



***KHA's Current Report***  
***May 5, 2023***

**President's Perspective – Hospital Associations Gather to Discuss Quality**

Last week, the American Hospital Association had its Allied Associations Quality annual spring meeting. More than 30 state hospital association quality leaders, including Kansas Hospital Association staff, gathered to share priorities and information on quality, safety and equity, as well as to hear updates from federal agencies on focus areas related to these issues. The meeting was kicked off by the new AHA Chief Physician Officer, Dr. Chris DeRienzo, who discussed AHA's strategic priorities for patient safety and quality, including leadership, workforce and the use of technology to improve patient safety. The KHA Board of Directors also has identified patient safety and quality as one of our top strategic issues. KHA looks forward to working with Dr. DeRienzo as he settles into his new role with AHA.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services shared its quality measurement strategy, emphasizing the need to continue to improve maternal mortality, patient and family engagement efforts, as well as a continuing focus on health equity, infection prevention and sepsis. CMS noted the President's Council on Safety and Technology is focusing on patient safety. Likewise, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention emphasized infection prevention and sepsis, and included a focus on antimicrobial stewardship.

Dr. Jonathan Perlin, president and CEO of The Joint Commission, shared updates TJC's HELP agenda, which represents health equity and the learning process. Preventing medication errors was the focus of the speaker from the ECRI Institute, which works closely with the Institute for Safe Medication Practices. Other agencies presenting and topics discussed included the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, which highlighted the agency's focus on patient safety through the creation of the National Action Alliance. The Food and Drug Administration shared the ongoing efforts of the Resilient Supply Chain Program to put in place mitigation strategies to address supply shortages.

The AHA Center for Health Innovation shared updates regarding funded partnerships with the CDC and other federal agencies to provide resources to hospitals around infection prevention and preparedness. AHA staff also provided recent regulatory updates focusing on quality, safety and health equity measures. The KHA team will continue to work to address member priority quality and safety issues and deploy strategies learned from the annual AHA allied meeting.

Please let the KHA team be one of the first to wish you and your staff a [Happy Hospital Week](#), May 7-13. We look forward to celebrating and recognizing the dedicated hospital staff that serve Kansans, 24/7/365. Thank you for all that you do!

--Chad Austin

### **EMTALA and Behavioral Health Patients in the ER – May 18**

Do you know what your hospital's obligations are under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act and the challenges of treating behavioral health patients in crisis? Join Kansas Hospital Association staff at noon on Thursday, May 18, where Spencer Fane Partner Blane Markley will address hospital EMTALA duties to behavioral health patients. The topics to be covered are:

- Hospital EMTALA obligations
- Enforcement risk areas
- EMTALA and behavioral health patients
- EMTALA enforcement



--Susan Pattie

### **Adaptive Leadership Training for Hospital Leadership Teams Now Open!**

Register now for a Foundations of Leadership training designed for hospital leadership teams. This one-and-a-half-day session, June 29-30 at the Kansas Leadership Center in Wichita, is an initiative developed with the guidance of KHA's Hospital Physician Leadership Committee in partnership with the Kansas Leadership Center. KHA's Hospital Physician Leadership Committee, comprised of hospital CEOs and physician leaders across Kansas, was formed to identify resources and develop strategies to increase hospital leadership and physician/clinician alignment while working together to address increasingly complex challenges. This collaborative workshop will focus on developing adaptive leadership skills and effective communication strategies to analyze and resolve challenges hospital leadership teams face. This training is designed for a hospital team of an administrative leader, and a physician and clinical leaders from the same hospital to attend together. Individual participants are also welcome. Space is limited for this interactive workshop to 50 participants.



--Karen Braman

## Help KHA Award Individuals Making a Difference

Annually, the Kansas Hospital Association recognizes members and advocates with a variety of awards. Whether these individuals work in a hospital or outside our ranks, KHA wants to recognize their efforts. We are looking forward to your nominations for all our awards. Nominations are due June 1 and can be made online at [www.kha-net.org](http://www.kha-net.org), click on About KHA, KHA Awards. Each hospital is encouraged to nominate individuals and teams 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.



- 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.



- 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.



- 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.



- 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.



Thank you in advance for your assistance in helping us recognize and highlight those individuals making a difference. Please make your online nominations by June 1. Visit the [KHA website](#) to learn more about KHA awards.

--Cindy Samuelson

#### **KHA Facebook Group Now Available to Join**

Facebook's algorithm may hinder your ability to see the latest content on the Kansas Hospital Association's Facebook account. To work around this, we have created the [KHA Facebook group](#). We will continue to share content on the KHA page, but it will also be posted to the Group. Grab graphics and links to various content as needed for your timeline. The group is public, and we encourage you to invite others to join.

--Shelby Stacy

#### **CMS Opens Application Process for Hardship Exceptions**

On May 1, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services opened the Hardship Exception [application](#) period for hospitals that participated in the Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program in the calendar year 2022. Hospitals may be exempt from Medicare penalties and avoid a downward payment adjustment if they can show that compliance with [requirements](#) for being a meaningful certified electronic health record technology user would result in a significant hardship.

The deadline to submit a hardship exception application is July 31, 2023, for eligible hospitals and Sept. 30, 2023, for Critical Access Hospitals. More information on the Medicare Hardship Exception application can be found [here](#).

--Sally Othmer

### **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.

KCRH has scheduled a meeting from noon to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, via Zoom to share information about the purpose and activities of the Center. Connection instructions will be sent to those who register.

**CLICK HERE  
TO REGISTER**

For any questions or more information, call (785) 822-0402, email [KCRH@kumc.edu](mailto:KCRH@kumc.edu) or [Robert Moser, MD](#), directly. Learn more about the center at [kumc.edu/kcrh](http://kumc.edu/kcrh).

*--Karen Braman*

### **CMS Memorandum Provides Guidance on the Expiration of PHE Waivers**

With the announcement of the end of the public health emergency on May 11, 2023, the authority to issue and maintain 1135 waivers ends on that date. The [QSO 23-13-All](#) memorandum from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services outlines the expiration of the emergency waivers issued during the PHE related to the minimum health and safety requirements for acute and continuing care, as well as long-term care providers. QSO23-13-All also describes the timelines for certain regulatory requirements issued during the PHE through interim final rules with comments. The guidance for the termination of emergency waivers and timelines for requirements issued through IFCs are grouped by provider type, starting with guidance that affects all provider types.

CMS released [FAQs](#) and a [fact sheet](#) about the end of the [COVID-19 PHE waivers](#).

*--Ron Marshall*

### **SUD 2023 ECHO: Overdose Prevention and Harm Reduction in Kansas**

Physicians, advanced practice clinicians and nurses, pharmacists and behavioral health care professionals are invited to the Substance Use Disorder 2023 ECHO series on overdose prevention and harm reduction. The series is designed to improve health care provider capacity to implement evidence-based practices related to substance use disorder prevention, screening, early intervention, referral to treatment and harm reduction. The series takes place from noon to 1 p.m. on Thursdays via Zoom, May 4 – June 1.

**REGISTER NOW**

*--Karen Braman*

## **Hard Conversations, Improved Healthcare – KPQC Spring Conference May 23**

Mark your calendar for May 23 to attend the Kansas Perinatal Quality Collaborative Spring Conference at the Sunflower Foundation Education Center in Topeka. The theme for this year's meeting is Hard Conversations, Improved Healthcare. The audience for the meeting is KPQC members working to improve maternal and infant health outcomes in Kansas. After the meeting, participants will be able to:

- Identify the current Fourth Trimester Initiative projects and goals for enrolled hospitals in 2023
- Discuss three ways health insurance companies are now working to improve maternal mortality in Kansas
- Discuss how maternal health providers can improve health outcomes in collaboration with the Division of Children and Families in Kansas through three case studies surrounding inpatient care in the postpartum setting.

**CLICK HERE  
TO REGISTER**

*--Karen Braman*

## **Federal and National News**

### **White House to End Certain Vaccination Requirements**

Effective Thursday, May 11, the White House will [end](#) the COVID-19 vaccine requirements for federal employees, federal contractors and international air travelers. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Homeland Security announced they will begin the process to end vaccination requirements for Head Start educators, CMS-certified health care facilities and certain noncitizens at the land border.

### **CMS Releases Hospital Data for Preview**

The preview period is now open for hospitals participating in the Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting, Inpatient Quality Reporting, Outpatient Quality Reporting and Prospective Payment System-Exempt Cancer Hospital Quality Reporting programs to review data that will be publicly reported in July 2023. [Additional information](#) is available.

### **Rural Health Clinic COVID-19 Distribution Programs – [Vaccines](#), [Testing Supplies](#), [Therapeutics](#)**

The [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services-certified rural health clinics](#) can receive [COVID-19 vaccines](#), [testing supplies](#), and [COVID-19 antivirals](#) directly from the federal Health Resources and Service Administration. Please reference the linked websites for additional information and enrollment instructions. Technical assistance resources for these programs are available through the [National Association of Rural Health Clinics](#). Note: The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 bivalent vaccine for people 12 years of age and older is available to order through RHC Vaccine Distribution Program in both single and multi-dose vials. The single-dose option responds to widespread requests to allow greater flexibility for RHCs that may not have the demand or capacity to store multi-dose vials. Contact [RHCVaxDistribution@hrsa.gov](mailto:RHCVaxDistribution@hrsa.gov) for more information.

### **Funding Opportunity – Screening and Treatment for Maternal Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders**

The Health Resources and Services Administration will make 14 awards, each up to \$750,000, to expand health care providers' capacity to screen, assess, treat, and refer pregnant and postpartum people for maternal mental health and substance use disorders. Eligible applicants are states, Native American tribes and tribal organizations. The closing date for the application is June 2. [Click here](#) for detailed information on how to apply.

### **FDA Requires Updates to Prescribing Information on All Opioids**

The Food and Drug Administration [announced](#) on April 13 that the agency is requiring several updates to the prescribing information for both immediate-release and extended-release/long-acting opioids. The agency stated the revisions are being made to encourage safe use after it assessed available data. The updates will include that for all opioid pain, the risk of overdose increases as the dose increases. Updates to IR opioids state these products should not be used for an extended period unless the pain remains severe enough to require them and alternative treatments continue to be inadequate, and that many acute pain conditions treated in the outpatient setting require no more than a few days of an opioid pain medicine. FDA is also updating the approved use for ER/LA opioid pain medicines to recommend they be reserved for severe and persistent pain that requires an extended treatment period with a daily opioid pain medicine and for which alternative treatment options are inadequate. Information in the Boxed Warning, for all IR and ER/LA opioid pain medicines will be updated and reordered to elevate the importance of warnings concerning life-threatening respiratory depression, and risks associated with using opioid pain medicines in conjunction with benzodiazepines or other medicines that depress the central nervous system. Other changes are also being required to several sections of the prescribing information, including to the Indications and Usage, Dosage and Administration, and Warnings and Precautions sections.



### **Monovalent mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine Disposal and Reporting**

As of April 19, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention no longer recommend the use of monovalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. As announced in the April 21 KS-HAN, in anticipation of this recommendation, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment placed orders for the monovalent vaccine on hold beginning on April 13th to avoid the delivery of the unauthorized vaccine. All pending orders for monovalent mRNA vaccines were canceled by KDHE. Bivalent vaccine orders were not impacted by this action. CDC now recommends the use of bivalent vaccines for all recommended mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dose(s). To minimize the risk of administration error, providers should:

- Remove all monovalent mRNA vaccines from storage units immediately, even if they are not expired. This includes both EUA and BLA products (Comirnaty and Spikevax)
- Once all inventory is fully accounted for, remove the monovalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccine from the vaccine inventory in KSWebIZ.
- Dispose of all monovalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccine vials in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations.
- Report all disposed inventory as wastage. For additional information, see [IIS COVID-19 Vaccine Related Code | CDC](#).

[Updates to the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine schedule](#) by the CDC are as follows:

- At the time of initial vaccination, depending on the vaccine product, children ages six months–four years are recommended to receive two or three bivalent mRNA vaccine doses; children age five years are recommended to receive one or two bivalent mRNA vaccine doses
- People ages six years and older who are unvaccinated or previously received only monovalent vaccine doses are recommended to receive one bivalent mRNA vaccine dose
- People age 65 years and older may receive one additional bivalent mRNA vaccine dose

### **HRSA Payment Program for RHC Buprenorphine-Trained Providers – Funds Still Available**

As [announced](#) by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration in January 2023, clinicians no longer need [DATA 2000 Waiver](#) training to prescribe buprenorphine; however, the payment program to defray earlier training costs is still active. Launched in June 2021, the initiative pays for providers who previously received a waiver to prescribe buprenorphine. Rural health clinics still have the opportunity to apply for a \$3,000 payment on behalf of each provider who previously trained to obtain the waiver necessary to prescribe buprenorphine after Jan. 1, 2019. Approximately \$900,000 in program funding remains available for RHCs and will be paid on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are exhausted. Send questions to [DATA2000WaiverPayments@hrsa.gov](mailto:DATA2000WaiverPayments@hrsa.gov).



### **CMS Releases Hospital Price Transparency Enforcement Updates**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released a [fact sheet](#) that includes updates about hospital price transparency enforcement actions. The fact sheet includes details about actions taken by CMS to ensure providers are compliant, including avenues for monitoring, methods for assessing hospitals' noncompliance and enforcement processes. CMS announced that enforcement actions to date include 730 warning notices and 269 requests for corrective action plans. CMS has imposed civil monetary penalties on [four hospitals](#).

### **CMS Proposes Medicaid Access and Quality Rules**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [released](#) two proposed rules to strengthen Medicaid access, oversight and quality. One addresses [Medicaid access](#) generally, and the second focuses on [managed care access and quality](#) specifically. Both the [access rule](#) and the [managed care rule](#) were published in the Wednesday, May 3, [Federal Register](#). There is a 60-day comment period, which ends Monday, July 3.

### **NHSN Announces Changes to COVID-19 Hospital Data Reporting Guidance**

The National Healthcare Safety Network announced upcoming changes to COVID-19 Hospital Data Reporting Guidance, two of which are set to take place shortly after the conclusion of the COVID-19 PHE. The number of required hospital-reported data elements will reduce from 62 elements to 44 elements, and the reporting cadence will change from a daily reporting requirement to a weekly reporting requirement. The American Hospital Association released a [Special Bulletin](#) offering key highlights and perspectives regarding the upcoming changes.

### **TJC Seeks Public Comment on Draft Performance Measure**

The Joint Commission invites public comment on a draft performance measure for the Advanced Certification in Perinatal Care Program PC-08 Timely Treatment of Severe Hypertension measure. Comments are accepted until Tuesday, May 23. [Additional information](#) is available.

### **NHSC New Site Application Opens Soon**

Becoming a National Health Service Corps-approved site can help with recruitment and retention goals. To become an approved site, facilities must meet certain [requirements](#). Benefits include the following:

- Post a position on the [Health Workforce Connector](#) and search job seeker profiles.
- Participate in [virtual job fairs](#) to connect with job-seeking primary care trainees and practicing clinicians.
- Hire [NHSC scholars](#) or an [NHSC Students to Service](#) participant.

### **MLN Connects Provider eNews Available**

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

- [FAQs on CMS Waivers, Flexibilities, and the End of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#)
- [Guidance for the Expiration of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#)
- [COVID-19 Over-the-Counter Tests](#)
- [Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program: Public Health Emergency Flexibilities Continue through Dec. 31](#)
- [Transplant Eco-System: Role of Data in CMS Oversight of The Organ Procurement Organizations](#)
- [Expanded Home Health Value-Based Purchasing Model: April Newsletter & Performance Reports](#)
- [Religious Nonmedical Health Care Institution Benefit & COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule 2024 Preliminary Gapfill Rates: Submit Comments by June 26](#)
- [Mental Health: Recommend Medicare Preventive Services](#)