



## ***KHA's Current Report September 22, 2023***

### **President's Perspective – KHA Board Convenes During Convention**

Prior to the start of the KHA Annual Convention and Trade Show, the Kansas Hospital Association Board of Directors met, in person, to discuss several emerging and pertinent topics facing Kansas hospitals, including health care workforce. To kick off the meeting, the KHA Board had the opportunity to hear from David Ninan, DO, from the Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine in Wichita. Dr. Ninan, who serves as the dean and chief academic officer, recapped the history of KCOM and highlighted its commitment to increasing the number of physicians practicing in Kansas. KCOM's inaugural medical student class consisted of 90 students who are expected to be practicing by June 2029. The KHA Board also heard about recent workforce initiatives revolving around health care apprenticeship opportunities and additional health care career awareness programs.

A state and federal advocacy update was provided to the KHA Board touching upon those policy issues most relevant to Kansas hospitals. On the federal level, Congress continues to wrestle with several outstanding topics including the federal budget, site-neutral payment, Medicaid disproportionate share and the 340B Drug Discount Program. The KHA Board also discussed the difficulties and confusion caused by the Medicare Advantage program. KHA encourages continued involvement by the membership in our federal advocacy efforts as we continue to educate our Kansas Congressional Delegation on these important programs.

On the state level, the KHA Board had an opportunity to hear a preview of the upcoming 2024 Kansas legislative session and potential topics that may be considered. KHA's advocacy initiatives largely revolve around growing the health care workforce, improving health care reimbursement and eliminating administrative burdens. KHA members will have the opportunity to engage with their elected officials later this year during the upcoming legislative dinners. These events will begin on Oct. 11 in Salina.



Additional highlights of the September board meeting are bulleted below:

- Welcomed David McCorkle, CEO, of Citizens Health, Colby, to the KHA Board of Directors.

- Recognized KHA staff member, Tom Hagen, as the new KHA director of corporate relations.
- Approved the KHA membership applications for Minimally Invasive Surgery Hospital, Community Care Hospice and JustAskEve.
- Approved modifications to the KHA Bylaws, including allowing rural emergency hospitals to be eligible for membership as a community hospital.
- Adopted the KHA finance and investment report.
- Recapped the results of the public opinion poll and identified potential public campaign strategies.
- Highlighted the latest activities surrounding the KHA Strategic Aim to "improve Kansas' statewide health ranking, with a focus on preventative health services."
- Discussed the status update on the Rural Emergency Hospital program, including the recent proposed regulations.
- Provided a status update on the fundraising progress of the [KHA Political Action Committee](#).

Please don't hesitate to let us know if you have questions or need assistance on any matters affecting your hospital. We hope to see many of you next month at the [KHA District Meetings](#)!  
--Chad Austin

### **Register Now for the Health Care Preceptor Academy – Oct. 25**

Register now, and plan to attend the Health Care Preceptor Academy on Oct. 25 in Salina. The health care preceptor academy is designed to engage and grow current and future preceptors with key education tools and strategies to foster a strong preceptor/orientee relationship. This interactive program provides information and practical tools to improve preceptor abilities.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

### **Workers Protection Toolkit Is Now Available**

During the 2023 session, the Kansas Legislature passed [Senate Bill 174](#), which went into effect in July, increasing the penalties around assault and battery of a health care worker. With the new change in statute, the Kansas Hospital Association has put together a toolkit you can personalize with your hospital logo and create resources for those coming into your hospital or resources for your staff.

The toolkit has a series of eight posters to be used in your facilities to raise awareness about the increased penalties for acts of violence against health care workers. [Instructions and links to posters](#) for public and employee spaces are now available to KHA members.

Additional resources in our member toolkit include a [template media release](#) on the new law, a [health care crimes list](#), including statutes, and a [document for planning for and reporting a crime](#).

If you have questions about the legislation, please contact [Tara Mays](#) at (785) 969-9270. For questions about the KHA toolkit, contact [Cindy Samuelson](#) at (785) 233-7436.

--Tara Mays

### **Register Now for Kansas Physician Leader Forum – Nov. 3**

Join the Kansas Hospital Association and the Kansas Medical Society for the Kansas Physician Leader Forum on Friday, Nov. 3. This free, statewide forum focuses on physician leadership issues and brings together physician leaders from across the state to foster discussion regarding critical issues impacting health and health care locally and nationally.

Please share this information with physician leaders in your hospital or health system. Topics include:

- National Perspective from Physician Leaders
- Using Technology to Improve Safety and Efficiency
- Fostering and Sustaining a Culture of Performance Improvement
- Professional Wellness



--Karen Braman

### **Registration Is Open! KHA Workers' Compensation Fund and Safety Seminar – Oct. 19-20**

The KHA Workers' Compensation Fund has been providing workers' compensation insurance to members of the Kansas Hospital Association since 1991. This seminar provides broad information to members on safety in health care, Occupational Safety and Health Administration reporting, changes and trends in workers' compensation and networking opportunities. This seminar is designed for personnel responsible for employee safety, risk management, implementing policies and reporting workers' compensation in your organization.

The seminar will be at the DoubleTree by Hilton Wichita Airport. The special room rate is \$119 per night. To reserve a room at this special rate, call (316) 945-5272 by Oct. 3 and ask for the KHA Workers' Comp Seminar room block.

Fund members attending the seminar will receive a one-time \$500 credit on their 2024 premiums. Seminar registrations are due by Oct. 16.



--Ronni Anderson

### **Last Chance to Get Signed up for PAC Events**

There are still more exciting ways you can get involved in the Kansas Hospital Association Political Action Campaign coming up in the fall! Sign up now to join us for upcoming events throughout Kansas.

- [Buffalo Herd Tour and Picnic: Sept. 30, Maxwell Wildlife Refuge, McPherson](#)
  - Join us for a picnic and tram ride and see a real Kansas buffalo herd
- [KHA-PAC Golf Tournament: Oct. 2, Reflection Ridge, Wichita](#)
  - Participate in the golf scramble as a player
  - Participate as a hole sponsor
  - [Sign up here for either option](#)
- [Pickleball for PAC: Oct. 16, Chicken N' Pickle, Overland Park](#)
  - Sign up to play, with a team of two, in the pickleball tournament for the PAC – [sign up here](#)
  - Join the event as a spectator to cheer on your favorite teams and enjoy food/beverages – [sign up here](#)
  - Sign up as a sponsor – [sign up here](#)

You can become a contributor by visiting <https://kha-pac.square.site/>. Additional information, including suggested contribution levels, can be found by visiting: <https://www.kha-net.org/AboutKHA/KHAPAC/>.

If you have questions about the PAC, or how to get involved, please contact [Tara Mays](#) at (785) 969-9270.

--Tara Mays

### **Reimbursement Form for Involuntary Patient Holds Now Available**

Last session, the Kansas Hospital Association worked with the Kansas Legislature to pass a program allowing for reimbursement to hospitals for the round-the-clock patient observation and the transportation costs of involuntary admission patients to state hospitals. The Kansas Department for Aging and Disabilities made the forms for reimbursement available this week. The form can be found by visiting [KDADS Form for Involuntary Patients](#). You may view the website and get all the information by visiting [State Hospitals \(ks.gov\)](http://StateHospitals.ks.gov).

Hospitals seeking reimbursement will need to be registered as a vendor in the state's SMART accounting system. To become enrolled, you must fill out the [DA-130](#) and [W-9 form](#) for payment.

A webinar overview of the program can be found at [KHA/KDADS Webinar of Involuntary Commitment Patient Observation and Transportation Reimbursement](#).

For additional information or questions, email [kdads.reimburse@ks.gov](mailto:kdads.reimburse@ks.gov), [Scott Brunner](#) or [Jason Yeakley](#).

--Tara Mays

### **Ensuring Patient Coverage during Medicaid Unwinding**

Some Kansas hospitals have reported seeing an increase in uninsured patients in the emergency room. Hospitals still play a crucial role in Medicaid Unwinding by supporting and assisting patients in getting coverage. Here are two ways the Cover Kansas project can support Kansas hospitals in this process:

#### **Educating Patients:**

One of the primary ways hospitals can assist patients is by providing comprehensive, up-to-date information about the changes in KanCare coverage. Hospitals can offer educational workshops, online resources and printed materials to help patients understand the shifting landscape of Medicaid eligibility criteria and available alternatives.

- Bookmark the [KanCare Renewals Dashboard](#) for printable resources in up to 15 languages, FAQs from KanCare and social media toolkits to help keep patients informed.
- Follow [Cover Kansas](#) for easily sharable posts.
- Find [up-to-date information](#) (by county and age) on how many individuals have been approved, discontinued and are in the "90-day window."

#### **Assisting with Enrollment:**

As patients become ineligible for KanCare, hospitals can assist in navigating the enrollment process for other coverage options. If a patient loses Medicaid and is interested in applying for Affordable Care Act coverage, Cover Kansas Marketplace Navigators can assist with applications or answer questions at no cost.

- [Click here](#) to find the nearest Cover Kansas navigator or call toll-free, (866) 826-8375, from anywhere in Kansas.
- [Request materials](#) about navigators to display at your hospital.

If there are other questions about this process or ways Cover Kansas can support your staff, please contact Kate Gramlich at [kgramlich@communitycareks.org](mailto:kgramlich@communitycareks.org).

--Cindy Samuelson

### **KHA HIDI Discharge Data Submission Review Webinar – Oct. 20**

This free webinar, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 20, includes a review of the Kansas hospital inpatient and outpatient data submission process. Steve Warchol, senior director of client outreach; and Austin Wilbers, programmer/analyst, Hospital Industry Data Institute, will provide an overview of the data submission process from the point of submission to reviewing Edit and Verification reports. A question and answer session will follow. This is an excellent opportunity for those responsible for submitting the data and for those who use the data (through Advantage Optics) to support strategic planning and market share analysis. Understanding the data submission and editing process facilitates improvement in the quality of the data; thus, improving the quality of the KHA hospital reports.

[CLICK HERE  
TO REGISTER](#)

--Sally Othmer

### **HFMA Chagemaster Workshop Oct. 2023**

The [Sunflower \(Kansas\) Chapter](#) of Healthcare Financial Management Association invites you to attend the Oct. 18-19 workshop at the Hilton Garden Inn & Convention Center in Salina. This workshop includes presentations from Kathy Dean and Tammy Moss with Administrative Consultant Services. This is an in-person only event. See the [agenda](#) and an [event summary](#) for more details.

The registration fees are \$300 for the first registrant and \$60 for each additional registrant from the same facility.

[CLICK HERE  
TO REGISTER](#)

--Shannan Flach

### **COVID-19 Vaccine and Testing Update**

On Sept. 20, 2023, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response, announced an investment of \$600 million across 12 domestic COVID-19 test manufacturers and the reopening of COVIDTests.gov to deliver COVID-19 tests for free to households across the country. These critical investments in U.S. manufacturing will improve preparedness for COVID-19 and other future pandemic threats, strengthen the nation's capacity to manufacture tests and secure approximately 200 million new over-the-counter COVID-19 tests for future federal government use.

In addition to the investments in domestic manufacturing, beginning Sept. 25, households will again be able to order four free tests through [COVIDTests.gov](https://covidtests.gov). These tests will detect the [currently circulating COVID-19 variants](#). People are encouraged to use the free tests as Americans prepare for travel and gatherings with friends and family throughout the 2023 holiday season.

In addition to inviting U.S. households to order four free COVID-19 tests, there are numerous other options to get tested for free, including [free community-based testing sites](#), including pharmacies, across the country. ASPR also is distributing free at-home tests to schools, nursing homes, community health centers, rural health clinics, food banks and other community locations to ensure communities have widespread access to tests. To learn more, people are encouraged to contact an [HRSA health center](#), [Test to Treat site](#) or [ICATT location](#) near them to learn how to access low- or no-cost COVID-19 tests provided by the federal government.

--Ron Marshall

### **Kansas Breastfeeding Conference 2023 – Oct. 26 and 27**

Join fellow breastfeeding champions from across the state at the Kansas 2023 Breastfeeding Conference, Oct. 26 and 27 in Wichita. Enjoy two days of breastfeeding advocacy, support, education and connecting with others who share a passion for nurturing healthy beginnings.



--Karen Braman

### **Get Involved with Your Local HOSA Chapter**

HOSA Future Health Professionals is expanding with 17 new chapters already in the works this year, providing opportunities for your hospital to engage with high school students interested in pursuing a health care career.

HOSA is the career and technical education student organization (a health care equivalent to FFA, FBLA, etc.) whose mission is to empower students to become leaders in the global health community through education, collaboration and experience. The increase in chapters brings the total to more than 60 chapters across the state.

If your hospital is not currently involved with your local HOSA chapter, now is a great time to reach out to the respective contact on this [chapter list spreadsheet](#) to explore collaboration. Additionally, Healthworks has a few HOSA chapter sponsorships available. Reach out to [Susan Pattie](#) at (785) 233-7436, if interested in claiming one of the final sponsorships for this year.

Some ideas for involvement with your local HOSA chapter:

- Supporting the costs of the chapter via a hospital sponsorship
- Allowing students to shadow/volunteer at your hospital

- Promoting internships at your hospital to students
- If the school has a health science career cluster, explore with the school how your hospital can partner to provide students with relevant opportunities
- Provide food/snacks for HOSA meetings
- Offering hospital leadership/staff to speak at a chapter meeting
- Host a meeting or event at the hospital to bring students on-site

--Jaron Caffrey

### **New Z code Resource for Providers**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Office of Minority Health released a new [Z code infographic](#) to assist providers with understanding and using Z codes. Z codes are a set of International Classification of Diseases-10th Revision-Coding Manual codes used to report social, economic and environmental determinants known to affect health and health-related outcomes. Z codes can be used in any health setting and by any provider as a tool for identifying a range of issues related to education and literacy, employment, housing and more.

--Karen Braman

### **Position Available**

#### **Director of Nursing**

#### **Clara Barton Medical Center**

**250 W. 9th St**

**Hoisington, Kansas, 67544**

**Contact:** [John E. Moshier](#), director of compliance/HR

**Phone:** (620) 292-0817

**Email:** [jmoshier@cbhks.com](mailto:jmoshier@cbhks.com)

**Website:** [clarabartonhospital.com](http://clarabartonhospital.com)

**Apply Online Today!**  
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CBMC is a progressive health care facility with an amazing culture of positivity. They are a Private, Not-for-Profit, Critical Access Hospital, licensed with 23 acute and/or swing care beds, a 24-hour emergency department, inpatient and outpatient surgical services, full laboratory and diagnostic imaging services, outreach specialty physicians and two rural health clinics.

### **Responsibilities:**

- Plan and coordinate nursing services with medical and administrative systems
- Participate as a member of the hospital's management team in planning, policy formulation and administrative decision-making with particular reference to the role, functions and operations of the hospital's nursing services
- In summary, this position is responsible for nursing personnel providing patient care



## Qualifications:

- Be a graduate of an approved school of nursing and hold a current Kansas license as a registered nurse
- Have documented nursing experience with a minimum of two years of management responsibilities
- Possess a baccalaureate degree or higher or have a plan for completion of the same
- Have effective skills in management and leadership, effective verbal and written skills and effective skills in integrating nursing services and programs with all hospital services

CBMC offers a competitive pay scale and an excellent benefits package.

If you have a management position available in your organization and would like it posted in *Current Report*, email the information to [Jan Fenwick](#). Also, don't forget to check out [www.kshealthjobs.net](http://www.kshealthjobs.net) for other health care openings in Kansas.

--Jan Fenwick

## Federal and National News

### **CMS to Publish Final Rules to Simplify Eligibility for Medicare Savings Plans**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is [scheduled](#) to publish final rules this week simplifying processes for individuals to participate in Medicare Savings Plans.

### **CMS Releases New COVID-19 Vaccine CPT Codes**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [released](#) the CPT codes for six new mRNA COVID-19 vaccines that became effective Sept. 11.

### **CMS Announces Lower Out-of-Pocket Prescription Drug Costs**

The Inflation Reduction Act provided protections from high prescription drug costs for Medicare beneficiaries. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [released](#) a list of 34 prescription drugs for which Medicare Part B beneficiary coinsurance may be lower between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31, 2023. According to CMS, "Some people with Medicare who take these drugs may save between \$1 and \$618 per average dose."

### **CDC Foundation Announces Pregnant and Protected Campaign**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Foundation [announced](#) a new national [campaign](#), *Pregnant and Protected*, to inform pregnant and postpartum people, and those considering pregnancy, of the significance of being up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccination. Pregnant and postpartum people are at a higher risk for developing severe illness and complications because of COVID-19. Numerous studies have shown the COVID-19 vaccine is safe before, during and after pregnancy, and it protects pregnant and postpartum people, and their babies, from severe illness.

The CDC's COVID-19 vaccine [Interim Clinical Considerations](#) will be updated soon to align with the [approval](#) of the updated COVID-19 vaccine for all individuals over the age of six months. This update will include information related to pregnancy, lactation and fertility.

### **CMS Reminds Hospitals of IQR, OQR Submission Deadlines**

Hospitals participating in the Inpatient Quality Reporting and/or Outpatient Quality Reporting programs are reminded of submission deadlines for the second quarter of 2023 data.

- Wednesday, Oct. 4
  - Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems' patient perspective on care survey data
- Wednesday, Nov. 1
  - Inpatient population and sampling counts
  - Outpatient clinical data and population and sampling counts
- Wednesday, Nov. 15
  - Inpatient clinical sepsis data and PC-01 data
  - The U.S. Health Care Personnel COVID-19 vaccination measure data into the National Healthcare Safety Network

[IQR](#) and [OQR](#) submission checklists are available.

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

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

- [The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Announces Resources and Flexibilities to Assist with the Public Health Emergency in the State of Georgia](#)
- [Organ Transplantation Affinity Group: Strengthening Accountability, Equity and Performance](#)
- [Psychotherapy for Crisis: Medicare Pays for Services](#)
- [Flu Shot: Encourage Preferred Vaccines for Patients 65+](#)
- [Help Reduce Health Gaps for Hispanic or Latino Patients](#)

### **Before You Go ...**

- The Joint Commission is hosting an Expert to Expert webinar, *2024 Annual Update Webinar for PC-02 and PC-07 eCQMs*, at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 26. [Registration](#) is required.
- RSM is hosting its third annual [RSM Virtual Health Care Day](#) on Thursday, Sept. 28. Along with covering topics such as margin improvement and generative AI, speakers from Mayo Clinic and St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital will participate in a panel discussion. Up to 11 CPE credits are available, and [registration](#) is complimentary for this event.