



***KHA's Current Report***  
**February 2, 2024**

**President's Perspective – Inspiring the Health Care Workforce of the Future**

What an exciting and fulfilling week we had hosting our second Kansas Health Care Virtual Career Day and launching our new [www.HappyInHealthCare.org](http://www.HappyInHealthCare.org) website. We had more than 3,000 students from more than 160 schools, ranging from middle schools to universities, joining us during the Kansas Health Care Virtual Career Day. KHA organized the event in partnership with the Kansas Department of Education and the Kansas Board of Regents. The primary goal 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, both clinical and non-clinical, available in health care and engage them in real-world learning. This week's initiatives are even more timely as February is Career and Technical Education Month. So, this is a great way to kick off CTE Month in Kansas.

As you might anticipate, the success of the Kansas Health Care Virtual Career Day requires the coordinated involvement and participation of several individuals and organizations. I would personally like to thank each of the hospitals that collaborated with KHA to highlight several health care professions and provide a behind-the-scenes look for our attendees. The health care careers showcased included physical therapy, radiology technologists, business office, behavioral health, nursing, laboratory, emergency medical technician/paramedic and surgery. Throughout the event, Kansas high school students heard, first-hand, from Kansas health care professionals across the state who explained what training is required to perform their function and why they believe their career choice is rewarding. Thank you to the teams at Anderson County Hospital, Garnett; Citizens Health, Colby; HCA Midwest Health, Overland Park; Kansas Rehabilitation Hospital, Topeka; LMH Health, Lawrence; Logan County Health Services, Oakley; Memorial Health System, Abilene; and Phillips County Health System, Phillipsburg.

Another exciting activity occurring this week was the launch of KHA's updated [www.HappyInHealthCare.org](http://www.HappyInHealthCare.org) website. The new site allows interested individuals to view scholarships, schools and jobs available, as well as to explore resources on many health care careers. Each career will include information on needed education, minimum salaries, job opportunities and outlook, and much more. We also are very excited to launch a feature allowing interested students to take a brief quiz to narrow the health care careers matching their interest. Please check out all the great resources on the [www.HappyInHealthCare.org](http://www.HappyInHealthCare.org) website!

KHA will continue to explore new approaches to promote and support the hospital industry. If you weren't able to attend the Kansas Health Care Virtual Career Day, videos and resources will soon be available on the KHA website at [www.HappyInHealthCare.org](http://www.HappyInHealthCare.org). Thank you again to all of the hospitals that participated in the virtual career day to help us promote the amazing opportunities in the health care field!

--Chad Austin

### **Hotel Deadline Fast Approaching for the 2024 Critical Issues Summit**

Plan to attend this year's Critical Issues Summit for Hospital Boards, Feb. 29-March 1, in Wichita. The Critical Issues Summit, hosted by the Kansas Hospital Association, brings together hospital leadership and trustees from across the state and promotes the importance of good governance practices. This event provides top-notch speakers, educational sessions and discussions on critical topics facing hospitals today.

#### **Location and Hotel Accommodations**

This summit will be at the Hyatt Regency Wichita, 400 W Waterman St., Wichita, KS 67202. A block of rooms has been reserved for the nights of Feb. 28 and Feb. 29 at the rate of \$133, plus tax. The room block is available until Wednesday, Feb. 7. After that, reservations will be taken on a space-available basis. To make your reservation and receive the special rate, call (316) 293-1234 and ask for the Kansas Hospital Association room block.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

### **KHA Workforce/Human Resources Surveys Deadline Reminder**

The deadline to complete the [2024 KHA Annual Workforce Questionnaire](#) is Feb. 9. The survey collects valuable information on vacancies and turnover for key health care positions. Your participation in the survey is greatly appreciated. Completed surveys should be emailed to [Jaron Caffrey](#) at the Kansas Hospital Association. Last year's results can be viewed at [www.khastat.org](http://www.khastat.org).

The 2024 Kansas Regional Healthcare Compensation and Benefits Survey opened earlier this month with submissions due by Feb. 9 for the [compensation portion](#) and Feb. 23 for the benefits portion. Participation in the survey is free to KHA members and only participating organizations will have access to results made available in April.

Participants will be asked to complete the [compensation data spreadsheet](#) and upload a copy to Gallagher's secure server. The benefits portion of the survey is completed online. Links to the spreadsheet, and to the online survey, were included in the invitations mailed from Gallagher surveys on Jan. 4.

If you or your HR team have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact [Jaron Caffrey](#) for assistance.

--Jaron Caffrey

### **Manage Revenue Cycle Risk through Denials Prevention – Feb. 28**

Health care organizations risk losing 3 percent of their net revenue or more without a structured approach to effectively avoid and manage insurance denials. Join FORVIS for a [complimentary webinar](#) as they discuss best practices to prevent denials and the risk they pose to financial performance and patient care from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. on Feb. 28. One hour of CPE-eligible (pending approval) is offered.



--Shannan Flach

### **Register Now for the Health Care Preceptor Academy – March 5**

Register now and plan to attend the Health Care Preceptor Academy on March 5 in Hutchinson. 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

### **Register Now: 2024 Infection Prevention Conference – March 21-22**

This conference helps prepare health care professionals to be facilitators and resources for surveillance, prevention and control of infections. Attendees will discover proven strategies for implementing infection prevention programs. Time will be allotted during the conference for attendees to network and discuss issues with other infection prevention professionals. All participants will receive infection prevention reference materials.

### **Who Should Attend**

This course is designed for infection prevention professionals in acute care, ambulatory care, long-term care, home health, mental health, correctional facilities and other interested professionals.

### Location and Hotel Accommodations

This conference will be at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Wichita Airport, 42098 Airport Rd., Wichita, KS 67209. A block of rooms has been reserved for the night of March 21 at the rate of \$119, plus tax. The hotel room block is available until Feb. 23. After that, reservations will be taken on a space-available basis. Make your reservation by calling (316) 945-5272, and ask for the Kansas Hospital Association room block.

### Continuing Education

The Kansas Hospital Association is approved as a provider of continuing nursing education by the Kansas State Board of Nursing (Provider No. LT 0031-0116). This course is approved for a total of thirteen (13) contact hours applicable for RN and LPN relicensure. Continuing nursing education certificates will be distributed at the end of the seminar to all paid attendees.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

### The Kansas Insurance Industry Is Hosting an Educational Event on the Medical Review Process

The Kansas Insurance Commissioner's Office is hosting a [hybrid Industry Insight event](#) to educate both insurers and providers on key issues within the department. The event will be from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Feb. 23 and will cover topics such as Standard Application Process for URO Certification, URAC Accreditation and Market Conduct.

Virtual Participation Registration:



In-Person Participation Registration  
(attendance will be limited):



--Tara Mays

### CDC Issues Measles Alert

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued an [alert](#) last week regarding confirmed U.S. cases of measles. Between Dec. 1, 2023, and Jan. 23, 2024, the CDC was notified of 23 confirmed U.S. cases of measles, including seven direct importations of measles by international travelers and two outbreaks with more than five cases each. Most of these cases were among children and adolescents who had not received a measles-containing vaccine ([MMR](#) or MMRV), even if age-eligible.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment issued a KS-HAN alert this week on this issue, encouraging providers to be on alert for patients who have: (1) febrile rash illness and [symptoms consistent with measles](#) (e.g., cough, coryza, or conjunctivitis), and (2) have recently traveled abroad, especially to countries with [ongoing measles outbreaks](#). Infected people are contagious from four days before the rash starts through four days afterward.

Measles cases often originate from unvaccinated or under-vaccinated U.S. residents who travel internationally and then transmit the disease to people who are not vaccinated against measles. The increased number of measles importations seen in recent weeks is reflective of a rise in global measles cases and a growing [global threat](#) from the disease.

For data on how Kansas is doing on school entry vaccination coverage, including for MMR, see [Immunize Kansas Coalition](#) data page. **MMR vaccination rates in Kansas kindergartners has decreased** from 94.47 percent in the 2019-2020 academic year to 91.04 percent in the 2022 – 2023 academic year.

--Karen Braman

#### **Peer Support and Building an Infrastructure of Employee Mental Wellness – AHA Podcast**

Listen to the American Hospital Association's [Advancing Health podcast](#) to hear a health system chief wellness officer and director of simulation, innovation and research discuss the critical role their hospital's peer support program played in employee mental health and the impact of building infrastructure focused on the well-being of staff.

--Karen Braman

#### **ASPR Grant Funding for Hospital PPE Expenses – Deadline, Feb. 15**

The Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response COVID-19 Hospital Association Grant has funds still available for the grant period Apr. 9, 2023 - Feb. 28, 2024. Eligible grant expenses are limited to ASPR Funding Focus Area 2: Personal Protective Equipment Procurement and Optimization Measures. Grant funds may be used for the purchase of PPE and related supplies used to care for patients with, or suspected to have, COVID or other emerging respiratory pathogens. The grant funds are available through the Kansas Hospital Association on a first-come first-served basis until all the grant dollars are exhausted. All invoices for eligible expenses must be submitted to KHA no later than Feb.15, 2024. Please submit a reimbursement request with invoices eligible for reimbursement to [Melissa Willey](#). For questions, please contact [Ron Marshall](#).

--Ron Marshall

#### **KDHE Overdose Data Dashboard Survey**

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment is requesting feedback on the user experience of the [KDHE Overdose Data Dashboard](#). The survey should take less than 10 minutes. Responses will be used for continual improvement of the dashboard. There is no risk to you by participating in this survey and you may stop the survey at any time by closing the window. [Take the survey here](#).

For any questions about the dashboard or survey, please contact [Scott Johnston](#), KDHE.  
--Karen Braman

### **Kansas Regional Lactation Skills Fairs – Apr. 2 through Apr. 11**

The Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition, in partnership with High 5 for Mom & Baby and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, is hosting four regional lactation skills fairs April 2-11 across Kansas. The skills fairs are open to all Kansas hospital staff at no cost. Continuing education for nurses will be provided. An application for continuing education recognition points has been submitted. Participation is limited to the first 40 registrants per session. Dates and locations:

- April 2 – Topeka, St. Francis
- April 9 – Wichita, Via Christi St. Joseph
- April 10 – Hays, HaysMed
- April 11 – Dodge City, St. Catherine at Dodge City

You can choose between a morning or afternoon session. The content is the same for both sessions.



--Karen Braman

### **Drug Supply Chain Security Act Requirements and Resources**

The [U.S. Drug Supply Chain Security Act](#) requirements went into effect Nov. 27, 2023, for "authorized trading partners," including dispensing pharmacies. While the original act was enacted in 2013, final guidance was issued late in 2023. For detailed information and background, the Food and Drug Administration maintains a list of [Drug Supply Chain Security Act Law and Policies](#). There are many vendors out there selling "solutions" for the DSCSA, which may improve pharmacy operations and tracking; however, most Kansas pharmacies should already comply with the DSCSA without these supplemental programs. For information about requirements for pharmacies, including hospital pharmacies, the following resources provide helpful guidance:

- [FDA FAQs on USDSCSA Requirements](#)
- [ASHP Drug Supply Chain Security Act Requirements](#)
- [DSCSAEdu for Dispensers](#)
- [National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Pulse platform](#)
- [Kansas Board of Pharmacy Newsletter on DSCSA: How to Prepare \(September 2023\)](#)

Requirements include:

- Engage in business only with licensed, registered trading partners. This can be done by checking the registration of manufacturers and repackagers; checking the licensing of wholesale distributors and third-party logistics providers; and checking the licensing of pharmacies through their respective state regulatory entity (e.g., Kansas Board of Pharmacy for Kansas pharmacies).
- Manage product tracing documentation to verify pharmaceuticals have a documented, traceable chain of custody at the package level, and to keep that documentation for six years.
- Implement a process to respond, to and manage, suspected or verified illegitimate pharmaceuticals (e.g., counterfeit) to ensure patients do not receive illegitimate products.

The Kansas Hospital Association's service organization partner, APS, is an excellent resource for members reviewing their options to ensure DSCSA compliance. For more information from APS, contact [Dennis George](#) at (913) 327-8730.

--Karen Braman

### **Improving Access to Pulmonary Care Rehabilitation in Rural Communities – Register Today!**

The I-CAN 2024 ECHO: Improving Access to Pulmonary Rehabilitation in Rural Communities series is open for registrants and will launch in late February.

This program is designed to expand respiratory therapy and registered nursing workforce capacity in Kansas Health Professional Shortage Areas and Medically Underserved Areas, focusing especially on building skills to engage in population health and treat persons with Long-COVID and other respiratory diseases. The project's overall goal is to collaborate with rural communities to improve their workforce capacity and improve the lives of people with Long-COVID and other respiratory diseases.

This series will include four ZOOM courses from noon to 1:00 p.m. on Tuesdays starting on Feb 27 through Mar. 26. There is no cost to participate, and the event is open to all. Continuing education credit will be offered to physicians, nurses and social workers.

[Click to Register](#)

--Jaron Caffrey

### **Federal and National News**

#### **CMS Releases RFI about Medicare Advantage Data Collection and Reporting**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [released](#) a [request for information](#) to solicit feedback about how best to enhance Medicare Advantage data capabilities and increase transparency about MA activities. CMS specifically is interested in the following:



- Data-related recommendations related to beneficiary access to care, including provider directories and networks
- Prior authorization and utilization management, including denials of care and beneficiary experience with appeals processes, as well as use and reliance on algorithms
- Cost and utilization of different supplemental benefits
- All aspects of MA marketing and consumer decision-making
- Care quality and outcomes, including value-based care arrangements and health equity
- Healthy competition in the market, including the impact of mergers and acquisitions, high levels of enrollment concentration, and the effects of vertical integration, data topics related to MA prescription drug plans
- Special populations, such as individuals dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid with end-stage renal disease, and other enrollees with complex conditions

Responses to the RFI will be due 120 days after the date of publication in the *Federal Register*.

### **CMS Releases April 2024 Public Reporting Hospital Data for Preview**

The preview period now is open for hospitals participating in the Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting, Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting, hospital Outpatient Quality Reporting and Prospective Payment System-Exempt Cancer Hospital Quality Reporting programs to review data that will be publicly reported in April 2024. [Additional information](#) is available.

### **CMS Reminds Hospitals of eCQM Reporting Deadlines**

The deadline for hospitals participating in the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting and/or Medicare Promoting Interoperability Programs to submit the calendar year 2023 electronic clinical quality measure data is Thursday, Feb. 29. Participating hospitals are required to submit data for at least four eQMs for two self-selected quarters of CY 2021 data. Each quarter must include at least three self-selected eQMs, plus the mandatory Safe Use of Opioids-Concurrent Prescribing eQM. The eQMs must be the same across quarters. To meet CMS CY 2023 eQM reporting requirements, report the Safe Use of Opioids-Concurrent Prescribing eQM, and at least three eQMs from the [CY 2023 Available eQMs Table](#), for four quarters using EHR technology certified to the [2015 Edition Cures Update](#) criteria. The [Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program](#) requirements and attestation deadline for eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals also is Thursday, Feb. 29.

### **CMS Releases CART-Outpatient Version 1.24.0**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released CMS Abstraction and Reporting Tool outpatient version 1.24.0, which supports hospital Outpatient Quality Reporting specifications manual version 17.0a. This CART version must be used for encounter dates Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2024. Installation instructions and other resources are available on [QualityNet](#).



**MLN Connects Provider eNews Available**

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

- [Participation Continues to Grow in CMS' Accountable Care Organization Initiatives in 2024](#)
- [CMS Roundup \(Jan 26, 2024\)](#)

**Before You Go ...**

- The National Institutes of Health released a [guidance document](#) for implementing evidence-based strategies to address opioid overdoses.