



KHA's Current Report
April 7, 2023

President's Perspective – Help KHA Award Individuals Making a Difference

We know many individuals in Kansas are instrumental in making a difference for hospitals in Kansas and the health care they provide in our communities. Whether these individuals work in a hospital or outside our ranks, the Kansas Hospital Association wants to recognize their efforts. In order to honor those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty, we need you to let us know who they are by nominating them. KHA members are encouraged to make nominations for the following awards:

- **[The Charles S. Billings Award](#)** is the top honor given by KHA. The award recognizes a hospital leader for his or her lifetime of service and continuing contribution to the health care of Kansas. This award was established in 1971 to honor Billings' dedication and years of service to Kansans. [Online nomination form](#).
- **[The Distinguished Health Care Advocate Award](#)** honors individuals, organizations or groups that have provided an exemplary contribution to the health and well-being of the people of Kansas through their leadership in the political or policy arena. This awards members of KHA the opportunity to recognize those who work on our behalf from outside our ranks. [Online nomination form](#).
- **[The Donald A. Wilson Visionary Award](#)** recognizes hospital-related individuals who have made an outstanding, innovative contribution to health care delivery, health care financing or initiatives that improve the health and clinical outcomes of their community. This award was established in 2007 to honor Wilson's dedication and years of service to Kansans. [Online nomination form](#).
- **[The Trustee of the Year Award](#)** honors a hospital board member from each hospital who is a leader, gives back to the community and routinely goes beyond the call of duty. KHA members are encouraged to recognize a trustee who has served with distinction and made significant contributions to the betterment of their hospital and community. [Online nomination form](#).

- [The Health Care Worker\(s\) of the Year Award](#) recognizes and honors the excellence of health care workers statewide. All nominated employees (one employee from every hospital) will be recognized by KHA for making a significant contribution to the betterment of their hospital. [Online nomination form.](#)
- [Workforce Strategies Award](#) recognizes a team of employees, providers or volunteers who worked collaboratively to make a significant contribution to the wellbeing, retention or recruitment of health care workers at their facility(s) or in Kansas. Previously titled the Excellence in Teamwork Award. [Online nomination form.](#)

I thank you in advance for your assistance in helping us recognize and highlight those individuals deserving of recognition. Please make your online nominations at www.kha-net.org by June 1. Visit the [KHA website](#) to learn more about KHA awards.

--Chad Austin

Four More Chances to Attend a KHA District Meeting

The top two issues hospitals are facing, workforce and finance, are the focus of the Kansas Hospital Association Spring District Meetings. KHA members also will discuss preventative health services, advocacy issues and other current topics.

We encourage CEOs, CFOs, HR executives, trustees and senior staff to join us for these meetings. District Meetings are limited to KHA hospital and system members. Thanks to our sponsors at APS, KHSC, KAMMCO, Qualivis and CareSource these meetings are provided at no charge.

The remaining dates and locations are below. Join us at 9:30 a.m. for networking. Meeting times will be from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with lunch provided. If you can't make an in-person meeting, join us virtually.

District	Date	Location	City
North Central	April 11	North Central Kansas Medical Center	Concordia
Northwest	April 12	HaysMed	Hays
Southwest	April 13	Centura St. Catherine Hospital	Garden City
Virtual	April 18	9 a.m. to noon	



Phone: (785) 233-7436

--Cindy Samuelson

Surviving Your First Years as a Nurse CareLearning Course

careLearning has a new *Surviving Your First Years as a Nurse* course available for new nurses or nurse leaders in Kansas. This program by Sigma Theta Tau International is designed to support newly graduated nurses, nursing students, entry-level managers, and others interested in management decision-making and business plan preparation. The course provides practical tips and techniques that minimize legal risks, help manage relationships with patients and co-workers, allow professional growth, and teach proper use of social media as they transition from a student to a professional nurse.

The program includes modules in:

- Transitioning from Student to Professional Nurse
- Legal Risks as a Nurse
- Dealing with Disruptive Patients and Families
- Advancing Your Nursing Career
- Social Media for Health Care Providers
- Bullying in the Workplace: Solutions for Nursing Practice

For a complete description, go to www.carelearning.com and click on the Course Catalog. Click on "Sigma Theta Tau International NCPD Courses/Packages" and scroll to the desired course/program.

The cost for the *Surviving Your First Years as a Nurse* program is \$105 per person. Each course can be purchased individually as well. Quantity discounts are available. Upon successful completion of the program, 10 Nursing Continuing Professional Development contact hours will be awarded. For more information contact *careLearning*.

Your hospital does not have to use *careLearning* for an individual to take these courses.

--Jaron Caffrey

Rural Health Clinic Interim Guidance Released

On March 31, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released an [interim policy change](#) related to CMS Rural Health Clinic Location Determinations. Until further notice, CMS will utilize both the 2010 and 2020 Census Bureau data available. During this time, an RHC applicant or a relocating RHC would be considered as meeting the rural location requirement if its physical address is identified as either "non-urbanized" or in an "urban cluster" under the 2010 Census Bureau data, or if its physical address is not identified as in an urban area under the 2020 Census Bureau data.

KHA will continue to follow this policy and advocate for a permanent regulatory policy change that will correct this misalignment.

If you have questions, please contact [Shannan Flach](#) at (785) 233-7436.
--Shannan Flach

KHA Public Funding Survey – Deadline April 21

The Kansas Hospital Association 2022 Public Funding Survey is now available for completion. All member hospitals are encouraged to participate. Reflecting activity in the calendar year 2022, survey responses support advocacy efforts and provide information to our members regarding mill levy, sales tax and other public funding. The results of our survey will be publicly reported at the regional level and at the hospital level to participating facilities. Please [click here](#) to participate in the brief survey.

--Sally Othmer

KARQM Spring Education Conference – May 5

Registration is open for the Kansas Association of Risk and Quality Managers Spring Conference, May 5, at the Sandstrom Conference Center in Lindsborg. The [agenda](#) includes timely quality and risk topics presented by experienced speakers and is approved for 7.5 hours of nursing continuing education. Registration is available online at [EZ Register](#). A room block is available until April 14 at the Courtyard by Marriott in Salina.

--Ron Marshall

Kansas State Board of Healing Arts – Who We Are, What We Do and How We Do It – April 21

The Kansas Board of Healing Arts invites you to participate in a one-hour virtual presentation that provides an overview of the agency, insight into each department, licensing, recent and pending changes, as well as agency resources. Connection instructions are listed below. If you have questions, please contact [Ali Diaz](#), Kansas State Board of Healing Arts (785) 296-8648.

Time and Date:

From noon to 1 p.m. on April 21, 2023

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83621169788?pwd=VnVGT3N6a0UrUms4NSt1N3MyME5pUT09>

Meeting ID: 836 2116 9788

Passcode: 989620

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/kcU8lcG2xZ>.

--Karen Braman

FDA Authorizes Gohibic (vilobelimab) Injection for the Treatment of COVID-19

The Food and Drug Administration has granted [emergency use authorization](#) for the monoclonal antibody vilobelimab (Gohibic—InflaRx NV) for the treatment of hospitalized COVID-19 patients when administered within 48 hours of undergoing invasive mechanical ventilation or extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (artificial life support). The injection targets a portion of the immune system that is believed to have an effect on the inflammation that triggers disease progression in COVID-19 patients. A late-stage trial found that patients treated with vilobelimab had a reduced risk of death by day 28 and day 60 of treatment compared with a placebo. InflaRx is currently in talks with the FDA about applying for full approval for vilobelimab for this COVID-19 indication. According to the FDA, the recommended dosage is 800 mg administered through I.V. infusion after dilution, injected up to six times during the treatment period. Additional safety information, dosing instructions, and potential side effects can be found in the authorized [Fact Sheet for Health Care Providers](#). Additional information on authorized COVID-19 treatments is available on [FDA's Emergency Use Authorization webpage](#).

--Karen Braman

Kansas Center for Rural Health Seeks Partners

The Kansas Center for Rural Health's mission is to improve the health of rural Kansans through focused education, relevant research, collaborative services and health policy leadership. It has been a productive year of activity for them, and they are seeking partners to share some of their work with rural stakeholders. [Please share this letter](#) with colleagues you feel would be interested in partnering. For any questions or more information, call (785) 822-0402, email KCRH@kumc.edu or [Robert Moser, MD](#), directly. Learn more about the center at kumc.edu/kcrh.

--Karen Braman

IKC Regional Meetings April 24 -26

Immunize Kansas Coalition is hosting engaging and collaborative meetings regionally in Garden City, Wichita, Kansas City and Pittsburg the week of April 24. Plan to join IKC in the location nearest to you. Virtual options are planned for all meetings. Anyone in the community who supports or provides immunizations is encouraged to attend. The meetings will provide opportunities to learn more about IKC, immunization partners, and educational resources and events. The regional meetings will also serve as listening sessions to share perspectives on local successes and challenges related to immunization uptake and access. IKC hopes to connect with new and current partners across the state. KHA is a member of IKC. Regional meeting dates, times and locations are:

- 10 a.m. to noon on April 24 – St. Catherine's Hospital, Classrooms A & B, 401 E. Spruce St., Garden City
- 1 to 3 p.m. on April 25 – Wichita State University Community Engagement Institute, Harvester 127, 283 N. Mead, Wichita
- 9 to 11 a.m. on April 26 – Wyandotte County Health Council, Community Room, 803 Armstrong Ave, Kansas City, KS

- 3 to 5 p.m. on April 26 – Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas, John Parlo Education Center, 3015 N. Michigan, Pittsburg

[Sign up](#) to indicate your attendance plans, in-person or virtually. A calendar invite will be sent for the meeting(s) of your choice. Additional information will be posted on the [IKC meetings page](#) once finalized.

--Karen Braman

Position Available

Chief Executive Officer

Clara Barton Medical Center

250 W. Ninth

Hoisington, KS 67544

Contact: John E. Moshier

Phone: (620) 292-0817

Fax: (620) 653-5089

Website: www.clarabartonhospital.com

Apply Online Today!
CLICK HERE

The CEO is responsible for providing strategic leadership, staff development, budgeting and management of key services in accordance with policies and procedures, as well as current federal, state and local standards, guidelines, and regulations governing Critical Access Hospital facilities. The CEO shall have the necessary authority to effect this responsibility, subject to such policies as may be adopted by the board or any committees to which the board has delegated power for such action. The CEO shall, unless otherwise expressly provided, be an ex officio member, without vote, of all management committees, and shall act as the duly authorized representative of the board in all matters except those in which the board has formally designated some other person or group to act.

If you have a management position available in your organization you would like posted in Current Report, email the information to Jan Fenwick. Also, don't forget to check out www.kshealthjobs.net for other health care openings in Kansas.

--Jan Fenwick

Federal and National News

CMS Issues Final Rule for 2024 Medicare Advantage, Prescription Drug Plans

This week, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released a final rule that would increase oversight of Medicare Advantage plans and better align them with Traditional Medicare, address access gaps in behavioral health services and further streamline prior authorization processes. The rule also establishes additional health plan utilization management oversight processes to include required annual reviews of MA plans' policies and coverage denial reviews by health care professionals with relevant expertise. In addition, the rule would tighten MA marketing rules to protect beneficiaries from misleading advertisements and pressure tactics; expand requirements for MA plans to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services; make changes to MA star ratings to address social determinants of health; and implement Inflation Reduction Act provisions to make prescription drugs more affordable for eligible low-income individuals. Notably, it appears the proposal to change the legal standard for identifying an overpayment, which was of concern to hospitals and health systems, was not codified in the final regulation.

AHA will continue to carefully review the final rule and urges the agency to conduct rigorous oversight and enforcement to ensure meaningful compliance. For more details, see the [CMS fact sheet](#) on the final rule. AHA members will receive a Special Bulletin soon with more on the rule's provisions.

CMS Releases FY 2024 IRF, IPF and SNF Payment and Policy Updates

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released the fiscal year 2024 Medicare payment and policy updates for the [inpatient rehabilitation facility](#), [inpatient psychiatric facility](#) and [skilled nursing facility](#) prospective payment systems.

IRF PPS Updates:

- Market basket [increase](#) of 3.0 percent (3.2 percent less 0.2 percent productivity adjustment)
- After outlier payment adjustments are accounted for, the estimated net increase in payments will be 3.7 percent, or \$335 million
- Quality reporting program revisions
- Comments are due by 4 p.m. Friday, June 2

IPF PPS Updates:

Market basket [increase](#) of 3.0 percent (3.2 percent less 0.2 percent productivity adjustment)

- After applying other payment and policy proposed changes, the estimated net increase in payments will be 1.9 percent, or \$55 million
- Quality reporting program revisions
- Comments are due by Monday, June 5

SNF PPS Updates:

- The net [increase](#) in payments is estimated to be 3.7 percent, or \$1.2 billion
- Quality reporting program revisions
- Continuation of a review of minimum staffing requirements
- Comments are due by Monday, June 5

Medicare Trustees Release 2023 Annual Report to Congress

The Medicare Trustees released the 2023 Annual Report to Congress about the financial and actuarial status of the hospital insurance and supplementary medical insurance trust funds. According to the report, Medicare covered 65 million people in 2022, with about 46 percent enrolled in a Medicare Advantage product. Total expenditures were \$905.1 billion, with income of \$988.6 billion. The total assets held in special issue U.S. Treasury securities increased by \$83.4 billion due to lower-than-expected expenditures. Of the \$905.1 billion in total expenditures, hospitals received \$205.5 billion, while private health plans (MA) received \$403.3 billion.

CDC Issues End of PHE Talking Points

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued [talking points](#) on the ending of the COVID-19 public health emergency, which occurs Thursday, May 11. The agency has not released any formal changes; however, the talking points highlight identified priority items.

CMS Clarifies Ending of Waivers

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services issued [guidance](#) on the passage of [HJR 7](#), clarifying the effect it would have on waivers and flexibilities afforded to health care providers during the pandemic response. HJR 7 ends the COVID-19 national emergency and is awaiting the president's signature. CMS notes that even if the national emergency would end, it will not impact the planned Thursday, May 11, expiration of the federal public health emergency for COVID-19 and any associated unwinding plans. Additionally, the [flexibilities](#) extended through the passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2023 are not impacted.

HHS Updates 2024 MA Program and Part D Payment Policies

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [released](#) the Medicare Advantage and Part D rate [announcement](#) for calendar year 2024. CMS [estimates](#) MA plans will receive an increase of 3.32 percent from 2023 to 2024, amounting to approximately \$13.8 billion.

CMS Releases FY 2024 Hospice Payment and Policy Updates

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [released](#) the Medicare hospice payment and policy [updates](#) for fiscal year 2024. The following are major updates.

- Estimated payment increase of \$720 million, or 2.8 percent — this is a result of a 3.0 percent market basket increase reduced by a productivity adjustment of 0.2 percent
- Proposal to codify the Hospice Quality Reporting Program data submission threshold

- Proposes that physicians who order or certify hospice services for Medicare beneficiaries must be enrolled in Medicare or validly opted-out as a prerequisite for payment

CMS Reminds Hospitals of Q4 2022 Submission Deadlines

Hospitals participating in the [Inpatient Quality Reporting](#) and/or [Outpatient Quality Reporting](#) programs are reminded of the following submission deadlines for Q4 2022 data, which includes Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 2022, dates of service.

- Wednesday, April 5
 - Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems patient perspective on care survey data
- Monday, May 1
 - Inpatient population and sampling counts
 - Outpatient clinical data, and population and sampling counts
- Monday, May 15
 - Inpatient clinical sepsis data and PC-01 data
 - Outpatient web-based measures (Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2022, dates of service)
 - Maternal morbidity structural measure attestation (Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2022, dates of service)
 - Submission of CY 2022 Data Accuracy and Completeness Acknowledgement
 - HCP influenza vaccination measure (Oct. 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023, dates of service)
 - HCP COVID-19 vaccination measure data into the NHSN

CMS Provides Claims Detail Reports for OIE Measures

Claims detail reports for the following outpatient imaging measures for calendar year 2025 payment determination are available for hospitals participating in the Outpatient Quality Report program.

- Magnetic Resonance Imaging Lumbar Spine for Low Back Pain (OP-8)
- Abdomen Computed Tomography - Use of Contrast Material (OP-10)
- Cardiac Imaging for Pre-Operative Risk Assessment for Non-Cardiac, Low-Risk, Surgery (OP-13)
- Breast Cancer Screening Recall Rates (OP-39)

The clinical data repositories include preliminary claims data collected from July 1 through Nov. 30, 2022. Facilities can download the reports from the [Hospital Quality Reporting portal](#).

CART Outpatient Version 1.22.0 Available

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released CMS Abstraction and Reporting Tool Outpatient 1.22.0. The release supports the Outpatient Quality Report master code list diagnosis updates, as well as the removal of OP-2 and OP-3 data collection. Version 1.22.0 must be used for April 1 to Dec. 31, 2023, encounter dates. Installation instructions and other resources are available on [QualityNet](#).

MLN Connects Provider eNews Available

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services issued the following [updates](#) to *MLN Connects Provider eNews*:

- [Resources & Flexibilities to Assist with Public Health Emergency in Mississippi Due to Recent Storms](#)
- [Program for Evaluating Payment Patterns Electronic Reports](#)
- [Advance Beneficiary Notice of Noncoverage: Form Renewal](#)
- [New Recovery Audit Contractor for Region 2 Starting Spring 2023](#)
- [Comprehensive Error Rate Testing Review Contractor Company Changed Name](#)
- [Help Improve the Health of Minority Populations](#)