certiorari to review an appeal of the Fifth Circuit's decision in Texas v. California. The appellate court held the individual mandate under the Affordable Care Act unconstitutional and remanded the case to the Texas District Court to determine whether its ruling rendered the entire act invalid. Several intervening states led by Democratic governors and the U.S. House of Representatives sought expedited review by the Supreme Court. The court previously declined to fast track the case but now has slated it to be heard during its next term, which begins in October.

TJC Accepting Submissions for Pioneers in Quality Proven Practices Program
The Joint Commission Pioneers in Quality™ Proven Practices Program recognizes hospitals and health systems that have successfully leveraged electronic clinical quality measures and health information technology to advance quality improvement. The deadline to submit an organization's success story for recognition through the program is Wednesday, April 1. Additional information is available.

TJC Announces Upcoming Webinars
The Joint Commission announced the following upcoming complimentary webinars.

- **Noon Thursday, March 19** — overview of rehabilitation certification, including requirements, standards, performance measures and application process
- **11 a.m. Thursday, March 26** — accreditation and certification chart-abstracted measure manual updates effective Wednesday, July 1

Registration is required and available at the respective links.