



***KHA's Current Report***  
**January 26, 2024**

**President's Perspective – CEOs Introduced to KHA, Students Introduced to Health Care Careers**

This week, we had the privilege to host the Kansas Hospital Association's New CEO Orientation. This is a semi-annual gathering of CEOs who have recently taken on their position in a Kansas hospital. This event is a great opportunity to meet other CEOs around the state, to learn more about Kansas, and the KHA resources available to members. In addition to information on advocacy, health care finance and reimbursement, workforce, regulatory issues, quality, data, education and communication, CEOs met with Senator Chase Blasi (R-Wichita) to learn more about the Kansas Legislature and to tour the Kansas Capitol.

KHA staff thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to get to know the new CEOs and are grateful they took time out of their busy schedule to join us in Topeka. Thank you to:

- Kevin Faughnder, Norton County Hospital, Norton
- Alex Haines, St. Luke Hospital and Living Center, Marion
- Melissa Hall, Susan B. Allen Memorial Hospital, El Dorado
- Cathy Pimple, Newman Regional Health, Emporia
- Jeremy Rabe, Trego County-Lemke Memorial Hospital, WaKeeney
- Sarah Ragsdale, Smith County Memorial Hospital, Smith Center

We also greatly appreciated the participation of KHA Board Chair Bobby Olm-Shipman, Saint Luke's South Hospital, Overland Park, and KHA Board Chair-Elect George Stover, Hospital District #1 of Rice County, Lyons, for attending the meeting to share their perspectives of the Kansas health care system and value of KHA.

KHA has another exciting event occurring next week. As a reminder, we are hosting our 2024 Virtual Health Care Career Day on Feb. 1. KHA, the Kansas State Department of Education and Kansas Board of Regents have partnered to organize this 2024 event. We have more than 100 schools and thousands of students from across the state registered to participate in this event. Registration remains open until Jan. 31. We strongly encourage you to reach out to your local schools and encourage them to register. We strongly encourage you to reach out to your local schools and encourage them to register at [www.HappyInHealthCare.org](http://www.HappyInHealthCare.org).

The main objective of the Kansas Virtual Health Care Career Day is to give students a glimpse inside Kansas hospitals to learn more about the many career opportunities available in health care and engage them in real-world learning. Various health care providers will deliver insight into career fields including laboratory, nursing, paramedics, radiology, behavioral health, physical therapy, surgery and business office. This event is entirely virtual and will be hosted on Zoom. All education levels are invited to join this free event from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Feb. 1.

[Click to  
View Agenda](#)

We hope you can join us to promote the amazing opportunities in the health care field!  
--Chad Austin

### **Scholarship Application Window Open – Apply Today**

If you are planning to attend college for a new health care degree or seeking a health care license, apply today for a [Healthworks Health Care Scholarship](#). Individual scholarships of up to \$1,500 will be given in the following categories:

- **Undergraduate Health Care:** Undergraduate students in non-nursing health care fields. Sample degrees include physical therapy assistant, clinical lab scientist, phlebotomy, pharmacy technician, occupational therapy assistant and medical imaging.
- **Undergraduate Nursing:** Undergraduate students who have been accepted into a licensed or degreed nursing program. Sample degrees include licensed practical nurse, registered nurse and bachelor of science in nursing.
- **Faculty:** Graduate-level students in the final courses necessary to become health care faculty.
- **Advanced Clinical Practice:** Graduate-level students in any clinical health care discipline. Sample degrees include a doctorate of nursing practice, master of social work, family nurse practitioner, doctorate of pharmacy and doctorate in physical therapy.
- **Health Care Administration:** Students in health care administration, whether under- or graduate level. Sample degrees include organizational leadership, health care administration, leadership, master of science management and health care management – sponsored by the Kansas Association of Health Care Executives.
- **Human Resources:** Students in health care human-resource-related field, whether under- or graduate level. Human resources certifications are also eligible for scholarship support. Sample degrees include human resources or another degree with a concentration in human resources – sponsored by the Kansas Hospital Human Resources Association.

Priority will be given to hospital employees, particularly those working in facilities licensed for 25 or fewer acute beds. Our thanks to the Kansas Association of Health Care Executives and the Kansas Healthcare Human Resources Association for partnering with Healthworks to administer their scholarship programs.

The submission deadline is Feb. 28. [Applications](#) may be started and saved for completion at a later date. In addition, letters of recommendation may be added by either the applicant or their employer. All documents may be uploaded as a PDF or an MP3.

Please share this with anyone you know who is pursuing a health care degree or certification. If you have any questions, or need further information, contact [Susan Pattie](#) at (785) 233-7436.

--Susan Pattie

### **Billing Medicare for G2211: What You Need to Know Now – Feb. 7**

A panel of PYA experts, including Lori Foley, Valerie Rock, Angie Caldwell and Martie Ross, will discuss the requirements for this new code and its financial impact on physician practices from 11:00 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, Feb. 7. This webinar is part of PYA's twice-monthly [Healthcare Regulatory Roundup](#), a popular series where PYA experts provide practical insights on the latest industry regulatory developments.

Topics of discussion include:

- Services to which the add-on code applies
- Who can bill the code and in what circumstances
- What practices stand to lose if they don't bill the add-on code
- Documentation
- Potential audit risk areas
- Approaches to implementation
- Potential impact on physician compensation formulas

[Click to Register](#)

--Karen Braman

### **KHC Webinar – Updates on Health Professional Shortage Area Designations – Feb. 15**

The Kansas Healthcare Collaborative is hosting a webinar from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Feb. 15. Ashley Wallace and Britney Nasserri from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Office of Primary Care and Rural Health will discuss the latest changes to Kansas Health Professional Shortage Area designations, what their office is doing in response to these changes and how the changes may impact Kansas health care organizations.

On Jan. 2, 2024, the Health Resources and Services Administration's Bureau of Health Workforce published a [Federal Register Notice](#) that included a current list of [HPSAs](#). HPSAs can be geographic areas, populations or facilities having a shortage of primary, dental or mental health care providers. The designations are used to determine eligibility for federal programs supporting the health workforce, such as the National Health Service Corps, as well as safety net programs such as HRSA's health centers and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' rural health clinics. The list includes information on designations that were proposed for withdrawal as of Nov. 15, 2023, designations that have been withdrawn since that date, as well as information on designations that are currently active.

[Click to Register](#)

--Karen Braman

### **New CMS Resources on EMTALA**

This week, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced they will work with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to provide new education and resources to help hospitals comply with the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act. This will include [new informational resources](#), dissemination of training materials and the establishment of a dedicated team at HHS to increase the department's ability to support hospitals in maintaining EMTALA compliance.

--Audrey Dunkel

### **Kansas Cybersecurity Grant Program**

The Kansas Information Security Office has launched the [Kansas Cybersecurity Web Page Security Grant Program](#). The Office is preparing to accept fiscal year 2022 Kansas SLCGP grant applications. The grant period will be open from Feb. 1 to Apr. 30, 2024. You must be a public entity within the State of Kansas, currently be enrolled in the CISA cyber hygiene programs and have completed or are in the process of completing the National Cybersecurity Review to be eligible to submit a project. More information about these programs is available on the Kansas Information Security Office's website, along with the FY 2022 Grant Application and dates and registration for our informational webinars.

If you have any problems or questions, please contact the Office at [KS\\_SLCGP@ks.gov](mailto:KS_SLCGP@ks.gov).

--Ron Marshall

### **2024 Immunization Schedules Now Available**

The 2024 recommended immunization schedules for [U.S. children, adolescents](#) and [adults](#) are now available. The schedules summarize the final recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices that were previously adopted by ACIP and approved by the CDC. The schedules are published annually to consolidate and summarize updates to ACIP recommendations on the vaccination of children and adolescents and to assist health care providers in implementing current ACIP recommendations.

*--Karen Braman*

### **United to Transform Initiative Launches Statewide**

United to Transform is a targeted statewide project intended to identify means of reducing the enormous toll of substance use disorders in the lives of Kansans. The aim is to expand the understanding of community-level strengths and challenges and recommend well-defined opportunities to align systems and implement innovative solutions. The project is initiated by Sunflower Foundation, funded by [Kansas Fights Addiction](#) Grant Review Board, and conducted by the University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships and Research. Engagement of interested parties – those working in the SUD field, experts at the community level, those being impacted and the public – will fuel statewide exploration and understanding. The United to Transform initiative will include in-person community visits, periodic webinars and a newsletter to be used throughout the coming year to gather information, as well as provide periodic content updates and notes on the project. If you are interested in joining this effort, [please register](#) to receive the newsletter and notices of project activities.

*--Karen Braman*

### **Marketing Professional? Have You Joined KAHCC?**

Discover inspiration and a network of professional expertise when you join the [Kansas Association of Health Care Communicators](#). KAHCC is an allied group consisting of the most creative professionals in the health care field. We are writers, designers, social media gurus, video producers, media specialists, communications/public relations professionals and much more. We work across all departments to help with priorities like service-line promotion, employee recruitment, patient storytelling and hospital branding. KAHCC invites hospital employees from urban and rural communities to join our network of creativity and innovation. With your membership, you gain access to two annual conferences including the Emerald Awards recognizing outstanding marketing/creative work, informational webinars, peer networking and the KAHCC LinkedIn group. Membership is \$40 per year and is open to all individuals who work in marketing or communications – even if you are a one-person shop or have marketing tasks under your list of duties. [Join us now](#), and be sure to participate in the Spring Conference and Emerald Awards April 25-26 in Topeka. Let's learn from each other and celebrate and share the dynamic and exciting work we are creating for health care in Kansas!

*--Shelby Stacy*

### **Syphilis Cases Increasing in Kansas**

Syphilis cases are increasing in Kansas. This week, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment issued a KS-HAN alert that the agency and the Shawnee County Health Department are responding to an outbreak of syphilis in Shawnee County. KDHE reported that from May 1, 2023, through Dec. 31, 2023, there were 146 confirmed syphilis cases among Shawnee County residents reported to KDHE. The current outbreak affects both men and women and is primarily impacting persons who use drugs (injection and non-injection) and persons who are experiencing unstable housing. Testing for syphilis is recommended in the following persons:

- All pregnant persons at the first prenatal visit, and retest at 28 weeks gestation and at delivery if high-risk
- Persons evaluated for any sexually transmitted infection
- Sexually active men who have sex with men should be tested every three to six months if at increased risk or at least annually
- Persons living with HIV at first evaluation and at least annually thereafter
- Sexually active individuals with multiple sex partners
- Persons with a sex partner who has been recently diagnosed with an STI
- Asymptomatic adults at an increased risk

Providers should report all positive cases of syphilis within 24 hours, or the next business day, to KDHE at (785) 296-6174 or by faxing the [reportable disease form](#) to (785) 559-4225.

The [KDHE STI/HIV Surveillance Program](#) monitors HIV/AIDS, syphilis, chlamydia and gonorrhea case counts and rates across Kansas to observe, predict and react to outbreaks. [Surveillance data](#) is routinely utilized to focus prevention and education efforts throughout the state. [Request data](#) or call (785) 368-8218 for more information.

--Karen Braman

### **New APS Vendor Specializes in Physician Recruiting for Rural Providers**

A new APS vendor, [Arthur Marshall, Inc.](#), specializes in recruiting for rural health care organizations. The company relies on a comprehensive process to identify the largest pool of candidates and then match the best prospect with the position. AMI has developed the industry's most far-reaching methodology to ensure the widest possible pool of prospective hires. More than 40 channels, from job boards and broadcast emails to society postings and social media, are tapped to identify candidates. The company also uses artificial intelligence to fine-tune candidate searches.

If you have questions or need additional information, contact [Dennis George](#) at (913) 327-8730.

--Dennis George

## **Note from the Fire Marshal's Office Regarding the Use of Space Heaters in a Health Care Setting**

Winter weather has settled upon Kansas, bringing cold temperatures and dangerously low wind chills. These conditions can be challenging for health care facilities.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal has received numerous phone calls and inquiries regarding the temporary use of space heaters to help regulate temperatures within the living spaces of nursing homes and other health care facilities.

Per the 2012 edition of NFPA 101, the Office of the State Fire Marshal does not permit the use of portable space-heating devices located within sleeping areas.

Portable space-heating devices are permissible to be used in nonsleeping staff and employee areas only, if the heating element does not exceed 212° F.

### **NFPA REFERENCE**

*19.7.8 Portable Space-Heating Devices. Portable space heating devices shall be prohibited in all health care occupancies unless both of the following criteria are met:*

- (1) Such devices are used only in nonsleeping staff and employee areas.*
- (2) The heating elements of such devices do not exceed 212° F (100° C).*

Additionally, all health care facilities are required to have an emergency preparedness plan to address all potential hazards, including inclement weather and loss of heating and/or cooling. Facilities are directed to follow their emergency preparedness plan regarding how they should deal with the loss of heat.

All facilities are encouraged to review their emergency preparedness plan before each changing season to ensure your plan is feasible and meets your needs in all weather conditions.

*--Ron Marshall*

## **Health Observances and Recognition Days for February Month-Long Observances**

- Age-Related Macular Degeneration/Low Vision Awareness Month
- Cancer Prevention Month (Natl.)
- Children's Dental Health Month (Natl.)
- Condom Month (Natl.)
- Heart Month (American)
- Kids ENT Health Month
- Prenatal Infection Prevention Month (Intl.)
- Recreational Therapy Month
- Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

## Week-Long Observances

- Feb. 4-10 – Perianesthesia Nurse Awareness Week
- Feb. 12-16 – Phlebotomists Recognition Week (Natl.)
- Feb. 11-17 – Cardiovascular Professionals Week, Cardiac Rehabilitation Week, Sepsis Survivor Week
- Feb. 7-14 – Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week
- Feb. 14-21 – Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Care Staff Education Week
- Feb. 28-Mar. 5 – Eating Disorders Awareness Week (Natl.)

## Recognition Days | Events

- Feb. 2 – Give Kids A Smile® Day, Wear Red Day® (Natl.)
- Feb. 4 – Cancer Day (World)
- Feb. 7 – Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (Natl.)
- Feb. 9 – Toothache Day (World)
- Feb. 11 – Day of the Sick (World)
- Feb. 14 – Donor Day (Natl.)
- Feb. 17 – Random Acts of Kindness Day
- Feb. 22 – Heart Valve Disease Awareness Day (Natl.)
- Feb. 29 – Rare Disease Day

The Kansas Hospital Association and Society for Healthcare Strategy and Market Development are pleased to bring you the [2024 Calendar of Health Observances & Recognition Days](#). Yet another example of our commitment to providing health care strategists with practical, timely resources, this calendar is designed to help you plan your 2024 community health events, internal and external communications, social media campaigns and more. The 2024 calendar is easy to navigate, interactive and features more than 230 health observances and recognition days. Don't miss out on the chance to receive calendar updates from SHSMD sponsor Baldwin Publishing. Not only do they provide you with a Health Observance Guide with ALL the content you need to post every day for the following month, they also give access to healthy recipes, cooking videos, branded cookbooks, recipe calendars, wellness content and solutions.

[Download the 2024 Calendar](#)

--Jan Fenwick



## **Federal and National News**

### **CMS Releases Interoperability and Prior Authorization Final Rule**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [finalized](#) a [rule](#) that advances interoperability and improves prior authorization processes for Medicare Advantage organizations, state Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program Fee-for-Service programs, Medicaid managed care plans, CHIP managed care entities and Qualified Health Plan issuers on the Federally Facilitated Exchanges. The major sections of changes include the following:

- Decreases the turnaround time between prior authorization requests and insurer determinations from 14 days to seven days for standard requests, as well as 72 hours for urgent requests
- Public reporting of prior authorization metrics on the insurer's website
- Includes certain prior authorization details through Patient Access, Provider Access, Insurer-to-Insurer and Prior Authorization application programming interfaces

### **MACPAC Releases 2024 Data Book on Medicare/Medicaid Dual Eligibles**

The [Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program Payment and Access Commission](#) published the [2024 data book](#) on dual eligibles. [The data book](#) compiles a broad range of data on so-called "duals," Medicare participants who meet Medicaid's income eligibility standards, as well as a compendium of the laws and policies that provide for their coverage.

### **CMS Releases CY 2024 OQR Payment Determination Lists**

[Now available](#) on QualityNet are the calendar year 2024 Hospital Outpatient Quality Reporting Program payment determination lists. A total of 2,933, or 95.8 percent of the 3,062 eligible hospitals required to participate in the Hospital OQR program, met all requirements and will receive the full CY 2024 annual payment update. A total of 129, or 4.2 percent of eligible hospitals that failed to meet all OQR requirements or chose not to participate, will receive a reduction of 2.0 percentage points to their CY 2024 annual payment update under the outpatient prospective payment system.

### **Congress Enacts Another Continuing Resolution**

Congress enacted another short-term [continuing resolution](#) to fund the federal government through March 1 and March 8. The law extends the current CR from Jan. 19 to Mar. 1 for Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, Energy and Water, Military, Construction and VA, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development. The law extends funding for the United States Department of Health and Human Services through March 8. The law also further delays Medicaid disproportionate share hospital funding reductions through March 8.

***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 New Actions to Help Hospitals Meet Obligations under EMTALA](#)
- [CMS Announces New Model to Advance Integration in Behavioral Health](#)
- [Doctor & Clinician Utilization \(Procedure Volume\) Data on Medicare.gov Compare Tool: Now Available](#)
- [Continuous Glucose Monitor Supplies: Option to Bill for 90 Days](#)
- [Grandfathered Tribal Federally Qualified Health Centers: Calendar Year 2024 Rate](#)
- [Skilled Nursing Facility: Updates to Services Excluded from Consolidated Billing](#)
- [Poverty: Help Improve Access to Health Care](#)