**KHA’s Current Report**  
**March 20, 2020**

**President’s Perspective – Supporting Each Other**  
As we move deeper into the issues surrounding COVID-19 and the "new normal" that is being created in so many different aspects of our society, I wanted to reiterate what we see as our role at KHA.

You have certainly seen an increase in the amount of information you are receiving from us, and that will no doubt continue. Providing you with up-to-date and trusted information through communications and educational programs will continue to be one of our main responsibilities. However, we also recognize that you are being inundated with information from other sources as well, and we are going to be very mindful about our communications. That is one of the reasons we established our regular member calls. Our thought is that allowing our members to take a few minutes and listen to the latest updates from KHA staff, along with sharing information among each other, is important and beneficial. The latest information from those regular calls is posted on our website.

Equally as important and challenging is the advocacy that must be done on behalf of our members. Those challenges begin at the state regulatory agency level with getting and providing information, in addition to working for better processes. They extend to elected officials on the state level, whether it is the legislature, the insurance commissioner or the governor. They also include working with our congressional delegation to make sure Kansas concerns are heard in Washington and at federal regulatory agencies. A recent letter we sent to Governor Laura Kelly outlines those issues.

To be sure, the situation is disruptive and highly inconvenient to many Kansans. However, this pales in comparison to the difficult front-line work being done by Kansas hospitals and health care providers to support the health and safety of their communities. Health care providers are always the first to respond to a problem and this selfless attitude benefits the rest of us. My hope is that those of us who are inconvenienced by the restrictions on our lives stop and think about what our health care providers are doing and consequently follow the advice of the public health experts. Instead of viewing it as a restriction or disruption, we should consider it our small way of caring for our communities.

---*Tom Bell*

**Important Update: KHA Spring District Meetings**

After careful consideration of the risks posed by holding in-person Spring District Meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Kansas Hospital Association has made the decision to move the KHA Spring District Meetings to webinar (virtual) meetings.
The KHA Spring District Meeting agenda will stay relatively the same; so feel free to have key staff working and/or interested in the topic areas below join the meeting. These meetings will be interactive.

- Readiness and Collaboration – COVID-19
- Hospital Quality Initiatives and Resources
- State and Federal Advocacy
- Strategic Planning
- KHA, KHERF, KHSC and APS Updates

The agenda can be found online. Join us at 11:30 a.m. by webinar. Webinar connection instructions will be sent out one to two days prior to each district meeting. Our agenda will run from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

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If you have already registered for a KHA Spring District Meeting, you do not need to re-register. If you have not registered,

REGISTER NOW

Please contact the KHA Education Department (785) 233-7436 if you have any questions.

--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Expansion of Telehealth Access to Combat COVID-19

This week, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced steps to expand access to telehealth services during the COVID-19 outbreak. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services expanded Medicare coverage for telehealth visits, for three main types of virtual services physicians and other professionals can provide to Medicare beneficiaries: Medicare telehealth visits, E-visits and virtual check-ins. The expanded waiver issued does NOT apply to rural health clinics or federally qualified health centers to bill for Medicare telehealth visits or E-visits. CMS does not have statutory authority to issue a waiver for these purposes. There are efforts underway for congressional action to address this issue.
In addition, the HHS Office for Civil Rights announced it will waive potential HIPAA penalties for good faith use of telehealth during the emergency, and the HHS Office of Inspector General provided flexibility for health care providers to reduce or waive beneficiary cost-sharing for telehealth visits paid by federal healthcare programs. For more information, see the CMS press release, OCR Guidance and OIG policy statement.

--Jennifer Findley

**2020 KHA Workforce Survey Results Available**
The results from the 2020 workforce survey are now available on khatat.org. One hundred and one Kansas hospitals reported on 28 high-turnover hospital positions and four clinical positions. The reports provide statewide and regional vacancy and turnover statistics and trend reports for nursing positions.

--Sally Othmer

**Kansas Board of Pharmacy COVID-19 Guidance**
The Kansas Board of Pharmacy has released COVID-19 guidance for pharmacies, pharmacists, technicians and interns, including information about the two-week Board office closure March 21 – April 5, as part of the State of Kansas COVID-19 response.

--Karen Braman

**ASHP COVID-19 Resources for Pharmacists**
The American Society of Health System Pharmacists has made available tools and resources, including infection prevention and other COVID-19 resources, for non-members. Pharmacists play a key role as patient care providers and in implementing infection control procedures. Please make sure they are aware of these available resources.

--Karen Braman

**USP Compounding Update**
This week, the United States Pharmacopeia Appeals Panel remanded the revised USP General Chapter standards <795> for nonsterile compounding and <797> for sterile compounding to an expert committee "for further engagement on the issues raised concerning the beyond-use date provisions." USP last year postponed the effective dates for these standards and for the new General Chapter <825> radiopharmaceuticals standard due to pending appeals. The appeals panel today denied the General Chapter <825> appeal, encouraging the appellant to submit a narrower request for revision to the expert committee. The American Hospital Association had urged USP to delay the <797> standard due to implementation and compliance concerns. This announcement will delay the effective date of the revised <797> chapter, as well as the effective date of General Chapter <800> on hazardous drug handling in health care settings. While <800> will remain informational pending final revisions to <797>, KHA is in communication with the Kansas Board of Pharmacy regarding Board of Pharmacy plans for any regulatory changes as a result of USP guidance. KHA will continue to update members with additional information as it becomes available.

--Karen Braman

**WEBINAR: Employee Benefit to Assist with ID Theft and Legal Issues**
Recruiting and retaining employees is a critical mission for you at your hospital. The Kansas Hospital Service Corporation – a subsidiary of the Kansas Hospital Association – has endorsed two products we feel can be of incredible value to you and your employees: LegalShield and IDShield offered through Lawton Benefits Group and Rachael Lawton.
Rachael and her team would like to review the benefits available through these plans on a short 30-minute webinar scheduled at noon on Monday, April 6. To register for this free event, go to https://registerhere-kha.eventbrite.com and enter "KHA" as the password.

Identity theft is a major issue today and can cause your employees to be distracted or miss work time in dealing with a theft. Many insurance carriers have "ADD ON" identity theft plans. Unfortunately, they are generally limited to credit monitoring with no restoration service included. This simply is not adequate protection.

Hopefully you can join this free webinar to learn how to implement a LegalShield or IDShield product in your facility.

--Steve Poage

Federal Focus

CMS Updates 2020 QRDA I

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has published an update to the 2020 CMS Quality Reporting Document Architecture Category I Schematron and Sample File for Hospital Quality Reporting. The schematron provides technical instructions for reporting electronic clinical quality measures for the calendar year 2020 reporting period for the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program and Medicare and Medicaid Promoting Interoperability Program for Eligible Hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals. Additional information is available.

HHS Finalizes Rules Giving Patients Unprecedented Access to Health Records

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services finalized two rules — one that implements interoperability and patient access provisions of the bipartisan 21st Century Cures Act, and another that supports President Donald Trump's MyHealthEData initiative — that "will give patients unprecedented safe, secure access to their health data." Both rules implement interoperability and patient access provisions of the bipartisan 21st Century Cures Act. The rule includes key dates that will move health care systems toward greater interoperability.

CMS Announces Part D Senior Savings Model

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced a new Part D model aimed to offer beneficiaries an increased choice of enhanced alternative Part D plan options that offer lower out-of-pocket costs for insulin. The Part D Senior Savings Model enables participating Part D enhanced plans to lower Medicare beneficiaries' out-of-pocket costs for insulin to a maximum $35 copay per 30-day supply. CMS also released two requests for applications — one for Part D sponsors and one for pharmaceutical manufacturers. Both are invited to apply to participate beginning Jan. 1, 2021.

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:

- CMS sends more detailed guidance to providers about COVID-19
- Clean Hands Count: Prevent and control infections
- Quality Payment Program: Merit-based Incentive Payment System 2019 data submission deadline is Tuesday, March 31
• Inclusion of lower limb prosthetics in Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies prior authorization