



KHA's Current Report
October 13, 2023

President's Perspective – KHA Members Engage on Our Most Pressing Issues

For the past two weeks, Kansas Hospital Association staff have traveled the state for the fall district meetings. The meetings serve as an opportunity for Kansas hospital leaders to share ideas and discuss the issues most pressing to our industry. The district meetings are an opportunity to learn from each other and share our experiences.

The district meetings included a discussion surrounding the recent public opinion poll and plans to work on a public perception campaign. Members weighed in on message concepts that will be tested with our target audiences. We plan to have campaign resources available to members later this year.

We also had a lengthy discussion on payor and finance issues, discussing topics from the Medicaid request for proposal and centralized credentialing to Medicare Advantage and the All-Payor Scorecard. KHA has created numerous resources to assist our members in this area, which are available online. We also discussed workforce recruitment, retention and the resources available for members.

Members had the chance to learn the latest on KHA's advocacy efforts on the state and federal levels. Much of the recent activities focused on the federal level, as Congress continues to wrestle with approving a federal budget and other policy initiatives. On the state level, KHA is gathering feedback as we prepare to finalize our 2024 Kansas legislative priorities. Areas of importance relate to hospital finance and reimbursement, as well as building the health care workforce. We also discussed the KHA budget, strategic plan and distributed the most recent [county economic impact reports](#).

As always, we greatly appreciate the KHA sponsors who shared valuable information from KHSC, APS and KAMMCO. Thank you to everyone who attended our in-person meetings. Your participation and involvement is appreciated! If you weren't able to join us for one of the in-person meetings, we are hosting the virtual KHA district meeting today, Friday, Oct. 13, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. [It's not too late to register](#). Materials shared at the meeting will be available online next week.

Don't hesitate to let us know if you have questions or need assistance!

--Chad Austin

Pickleball for PAC – Oct. 16

Don't forget to make plans to join us from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Oct. 16 for a [Pickleball for PAC](#) tournament at Chicken N Pickle, located at 5901 W. 135th Street in Overland Park. [Sign up as a team](#) – \$100 for two players, or [join us for a day of fun as a spectator](#) to watch the teams play and enjoy some food and fun.

For additional information, please contact [Tara Mays](#) at (785) 969-9270 or [Lorri Dean](#) at (785) 233-7436.

--TaraMays

Nominations Open for KHA Committees through Oct. 20

The Kansas Hospital Association needs your insight and expertise to guide the work of the association, including shaping our strategic priorities, advocacy positions and essential resources for members. Please consider volunteering yourself and/or a member of your staff to serve on one of KHA's committees in 2024. Please complete the first two questions on the survey if you are unable to make a nomination.

The deadline for nominating is Friday, Oct. 20, 2023. Nominations must be approved by the CEO or administrator.



This year, we need nominations for the following committees:

- Behavioral Health
- Communications
- Convention
- Data
- Health Care Finance and Reimbursement
- Hospital Leadership and Governance
- Hospital Physician Leadership
- KHA-PAC
- Optimal Health
- Policy and Advocacy
- Quality and Patient Safety
- Rural Emergency Hospital
- Workforce

Member involvement is the single biggest indicator of a successful association. Your organization's participation will make a difference. If you have any questions, please contact [Cindy Samuelson](#) or [Susan Pattie](#) at (785) 233-7436.

--Cindy Samuelson

KanCare Request for Proposal Public Meetings

On Oct. 2, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment released the [KanCare request for proposal](#). KDHE is hosting provider public meetings, via Zoom, to provide details about what is included in the new RFP. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions about how input was utilized to create the RFP. Click on the links below to register for the meetings:

- [Tuesday, Oct. 24, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.](#)
- [Thursday, Oct. 26, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.](#)

--Shannan Flach

Register Now for the Kansas Physician Leader Forum – Nov. 3

Network and hear a fantastic lineup of national and local speakers at the Kansas Physician Leader Forum, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Friday, Nov. 3, at the KAMMCO/KMS Office, Jimmie A. Gleason, MD, Conference Center in Topeka.

The statewide forum is cohosted by the Kansas Medical Society and Kansas Hospital Association to gather physician leaders from across the state and foster discussion regarding critical issues impacting health, and health care, in Kansas and across the country. There is no charge to participate. We encourage you to share this information with physician leaders in your hospital or health system.

Topics include:

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



Please register no later than Oct. 23 so appropriate accommodations can be made.

--Karen Braman

Register for MBQIP Training – Nov. 9

Hospitals needing a refresher on the Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project requirements and/or data abstraction basics are encouraged to attend the MBQIP Basics Virtual Training from noon to 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 9. Specific topics covered will include:

- MBQIP quality data collection
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Abstraction and Reporting Tool data collection
- Resources available in QualityNet to make reporting more efficient
- Developing and implementing an action plan for data reporting
- Emergency department transfer communication data collection
- Reporting EDTC Data to QHi

MBQIP is a quality improvement activity under the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility program of the Health Resources and Services Administration's Federal Office of Rural Health Policy. The goal of MBQIP is to improve the quality of care provided in Critical Access Hospitals. Complete submission of data is a requirement to receive the total Small Hospital Improvement Program grant funds.



--Susan Pattie

Hotel Deadline Fast Approaching: Rural Health Symposium – Nov. 16

Make sure to make your hotel reservation before the cut-off date and register for the Rural Health Symposium on Nov. 16, at the Hilton Garden Inn Hays, 221 W 43rd St. in Hays.

Rural health care providers are constantly faced with new challenges and fewer resources. The purpose of this symposium is to provide attendees with the skills, ideas and information necessary to survive in the rapidly changing world of rural health care.

A block of rooms has been reserved for the night of Nov. 15 at the rate of \$126, plus tax. The room block is available until Friday, Oct. 27. After that, reservations will be taken on a space-available basis. To make your reservation, and receive the special rate, call (785) 727-7721 and ask for the Kansas Hospital Association room block.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Cybersecurity Month Educational Sessions from Kansas HIMSS

To celebrate Cybersecurity Month, the [Kansas Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society chapter](#) is presenting a series of engaging and informative lunch-and-learn meetings dedicated to exploring the latest developments and best practices in health care cybersecurity.

These free sessions are designed to empower health care professionals with the knowledge and tools to navigate the ever-evolving landscape of digital healthcare security. Sessions are from noon to 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 17, 24 and 31.

**CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER**

--Sally Othmer

KHA Responds to Request for Information on Rural Health

The United States House Ways and Means Committee recently released an [open letter](#) to the health care community requesting comments and input on solutions, with a focus on bold, new proposals, that can help turn the tide against disparities in access to care in rural and underserved communities. The Kansas Hospital Association responded to the request for information. [Our letter](#) highlighted financial challenges, needed fixes to the Rural Emergency Hospital program, workforce issues, telehealth flexibilities and other relevant issues.

--Jennifer Findley

Health Insurance for Your Employees: BlueAid Health Solves Large Health Claims Issues

Many hospitals use a self-funded plan for health insurance benefits for its employees and families. These plans typically come with a form of stop-loss coverage that protects the plan from bearing all the costs of large claims. Those who have administered a self-funded plan may have first-hand knowledge about what happens to that coverage when a large claim is presented for payment. The stop-loss carrier will likely react in two ways: significantly increase the cost of the policy or "laser" the individual with the large claim from the stop-loss plan. The latter means the health plan will be responsible for the entire cost of their claim in future years. Hospitals can purchase "no laser" stop-loss coverage, but this can be very expensive.

BlueAid Health has solved this dilemma of large claimants and individual lasers by finding an alternative health insurance program for the individual member. The benefit to the facility is that this liability is removed from the plan, saving the hospital thousands of dollars. The member is satisfied because their health insurance is covered 100 percent by BlueAid Health. We believe this program can have a significant impact on most of the self-insured facilities in Kansas.

As you prepare for your upcoming renewal, consider reaching out to [Joe Murray](#) with BlueAid Health at (913) 274-8822. Want to learn more? Watch this [introductory webinar](#).

--Steve Poage

Reimbursement Form for Involuntary Patient Holds Now Available

Last session, Kansas Hospital Association staff worked with the Kansas Legislature to pass a program allowing for reimbursement to hospitals for the round-the-clock patient observation and also the transportation costs of involuntary admission patients to state hospitals. The Kansas Department for Aging and Disabilities made the reimbursement forms 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 \(ks.gov\)](#).

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, [Scott Brunner](#) or [Jason Yeakley](#).

--Tara Mays

Boosting Public Discourse: Evidence-Based Strategies for Reframing Child and Adolescent Immunization

Join us for a skill-building session, led by Julie Sweetland, PhD, of the FrameWorks Institute, as she shares new evidence-based vaccine communications recommendations.

From noon to 1:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 7
Zoom

Advocacy is vital to rebuilding widespread confidence in the power of immunizations. Making sure our advocacy is effectively framed can help or hinder progress toward the ultimate goal of ensuring the health of children and adolescents through vaccination.

That's why the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) partnered with the FrameWorks Institute to conduct rigorous social science research to understand attitudes toward vaccine policy and identify framing strategies that can build public support for science-backed approaches. This research has uncovered fresh insights into effective framing designed especially for pediatricians and other family health practitioners.

**CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER**

--Karen Braman

DEA Temporarily Extends Telehealth Prescribing Rules for Controlled Substances

On Oct. 6, the Drug Enforcement Administration and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services [announced](#) their agencies have extended the current telemedicine flexibilities through Dec. 31, 2024. The [full text](#) of the extension, entitled "Second Temporary Extension of COVID-19 Telemedicine Flexibilities for Prescription of Controlled Medications," was submitted to the *Federal Register* jointly with HHS on Sept. 29. This temporary extension is the second time regulators have prolonged the relaxed prescribing rules for schedule II – V controlled substances, including buprenorphine for opioid use disorder or stimulants for ADHD, allowing prescribers to continue to provide the drugs virtually without first conducting an in-person evaluation. According to the DEA, their agency received more than 38,000 comments on its proposed telemedicine rule and recently held two days of public listening sessions related to the proposed rules. The DEA is working to promulgate a final set of telemedicine regulations by the fall of 2024.

--Karen Braman

Federal and National News

TJC Releases Specifications Manual Version 2024A1

The Joint Commission issued an addendum to the Specifications Manual for Joint Commission National Quality Measures effective for discharges from Jan. 1 through June 30, 2024. The addendum, version 2024A1, is available on the [TJC website](#). Changes are outlined in the associated [release notes](#).

CMS Provides Claims Detail Reports for Certain OQR Measures

Claims Detail Reports for the calendar year 2025 payment determination are available for hospitals participating in the Hospital Outpatient Quality Reporting Program for the following measures:

- OP-32: Facility Seven-Day Risk-Standardized Hospital Visit Rate after Outpatient Colonoscopy
- OP-35: Admissions and Emergency Department Visits for Patients Receiving Outpatient Chemotherapy
- OP-36: Hospital Visits after Hospital Outpatient Surgery

Detailed information about the measures, and mock CDRs, are available on [QualityNet](#). The CDRs are available for download via the Hospital Quality Reporting [portal](#). A brief [CMS instructional video](#) also is available.

CMS Releases CART OQR 1.23.0

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released updated CMS Abstraction and Reporting Tool Hospital Outpatient Quality Reporting Program 1.23.0. Installation instructions, and other resources, are available on [QualityNet](#). [Additional information](#) is available.

MLN Connects Provider eNews Available

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

- [CMS Roundup \(Oct 6, 2023\)](#)
- [Protect Your Patients: Give Them a Flu Shot](#)

Before You Go ...

- The Joint Commission is hosting the following Pioneers in Quality webinars. Registration is available at the respective links.
 - [11 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 31: Stroke eQMs](#)
 - [11 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 7: VTE eQMs](#)
- [Studies](#) show updated versions of the Rapid Opioid Use Disorder Assessment and Rapid Stimulant Use Disorder Assessment are both valid measures that can be utilized in a variety of settings, including EDs, inpatient floors and outpatient services. These assessments provide accurate indicators for nonclinical staff to begin immediate treatment and harm reduction interventions.