



KHA's Current Report
May 6, 2022

President's Perspective – We Are Health Care - Hospital Week 2022

Next week the Kansas Hospital Association will join our members in celebrating hospitals, health systems, and the women and men who support the health and well-being of their communities. National Hospital Week, May 8-14, 2022, showcases the pride and resiliency of hospital and health care workers with the theme *We Are Health Care*. Now more than ever, this important week gives us all the opportunity to highlight our hospitals, health systems and health care workers and the innovative ways they are supporting the needs of their community members.

The American Hospital Association has released numerous National Hospital Week resources to assist hospitals and health systems in celebrating National Hospital Week. Next week provides us an extra opportunity to highlight hospital and health care workers. We encourage you to join us in this effort.

I had the opportunity during the AHA meeting to see a new video that highlights the hard work of hospital and health care workers over the past two years. The custom music video, "[Worth Fighting](#)," was written in 2021 by Musician's On Call Volunteer Brailey Lenderman and hit songwriter Chris Sligh. The song and video are based on interviews with health care workers who shared their moments of joy and struggle during the pandemic. KHA will be sharing a customized version of this video during Hospital Week. The AHA also created a series of new videos sharing the health care workers' perspective on the pandemic. The testimonial series highlights the pandemic experience from the point of view of health care engineers, nurses, risk managers, environmental, supply chain and other positions of the health care workforce. Access the video series on the [National Hospital Week webpage](#).

We encourage our members to use and share any of the KHA and AHA resources on social media. KHA will be releasing new messages every day next week - feel free to use or share any of them. The AHA has developed [three distinct graphics for a hospital "H"](#) social media profile takeovers. For your team members, AHA also has created Instagram and Facebook AR filter effects. Any of your staff can show their health care pride with these social photo frames. Hospitals can promote the filters using a [poster with an easy to access QR code](#). AHA has a full [social media engagement toolkit](#) with numerous social media assets for download. We encourage our members to use the hashtags #WeAreHealthCare, #HospitalWeek and #KansasHospitals to showcase the pride and resiliency of hospital and health care workers in Kansas.

Celebrated the first full week in May since 1921, [National Hospital Week](#) is a time dedicated to reinforce to our communities the valuable contributions hospitals make in caring for them 24-hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Celebrating National Hospital Week gives all of us an opportunity to thank all of the dedicated individuals – physicians, nurses, therapists, engineers, food service workers, volunteers, administrators and so many more – for their contributions. On behalf of the entire KHA staff, thank you to all of the dedicated individuals who work and volunteer in Kansas hospitals. You play an essential role in the lives of individuals and communities across Kansas. Thank you for your commitment to improving the health of your community through compassionate care, constant innovation and unwavering dedication!

--Chad Austin

KDHE Update – CMS Requirements for Screening and Masking

During the last three months, there has been a great deal of confusion and many questions concerning the requirements for hospitals to screen all visitors and staff entering the facility. Janet Stanek, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment provided the following information on the screening and masking guidance this week.

- CMS has identified in QSO-21-08 NLTC (revised 2/4/22) that continued *visitation* restrictions for acute and continuing care facilities are no longer necessary. However, facilities should adhere to basic infection control (including COVID-19) principles consistent with national standards of practice such as CDC guidance.
- KDHE does not have infection control guidance more prescriptive than CMS or CDC.
- KDHE surveyors will no longer be required to survey specifically for COVID-19 screening, but rather COVID-19 precautions will be part of the infectious disease prevention survey.
- Facilities should have a policy indicating when they would take extra steps such as screening visitors and staff for COVID-19 so staff know when to implement.
- Facilities should:
 - Continue to consult with state and local public health officials to determine if modifications to visitation and screening are appropriate on a case-by-case basis or as COVID-19 case rates increase in certain geographic locations within our state.
 - Have policies/procedures in place to manage source control (masking) and to identify and manage individuals with suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- You will be surveyed based on whether or not you are following your policies (confirmed by CMS to Secretary 4/25/22).

--Ron Marshall

Newest Podcast Features Walk With a Doc Founder

Have you been listening to the Kansas Hospital Association's podcast Plains Spoken? If not, we encourage you to do so. We tackle timely issues with a variety of guests including hospital and industry representatives, legislators, and health care experts. New episodes go live on the first and third Thursdays of each month.

On the latest Plains Spoken episode, *Walk With a Doc* founder Dr. David Sabgir explains how Kansas health care communities have embraced Walk With a Doc as a great way to connect with patients and promote the benefits of moderate physical activity. By providing a casual and fun connection outside of the clinical setting, these events are providing health awareness, education and a road map for healthier and engaged communities.

Walk with a Doc was started in 2005 by David Sabgir, MD, cardiologist in Columbus, Ohio. Frustrated with his inability to affect behavior change in the clinical setting, Dr. Sabgir invited his patients to go for a walk with him in a local park on a spring Saturday morning. To his surprise, more than 100 people showed up, energized and ready to move. Since that first event in 2005, Walk with a Doc has grown as a grassroots effort, with a model based on sustainability and simplicity. In simple terms, WWAD is an initiative where a provider, clinician or other healthcare leader gives a brief presentation on a health topic and then leads participants on a walk at their own pace. <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1632520>

--Hayley Finch

Kansas Public Opinion Survey on Drug Overdose Epidemic

The [Kansas Prescription Drug and Opioid Advisory Committee](#) is conducting a public opinion survey regarding the drug overdose epidemic in Kansas. The purpose of this survey is to assess community needs regarding overdose prevention and response resources. These data will be used to develop a comprehensive drug overdose prevention plan for Kansas. Your input is needed! Please share the link to this brief survey with providers at your facility who may have input that will help with a drug overdose prevention plan in our State. The survey can be found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KDK55W5>.

--Karen Braman

Help Us Share Your Patients' Stories

The Kansas Hospital Association is a member of the Alliance for a Healthy Kansas, a non-profit organization who works to expand the state's Medicaid program, KanCare. The Alliance for a Healthy Kansas has a [Storybank Project](#) that tells the stories of Kansans who fall in the coverage gap. We know our members see patients who fall into this gap.

Kansas has some of the strictest requirements in the country to qualify for KanCare. A single mom with two kids must make less than \$8,500 per year to qualify. Healthy, childless adults are

not eligible for KanCare, no matter how much money they make. KHA is working with the Alliance for a Healthy Kansas to [tell the stories of the Kansans](#) who don't qualify for KanCare, but who can't afford private health insurance, either.

Do you have patients we could follow up with about sharing their story? All that is required is answering a few questions about their experience living without health insurance. The Alliance for a Healthy Kansas will review stories with patients and make sure they are comfortable. Stories could be shared on the Alliance website, in social media, with news outlets or with legislators.

Stories aim to answer these questions:

- What is it like being one of the 150,000 Kansans who does not have access to health insurance?
- What would KanCare expansion mean for your health?

If you know someone who would like to share his or her story, please reach out to Marissa Alcantar at marissa@expandkancare.com.

--Cindy Samuelson

AHRQ Hospital Safety Program for MRSA Prevention

The enrollment deadline for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Safety Program for Prevention of Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus) is May 15. The unit-based program is designed to help hospitals develop and implement a patient safety culture in participating units. Up to 22 CME and CEU credits will be available for physicians, physician assistants, and nursing staff participating in the program aimed to improve staff knowledge of infection prevention and help them to identify approaches to successfully reduce and prevent MRSA transmission. It also will take participants through the process of developing solutions to patient safety issues on the units. Together, these approaches will improve staff knowledge of infection prevention and help them identify approaches to successfully reduce and prevent MRSA transmission. Additional information is available at the AHRQ [website](#).

--Sally Othmer

Federal and National News

CDC Issues Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Health Advisory

The CDC issued a [Health Advisory](#), "Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A (H5N1) Virus: Recommendations for Human Health Investigations and Response," following a human case in Colorado. This case occurred in an individual who had direct exposure to poultry with presumptive bird flu. The health advisory includes background information, as well as recommendations for clinicians, health departments, surveillance and testing, and the public.

Rural Health Strategy Meeting Registration Open

CMS' Rural Health Council is hosting a public, [virtual listening session](#) for CMS Regions 5, 7 and 8 on at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 10, to hear feedback on its current [Rural Health Strategy](#). Those interested in attending can register [here](#).

CMS Releases Final Rule Regarding Medicare Advantage Part D

CMS [released](#) a final [rule](#) for the Medicare Advantage and Part D prescription drug programs that will [improve](#) experiences for dually eligible beneficiaries and provide greater transparency. The rule includes changes related to marketing and communications, past performance, network adequacy, medical loss ratio reporting and special requirements during disasters or public emergencies. CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure stated, "this rule improves the health care experience and affordability for millions of people with MA and Part D coverage, including dually eligible individuals, and provides needed support to populations often left behind."

OIG Releases Study About Medicare Advantage Prior Authorization Process

HHS' OIG [released](#) a [study](#) about Medicare Advantage prior authorization denials raising concerns about beneficiary access to care. The OIG found that MA plans denied requests to send patients recovering from hospital services to a SNF or IRF when physicians determined that those places were more appropriate than the patient home, found that MA plans denied payments that met both Medicare and MA coverage rules and found avoidable delays in granting authorizations. Although the MA plans asserted that some prior authorization requests did not have sufficient supporting documentation, the OIG "reviewers found that the existing beneficiary medical records were sufficient to support the medical necessity of the services." The OIG urges Medicare officials to strengthen oversight of the MA plans and calls for increased enforcement against plans with a pattern of inappropriate denials. Several recommendations also were included in [previous](#) OIG reports about MA prior authorization practices.

CMS Releases Latest Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP Enrollment Data

CMS [released](#) the latest enrollment data for [Medicare, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program](#). As of January 2022, people enrolled in the Medicare program increased by 52,000 since the last report, which brings total Medicare beneficiaries to 64.2 million. Of the total, approximately 54 percent are enrolled in original Medicare and 46 percent are enrolled in a Medicare Advantage product. As of January 2022, people [enrolled](#) in Medicaid and CHIP increased by 1.1 million since the last report, bringing the total to 86 million.

CMS Releases 2023 Notice of Benefits and Payment Parameters Final Rule for Certain Insurance Markets

CMS [released](#) the 2023 Notice of Benefits and Payment Parameters [Final Rule](#) that includes regulatory [changes](#) in the individual and small group health insurance markets. The rule also includes regulatory standards to help states, the Marketplace and health insurance companies to better serve consumers. Major policies include the following.

- Simplifies the consumer shopping experience by establishing standardized plan options for issuers offering a Qualified Health Plan on [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov)
- Implements new network adequacy requirements
- Expands access to essential community providers
- Protects consumers from discriminatory practices related to the coverage of essential health benefits
- Updating the allowable ranges in metal coverage

Moderna Submits Application for EUA for COVID-19 Vaccine Use in Children 6 Months Through Age 5

Moderna [submitted](#) an application to the FDA for use of their COVID-19 vaccine in children 6 months through 5 years of age. If approved, this will be the first COVID-19 vaccine available to this age group. Meetings have not been set for regulatory agencies to review this application; however, the FDA indicated a timeline to review will be announced in the next week. Hospitals should not begin administration to this age group until approval from the FDA and CDC has been issued, along with an updated state standing order, if applicable.

Other News

ATTEND: CMS' webinar, "Overall Hospital Quality Star Ratings: Impact of the CMS Exception" is scheduled at 1:30 p.m. Friday, May 13, and will provide a brief overview of the star ratings methodology, as well as explain the influence of CMS' data exception for Q1 and Q2 of 2020 data. [Registration](#) is required.