



KHA's Current Report
October 20, 2023

President's Perspective – Kansas Hospitals and Health Systems Engaging in Population Health

Kansas hospitals are essential to vibrant communities across our state. Not only are hospitals providing care 24 hours per day, every day of the year, but they also are increasingly focused on improving the health of their communities. The Kansas Hospital Association and KHA's foundation, Healthworks, partnered this summer with the Kansas Health Institute and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to survey Kansas hospitals on population health efforts across the state.

Eighty-four of the 123 acute care community hospitals in Kansas responded to the survey, for a 68.3 percent response rate. Sixty-nine percent of the total respondents were Critical Access Hospitals. 70.7 percent (58) of the 82 CAHs in Kansas completed the survey. Hospitals from each of the six districts across the state responded. We appreciate so many KHA members taking the time to respond to this survey, which succeeds a prior population health survey conducted in 2018. This work, funded by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, will inform population health activities required through FLEX funding.

In advance of an issue brief that will be published later this fall, listed below are highlights of the findings from the latest survey.

- Nearly nine in ten (86.9 percent) of respondents agreed or strongly agreed their hospital should focus on addressing the health of their community beyond their patient population.
- More than half (58.4 percent) of respondents agreed their hospital should address health-related social needs (e.g., housing, transportation, poverty, education) within their community.
- Respondents are most aware of community needs related to access to health care (94.1 percent), transportation (94 percent), access to child care (88.1 percent) and access to physical activity (88.1 percent).
- Increasing access to health care was the main area (89.3 percent) where respondents implemented population health efforts.
- Employment opportunities (71.4 percent) and access to childcare (54.8 percent) were the second and third most selected areas where respondents had implemented population health efforts.

- The top three challenges for respondents in addressing social-related health needs are lack of available funding (78.6 percent), current reimbursement structures (71.4 percent) and limited staff expertise in working on community issues (57.1 percent).

The population health survey demonstrates increased awareness, support for and implementation of population health activities compared to the 2018 survey results. The survey results provide valuable information to KHA, Healthworks, KDHE and our members as we work toward KHA's strategic aim of improving Kansas health rankings and our vision of optimal health for Kansans.

--Chad Austin

New County Economic Impact Reports Released

Kansas Hospital Association members know a good local health care system is part of the prescription for maintaining a healthy economy. However, we often forget to share this message with our local communities. KHA is pleased to release a new, county-level, analysis of the economic contributions to the local health care sector on the economies of each of the state's 105 counties.

We hand-delivered these reports during our October District Meetings, but if you were not able to attend, or want additional counties, all 105 county economic impact reports are now available [online](#). The Institute of Policy & Social Research at The University of Kansas completed these reports, in addition to our state-wide report released in March.

The purpose of the county reports is to provide hospitals with data and information to be used to communicate to community leaders, policymakers and citizens on the importance of health care to the local economy. The Kansas Hospital Association shares the findings of these reports with legislators and the media.

According to the report's authors, the health care sector in each county makes substantial contributions to the local economy through employment and income. Along with providing direct employment and income, the health care sector creates multiplier effects as businesses purchase local goods and services, such as utilities, and employees spend their income at local businesses such as stores and restaurants. In many counties, hospitals, nursing and residential care facilities as well as outpatient care centers comprise the largest health care employers in the county. In addition to jobs and income, the health care sector provides economic development effects that are less easily quantified. A quality health care sector improves the well-being of the population, and that, in turn, improves business productivity. Quality health care aids in the recruitment and retention of businesses and attracts and retains retirees.

Hospitals and health services are an economic anchor in Kansas. This report documents the importance of the health care sector to the Kansas economy. While the estimates of economic impact are substantial, they are only a partial accounting of the benefits health care in general, and community hospitals in particular, provide to the state. Kansas community hospitals help stabilize the population base, invigorate their communities and contribute significantly to quality of life.

Apart from these county reports, KHA also produces a statewide report annually. A brochure, PowerPoint and media release from March of this year are available on the [KHA website](#). If you would like assistance in presenting this information to a board or community group or would like a template media release with your county data, or any additional materials, please email [Cindy Samuelson](#).

--Cindy Samuelson

SUNRx 340B Webinar Series: What's So Special about Specialty Pharmacy?

As the specialty pharmaceutical industry continues to see growth, there may be opportunities for significant savings for federally qualified health centers and hospital's 340B program. The need to optimize 340B savings is greater now than ever, especially considering the recent manufacturer disruptions that have further eroded and complicated the 340B program. Special guest Optum will provide valuable insight to optimize your 340B specialty strategy.

In this session, we will share valuable insights for consideration in developing your 340B specialty pharmacy strategy and will cover:

- Why an entity should consider 340B specialty pharmacy relationships
- The growth of specialty pharmacy and the opportunities for savings
- Navigating the complexities of specialty pharmacy
- How to get started

Please join us at 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 7, for an informative webinar event, hosted by SUNRx. We look forward to sharing insight on how your organization can better position itself with 340B specialty pharmacy.

[CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER](#)

--Steve Poage

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

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

CDC Webinar: Protecting Infants from Respiratory Syncytial Virus – Oct. 26

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is hosting a Clinician Outreach and Community Activity call/webinar from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. on Oct. 26. It will be on Protecting Infants from Respiratory Syncytial Virus. During this COCA call, presenters will give a comprehensive overview of the CDC's new recommendations to prevent severe RSV disease in infants, including clinical guidance and considerations for administering RSV immunizations to infants and pregnant people during weeks 32 through 36 of pregnancy. [Free CE](#) is available for physicians, nurses, pharmacists, public health and health education specialists. [Click here](#) for more information and the Zoom link.

--Karen Braman

2024 Carolyn Boone Lewis Equity of Care Awards

Apply for the American Hospital Association's Carolyn Boone Lewis Equity of Care Award, and to be recognized for your efforts in advancing health equity for your patients. The AHA Equity of Care Award is an annual recognition of outstanding efforts among hospitals and health care systems to advance equity of care to all patients and to spread lessons learned and progress toward eliminating health disparities. Equity of Care Award will recognize three hospitals based on the following categories:

- Transforming recognizes the hospital system that is implementing strategies to advance equity in their surrounding community.
- Emerging recognizes the hospital that is leveraging the Health Equity Roadmap resources to dismantle structural barriers in their care delivery system and the communities they serve.
- Small/Rural Hospital Excellence recognizes the hospital or system that has demonstrated excellence in advancing health equity in rural or small communities.

Applications will be accepted until 10:59 p.m. on Nov. 17.



--Karen Braman

Nirsevimab Supply Update

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment issued a HAN alert this week notifying providers that because of the high demand and limited supply of nirsevimab, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has temporarily paused public health ordering of this immunization. The CDC has placed additional orders of nirsevimab with the manufacturer and plans to re-open ordering next week with allocations in place. KDHE stated that consistent with the agency's standard process for allocations of routine vaccines, the percent of the total doses allocated to each provider will be based on vaccine ordering history for vaccines used in a comparable cohort. The CDC anticipates additional product will be made available approximately every two to three weeks by the manufacturer. KDHE will continue to provide updates on future calibration of ordering. Please send questions regarding nirsevimab orders to kdhe.vaccine@ks.gov.

--Karen Braman

HHS Updates on COVID-19 Antiviral Treatments Paxlovid and Lagevrio Transition to Commercial Market

This week, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services [announced](#) HHS and Pfizer have reached an agreement extending patient access to Paxlovid as Pfizer begins Paxlovid's transition to the commercial market next month. Individuals on Medicare, Medicaid and the uninsured will continue to be able to access HHS-procured Paxlovid, for free, through the end of 2024 via a patient assistance program. From 2025-2028, Pfizer will continue to run a patient assistance program for individuals who are uninsured or underinsured with HHS-procured Paxlovid. In parallel, Pfizer will operate a copay assistance program for individuals with commercial insurance through 2028. Up-to-date products will be refreshed from Pfizer through 2028, ensuring that the HHS inventory of Paxlovid will not expire and will include all new formulations of Paxlovid authorized or approved for use in the US. Pfizer will provide HHS with a stockpile of an additional one million treatment courses to ensure preparedness for future COVID-19 surges. HHS stated that the agency will ensure a smooth and predictable transition to the commercial market over the next few months. During this transition to commercial distribution, Paxlovid will remain available for ordering from HHS through Dec. 15, 2023.

HHS [announced](#) at the end of September that the agency anticipates the transition of Lagevrio from government-managed distribution to traditional commercial distribution will occur in November as well. Earlier this month, HHS moved away from its threshold/replenishment process to a request-based approach for Lagevrio. HHS is working with partners to ensure that people who are uninsured or underinsured continue to have access. The Merck Patient Assistance Program intends to provide Lagevrio free of charge to eligible patients who, without assistance, could not otherwise afford the product.

--Karen Braman

Position Available

Business Office Manager

Mitchell County Hospital Health Systems

400 W. Eighth, P.O. Box 399

Beloit, KS 67420-0399

Contact: [Luigi Gavino](#) – Controller

Phone: (785) 738-9501

Email: lgavino@mchks.com

Website: <https://www.mchks.com>

Apply Online Today!
CLICK HERE

MCHHS is a full-service, 25-bed, Critical Access Hospital located in North Central Kansas. The hospital provides a 24-hour ER (designed Level IV trauma center), surgical services, an inpatient acute/intensive care unit, a swing-bed program, a 36-bed resident care center and outpatient services. The business office manager is responsible for managing the organizational and administrative operations of the business office and patient registration. The successful candidate should have experience in billing health care insurance and revenue cycle management. Responsibilities include supervising the hospital posting, billing and collection operations, hospital chargemaster, reports, staff schedules and patient interactions. Knowledge of CPT and revenue codes is preferred. This position works closely with other departments and will be involved in a wide range of service activities and hospital committees. A bachelor's degree in business management, finance or related field is preferred. Excellent computer and communication skills are required. Experience in Cerner and billing software is a plus. A new competitive pay scale, excellent benefits and a unique and innovative retirement program are offered.

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 for other health care openings in Kansas.

--Jan Fenwick

Federal and National News

CMS Releases Inpatient CART 4.31.0

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released CMS Abstraction and Reporting Tool inpatient version 4.31.0, which supports IQR specifications manual version 5.14a. CART 4.31.0 includes the new sex data elements effective July 1 and updates to Appendix and Master code diagnosis updates effective Oct. 1. Version 4.31.0 must only be used for discharge dates July 1 through Dec. 31, 2023. Installation instructions and other resources are available on [QualityNet](#).

CMS Announces Medicare Premiums and Deductibles for 2024

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [released](#) the Medicare Part A and Part B premiums, deductibles and coinsurance amounts, as well as the Part D income-related monthly adjustment amounts, for 2023. The standard monthly premium for Medicare Part B will increase from \$164.90 in 2023 to \$174.70 in 2024, while the annual deductible will increase from \$226 in 2023 to \$240 in 2024. The Medicare Part A deductible will increase from \$1,600 in 2023 to \$1,632 in 2024. CMS also provided details about other premiums Medicare beneficiaries will be responsible for based on income.

MLN Connects Provider eNews Available

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services issued the following updates to *MLN Connects Provider eNews*:

- [2024 Medicare Parts A & B Premiums and Deductibles](#)
- [Help CMS Improve Provider Resources — Respond by Nov. 9](#)
- [CMS Health Information Handler Helps You Submit Medical Review Documentation Electronically](#)
- [Health Literacy: Help Your Patients Get Information & Services](#)

Before You Go ...

- The next Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services webinar for hospitals participating in the Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting Program is scheduled at 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 26. The presentation provides a review of the FY 2024 IPFQR program measure data results. [Registration is required.](#)
- The Region VII Disaster Health Response Ecosystem is hosting a [webinar](#), *The Impact of a Regional Disaster Health Response System During Regional Planning and Response*, at 11:30 a.m. Monday, Oct. 30. This webinar will focus on how the Region 1 and Region VII Disaster Health Response Systems have built their networks and how they were able to respond to the tripledemic both within and between their regions.
- [Research shows](#) that the prevalence of suicidal thoughts and behaviors varies across demographics, such as gender, sexual orientation, race and rurality. Findings show that STBs were highest among Hispanic and non-Hispanic Black bisexual women living in rural communities. The authors address factors behind these disparities and provide actionable steps for hospitals and communities.