



KHA's Current Report
May 19, 2023

President's Perspective – KHA Unveils All Payer Scorecard

Kansas hospitals and health systems continue to face intense operational pressure while dealing with rising expenses for supplies, drugs and equipment, as well as the health care workforce. Increasing challenges relating to reimbursement and regulations with government and private commercial insurance payers over the past several years add to this pressure. The relationships between health care providers and insurance payers are growing strained as health care providers balance providing quality, accessible health care at a fair reimbursement.

An American Hospital Association survey published in November 2022 showed that 75 percent of hospitals have seen their relationship with insurance payers worsen. Ninety-five percent of hospitals are dedicating more staff resources to prior authorization and denial management requests.

In early 2022, the Kansas Hospital Association started reviewing options for an All Payers Scorecard. Many hospitals have lacked critical data to benchmark and measure themselves on payer issues such as prompt pay, denials, and clean claim rates. Understanding the need for this information, KHA established a membership committee comprised of hospital reimbursement and finance leaders to evaluate the different solutions available to assist hospitals. In the end, the KHA membership committee recommended the AHA Vitality Index Program. The AHA Vitality Index helps hospitals, health care systems, and state hospital associations understand the current payer environment and the impact it is having on Kansas hospitals and health care systems. Learn more about the AHA Vitality Index Program in this [recorded webinar](#). It also provides insight into the practice habits of the public and private insurance carriers operating within the state. On a statewide level, the information collected can be used to aid in state policy and advocacy issues. With the scorecard, hospitals and health systems will now be able to identify which payers have prompt pay and denial issues, compare how other health care providers fair with the same insurance payers, and identify which insurers have claims processing challenges.

With the complete picture of the environment, hospitals will be able to help identify internal process improvements such as recurring coding errors and documentation inefficiencies. It also will highlight medical necessity denials with payers, and ultimately open the door to better communication with the payer industry.

The Kansas Hospital Association is committed to utilizing the data on your behalf by connecting with payers and sharing the data results with policymakers and state officials. Together we are a stronger organization and a stronger voice for change. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to collaborate and share resources. If you have any questions regarding the AHA Vitality Index, please feel free to reach out to [Shannan Flach](#), KHA, at (785) 233-7436.

Thanks!

--Chad Austin

PAC Contributors Spotlight

The [Kansas Hospital Association Political Action Committee](#) is made up of contributors like you. We want to thank everyone who has donated in 2023 and have highlighted a few of our top donors in the month of April. The PAC Spotlight honors and thanks donors:

- Robert Olm-Shipman (Saint Luke's Health System) - Ben Franklin Club
- Jeremy Armstrong (Saint Luke's Health System) – Chairman's Club
- Curt Colson (Great Plains Health Alliance-Wichita) – President's Club
- Pat Myers (Kiowa District Healthcare) – President's Club

We appreciate all of our PAC members – we couldn't do it without you!

State and federal governments pay for well over half of Kansas hospital care and regulate 100 percent of our activities. These are the main reasons why the work of the Kansas Hospital Association and its political action committee, KHA-PAC, is so important. Elected individuals who have a passion and understanding for the unique role hospitals play in their communities are critical. Your individual contributions to the KHA-PAC are used to support those who champion our issues.

Be a contributor!

For more information:

If you have questions:



--Tara Mays

Nurse Licensure Compact: What Nurse Employers Need to Know – Webinar May 23

There is an upcoming free webinar on the *Nurse Licensure Compact: What Nurse Employers Need to Know*, from 2 to 3 p.m., on Tuesday, May 23. This webinar will provide a general overview of the NLC and how it works, answer common questions nurse employers often have, debunk myths and misconceptions, provide a legislative update, and explain Nursys.com and Nursys e-Notify.



--Karen Braman

HPSA Designation Webinar – May 25

Join us at noon on Thursday, May 25 to learn about Health Professional Shortage Area designations. State and federal agencies use HPSAs to prioritize and direct limited resources to areas with unmet primary, dental and mental health care needs. HPSAs identify a population's access to health care and travel time to the nearest available provider. Participants will learn from Ashley Wallace, Coordinator, Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, Bureau of Community Health Systems, on HPSA designations, scoring and how to keep designations active.



--Jennifer Findley

KHA Award Nominations Due JUNE 1

Annually, the Kansas Hospital Association recognizes our 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. 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.



- [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

KDADS Webinar Series – June 6 and June 13

The first session of the June Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services webinar series will cover topics related to Nursing Facility Admission Criteria. This webinar will provide an overview of the CARE policy and criteria surrounding special admissions. Topics to be discussed include: basic requirements of the CARE Program special admissions and language required for a doctor's order to be accepted as a valid special admission into a nursing facility. Examples of valid and invalid physician orders will be shared by KDADS staff.



Phone: (785) 233-7436

--Jennifer Findley

Health Care Apprenticeships and Opportunities for Your Organization – June 7

Join us at noon on Wednesday, June 7, 2023, where Hamilton-Ryker/TalentGro leadership and KHA staff will discuss opportunities to use health care apprenticeships as a workforce tool to upskill your employees and grow your own to meet the employment demands of your organization. The Hamilton-Ryker team will define health care apprenticeships and explain how to get started using intermediaries to develop and administer apprenticeship programs. This webinar also features two Kansas health care organizations who will share their experiences using apprenticeships.



--Jennifer Findley

KHA Board Nominations Requested

The KHA Board of Directors is looking for qualified nominees to fill vacancies on the 2024 KHA Board of Directors. In addition to the normal board positions, we are seeking a physician to join the board.

If you know of someone who would be a good addition to the KHA Board or if you would like to be considered for nomination, please contact Carrie Saia, KHA Board chair, at carrie.saia@rhrjc.org or Chad Austin at caustin@kha-net.org by Friday, June 30. Voting to fill the vacant board positions will take place during the KHA annual business meeting held in conjunction with the convention. Notification will be sent prior to the meeting.

If you have questions, feel free to contact me at (785) 233-7436. I look forward to hearing from you!

--Chad Austin

Digital Version of the 2023 KHA Membership Directory Is Now Available

The printed version of the *2023 KHA Membership Directory* is in the printing process and will be distributed to members soon. Until then, we are happy to provide members with a [link](#) to the [digital version](#) of this publication for your use. To access the digital version, [click on the link](#) and enter the password KHAMember. The digital version of the *KHA Membership Directory* is an exact replica of the hard copy directory. Both the hard copy version and the digital version are current as of May 1, 2023.

As a reminder, the [online membership directory](#) is updated in real-time, so you always have the latest member organization executive staff information at your fingertips. *The KHA Membership Directory* is a member-only benefit, so both the digital and online membership directories are password protected. For the online *KHA Membership Directory*, in addition to [entering your KHA website personal username and password](#), you will need to enter the username KHAMember and @KHA2021 for the password. If you haven't registered for your personal username and password, just [complete the requested information](#). Your information will have to be verified by KHA staff (a confirmation email will be sent to you) before you will be able to access members' only portions of the website. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at (785) 233-7436.

--Jan Fenwick

Summary of the 2023 Legislative Session Now Available

The Kansas Legislature closed the 2023 session and set a return date of Jan. 8, 2024. Each session, the Kansas Hospital Association provides a [summary of bills](#) of interest to our members.

--Tara Mays

Sophie Jumaní Joins the KHA Team

The Kansas Hospital Association is pleased to announce the hiring of Sophie Jumaní as the new Data Analytics Intern. Sophie completed her Bachelor of Arts in Human Biology with a concentration in anatomy, physiology and human disease. She is currently a graduate student in the Master of Health Services Administration graduate program at the University of Kansas. Sophie brings a strong technical background as well as experience in marketing and direct patient assistance. We are excited to have Sophie join the KHA data team.

--Sally Othmer

Save-the-Date! GKC APIC Fall Conference – Aug. 24

The Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Greater Kansas City Chapter & Missouri Kansas Vascular Access Network are teaming up for the Fall 2023 GKC APIC Fall Conference. The theme will be *Keeping Our Patients Safe: The Intersection between Infection Prevention and Vascular Access*. More information will be out soon.



--Melissa Willey

KDHE Issues Alert Regarding Anti-Tuberculosis Drug Shortage

On May 10, The Kansas Department of Health and Environment issued a KS-HAN alert regarding the shortage of the anti-tuberculosis medication rifampin, which has been classified by the Food and Drug Administration as in short supply since December 2021. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment TB Control Program has a limited supply of rifampin on hand and is prioritizing shipment of rifampin for active TB disease patients. For more information, see [KDHE Rifampin Shortage Notice](#) on the KDHE TB website.

--Karen Braman

Cancer Drug Shortages Impact Patients and Hospital Care

Drug shortages continue to impact patients and hospital care, with shortages of cancer drugs causing growing concern. According to a [March 2023 Homeland Security report](#), drug shortages increased nearly 30 percent between 2021 and 2022; with more than 15 critical drug products in shortage for more than the last ten years. The Food and Drug Administration issued [draft guidance](#) in April to manufacturers regarding notifying the FDA on discontinuance or interruption of manufacturing; intended to assist FDA with prevention and mitigation of drug shortages. There are a number of cancer drugs and other critical agents on the [ASHP drug shortage list](#).

KHA staff continue to monitor drug shortages and stay in contact with the American Hospital Association, FDA and Region VII federal agencies regarding drug shortages. According to recent communications with the FDA, methotrexate injection, cisplatin injection, and carboplatin injection shortages have occurred due to the decision of one manufacturer to place product on hold and the remaining approved manufacturers have had difficulty meeting demand.

The FDA is continuing to work with approved manufacturers on resolving these shortages and are exploring all options, including temporary importation. Providers may also continue to report drug shortages to the FDA and request assistance on obtaining supply by contacting Drugshortages@fda.hhs.gov. KHA wants to hear from our members about how drug shortages are impacting your patients and facility so that we may continue to keep this issue at the forefront with AHA and federal agencies. To share drug shortage stories and concerns, contact [Karen Braman](#) at (785) 233-7436.

--Karen Braman

Federal and National News

FDA Approves RSV Vaccine for Adults Age 60 and Older

The Food and Drug Administration on May 3 [announced](#) its approval of [Arexvy](#), the first respiratory syncytial virus vaccine approved for use in the United States. Arexvy, a GlaxoSmithKline product, is approved for the prevention of lower respiratory tract disease caused by RSV in individuals 60 years of age and older. In June 2023, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices will make recommendations on the appropriate use of the vaccine. The vaccine will be available for older adults before the 2023/24 RSV season, which typically starts ahead of the winter months. Pfizer, Moderna and J & J all have RSV vaccine candidates in late-stage development.

USPSTF Issues Draft Recommendation for Breast Cancer Screening to Begin Starting at Age 40

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force issued a [draft recommendation](#) on May 9 urging all women to be screened for breast cancer every other year, starting at age 40. For the current draft recommendation, the USPSTF recommends biennial screening mammography for women ages 40 to 74 years. When final, this recommendation will update the 2016 recommendation on breast cancer screening.

HHS Extends Certain PREP Act Protections Beyond PHE

The Department of Health and Human Services May 11 [amended](#) its Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act declaration for COVID-19 to extend liability protections for certain COVID-19 countermeasure activities beyond the May 11 end of the public health emergency. Under the amendment, [planned](#) since April, PREP Act liability immunity will apply through 2024 to all COVID-19 medical countermeasure activities provided through a federal agreement; and to pharmacists, pharmacy interns and pharmacy technicians who administer COVID-19 and seasonal flu vaccines and COVID-19 tests, regardless of a federal agreement or emergency declaration, among other changes.

HRSA Introduces Updated Maternal Mental Health Hotline

HHS and HRSA celebrated the [first anniversary](#) of the National Maternal Mental Health Hotline, which provides 24/7, free and confidential emotional support, resources and referrals to pregnant and postpartum people facing mental health challenges.

HRSA now is introducing an updated toll-free number for the hotline: 1-833-TLC-MAMA (1-833-852-6262). The former number (1-833-9-HELP-4-MOMS or 1-833-943-5746) will remain active for another year. Please share the hotline information with your communities.

CDC Issues Health Update on Potential Risk for New Mpox Cases

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a [health update](#) on the potential risk for new mpox (formerly monkeypox) cases. Cases have declined since peaking in August 2022, but the CDC continues to receive reports of cases and ongoing transmission. From late April to early May, 12 confirmed cases and one probable case of mpox were reported in Chicago.

Before You Go ...

- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services issued the following [updates](#) to *MLN Connects Provider eNews*:
 - [COVID-19: Public Health Emergency Ended May 11](#)
 - [End of COVID-19 Public Health Emergency FAQs](#)
 - [Advancing Health Equity Through The CMS Innovation Center: First Year Progress and What's to Come](#)
 - [Power Seat Elevation Equipment on Power Wheelchairs: Coverage, Coding, and Payment](#)
 - [Medicare Shared Savings Program: Apply for Jan. 1 Start Date by June 15](#)
 - [Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Services: Review Choice Demonstration](#)
 - [Women's Health: Talk with Your Patients About Making Their Health a Priority](#)
- Gallagher is hosting a webinar, [Modernizing Your Benefits: Competitive Compensation to Attract & Retain Talent](#), at 1 p.m. Wednesday, June 14. Participants will learn strategies and tools for designing a competitive, sustainable and equitable compensation and total rewards offering for attracting and retaining talent.