



***KHA's Current Report***  
**February 9, 2024**

**President's Perspective – Making Good Governance and Trustee Education a Priority**

The Kansas Hospital Association continues to add resources for hospital boards of directors. Whether in the areas of education, tools and resources or recognition programs, we strive to have many options available for our members. This week, our staff, in conjunction with the team from governWell, had the chance to present at the Northwest Kansas Health Alliance in Hays. It was a wonderful opportunity to provide education to hospital board members. If you are interested in governance education, please contact us at KHA or check out [www.Kansasgovernwell.net](http://www.Kansasgovernwell.net) to see the variety of options from in-person programs to webinars and board briefs.

Later this month, KHA is hosting the Critical Issues Summit for Hospital Boards, Feb. 29-Mar. 1, in Wichita. The Critical Issues Summit brings together hospital leaders 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. This year's topics include:

- Future Trends in Health Care and a Road Map for Navigating the Path Ahead
- Caring for Your Community and Its Unique Needs
- Strategies and Tactics to Keep Health Care Local
- Networking Roundtables and a Networking Reception
- Cybersecurity – What a Hospital Board Needs to Know?

The Critical Issues Summit is KHA's premier trustee education event, I encourage members to [register today](#).

KHA also encourages our members to recognize board members for their dedication and service. Since 2010, [KHA's Trustee Accountability and Recognition Program](#) has been recognizing trustees at the [KHA Critical Issues Summit](#). The [Trustee Accountability and Recognition Program](#) recognizes hospitals and trustees that:

- Understand and embrace the need for governance accountability
- Govern according to a standard of excellence
- Formally recognize their adherence to governance best practices
- Embrace community accountability
- Structure their community benefit and outreach programs to meet identified community needs

We encourage hospitals to recognize trustees at this year's [Critical Issues Summit](#) by completing a [recognition form](#) by Feb. 23.

KHA understands the importance of strong hospital governance and leadership. We appreciate the countless hours hospital trustees dedicate to their hospital and local community to ensure quality care is accessible. We look forward to recognizing Kansas hospital trustees at our upcoming Critical Issues Summit and hope you will be able to join us!

--Chad Austin

### **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

### **QHi February Back to Basics Training Session – Feb. 22**

Please join Kansas Hospital Association staff for our next QHi Back to Basics training session, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 22. After a brief program update, participants will walk through the basics of adding measures, adding users, entering/uploading data and running/scheduling reports.



A [recording](#) of the January training session is available.

--Sally Othmer

### **Clarification on Reimbursement for Holds Waiting for State Hospital Admissions**

The Kansas Hospital Association has received an important clarification related to reimbursement to hospitals for round-the-clock patient observation and transportation costs for patient admissions to state mental hospitals.

- KDADS will allow reimbursement for both voluntary and involuntary admissions (with or without insurance).
- KDADS will allow reimbursement for not only Osawatomie State Hospital and Larned State Hospital, but any admission to State Institution Alternative settings. Those facilities include:
  - Cottonwood Springs, Olathe
  - Camber (KVC Hospitals) Kansas City, Kansas City
  - Camber (KVC Hospitals) Wichita, Wichita
  - Newton Medical Center (NMC), Newton
  - Prairie View, Inc., Newton
  - Ascension Via Christi Hospital, Wichita
  - Anew Health (Began accepting patients 6/21/2022), Shawnee
  - Hutchinson Regional Medical Center (In the enrollment process), Hutchinson
- KDADS will allow you to submit reimbursement for any of these costs from July 1, 2023, to present.

The reimbursement 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](mailto:kdads.reimburse@ks.gov), [Scott Brunner](#) or [Jason Yeakley](#). You are welcome to reach out to KHA for any questions as well.

--Shannan Flach

## **Healthy Kansas Hospitals – Toolkit # 2**

Thank you for your commitment to establishing a healthier workplace, as well as being a leader in your community by establishing norms and influencing health decisions. Thank you for all you have done so far to provide the healthiest choices possible for patients, visitors and staff.

The Kansas Hospital Association is pleased to provide hospitals with this [second toolkit](#) to help hospitals create change inside of the facility. We appreciate the opportunity to provide leadership, shared knowledge and innovative approaches to improve health and wellness in hospitals.

This second toolkit of resources and templates was created to further assist and support you as you lead the way to improve environments in Kansas hospitals. The enclosed materials, as well as all the materials in the first toolkit (creating a worksite wellness committee) and the third toolkit (nurturing strategies for a healthy culture), are available online at [www.HealthyKansasHospitals.org](http://www.HealthyKansasHospitals.org).

#### [Healthy Kansas Hospitals Toolkit #2:](#)

- [Sample Standards](#)
- [Healthy Kansas Hospitals Model Policy](#)
- [Five Steps to Success](#)
- [Hospitals Can Model Healthy Options](#)
- [Healthy Foods and Beverages](#)
- [Template PowerPoint](#)
- [Template Media Release](#)
- [Sample Letter to the Editor Health Data and Best Practices at Your Fingertips](#)
- [A Guide to Posting on Social Media Local Resources Template](#)
- [Additional Resources](#)
- [Implementing Healthier Vending Options](#)
- [Are Diet Beverages Acceptable](#)
- [Frying vs. Baking](#)
- [Nutritional Labeling for Menus](#)
- [Keeping It Fresh and Local](#)

If your hospital would like to explore establishing a worksite wellness committee, please email [Hayley Finch-Genschorck](#) at (785) 233-7436. Thank you for your commitment to improving the health and well-being of Kansans.

--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

#### **Nurse Corps Loan Repayment Program Application Period Now Live**

The Nurse Corps Loan Repayment Program is now accepting applications for 2024. This program offers loan repayment assistance to registered nurses, nurse practitioners, advanced practice nurses and nursing school faculty who agree to work in a Health Profession Shortage Area facility or an eligible school of nursing for at least two years.

This program will pay 60 percent of a nurse's educational loan balance in exchange for a two-year minimum work commitment in a HPSA. Preference is given to nurses based on the greatest financial need and their specialty and/or facility type where employed. Nurses working in counties with higher HPSA scores also will also be given priority. The deadline to apply is Mar. 7, 2024. [Click here](#) for more information and/or to apply.

--Jaron Caffrey

### **Newest Podcast Dives into Federal Issues**

Have you been listening to the Kansas Hospital Association's podcast [Plains Spoken](#)? If not, we encourage you to do so. We tackle timely issues with a variety of guests including hospital and industry representatives, legislators and health care experts.

On the [latest episode](#), we dive into the pending federal issues. These include decisions around budget, debt ceiling, disproportionate share hospital payment cuts and site-neutral payments. Government relations vice-president Audrey Dunkel and legislative consultant Landon Fulmer offer background and context around complex legislative decisions and discuss possible outcomes.

--*Shelby Stacy*

### **Regulatory Requirements Related to Health Equity & Social Determinants of Health**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services requires all hospitals to comply with reporting on health equity commitment and social determinants of health screenings. There are three measures required:

- Hospital Commitment to Health Equity
- Screening for Social Determinants of Health
- Screen Positive for Social Determinants of Health

The measures were required in the CMS Inpatient Prospective Payment System Final Rule for CY 2023 and is mandatory as part of the 2023 [Inpatient Quality Reporting](#) requirements. For Critical Access Hospitals, CMS has included this measure in the [Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project 2025 Measure Core Set](#). Additionally, hospitals participating in the CMS Funded Hospital Quality Improvement Contractor Project have attested to Health Equity Organizational Assessment since the inception of the HQIC four years ago.

To help hospitals educate team members and their boards, the Kansas Healthcare Collaborative and Kansas Hospital Association have developed a [health equity requirements fact sheet](#) outlining these requirements. Additional health equity and social determinants of health resources may be found on the [KHA website](#), as well as a [health equity resource](#) hub developed by multiple Kansas partners.

--*Karen Braman*

### **Cybersecurity Risks and Prevention Strategies for Hospitals and Health Systems – April 23**

Save the date, April 23, and plan to attend the Cybersecurity Risks and Prevention Strategies for Hospitals and Health Systems. Hosted by the Kansas Hospital Association, American Hospital Association, Missouri Hospital Association and K.U. Medical Center. The conference will be at K.U. Medical Center in the Health Education Building, 2146 W. 39th Ave., Kansas City, KS 66103. The cost to participate is \$25.



*--Hayley Finch Genschorck*

### **Manhattan Area Technical College Career Fair – Employers Signup Today**

Manhattan Area Technical College is hosting a health care career fair from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Mar. 26, in Manhattan. The college offers health care programs in nursing, medical laboratory technology, certified nurse aides and emergency medical technicians. Students who have completed these programs are actively looking for employment. The Spring Career Fair also is open to all area students, transitioning military members/families and members of the public who are looking for future employment opportunities.

Employer spots are limited. Employers can [pre-register for the event](#) at no charge.

*--Jaron Caffrey*

### **Kansas Health Foundation Announces Think Tank**

The Kansas Health Foundation is creating an advisory "[think tank](#)" to spur critical thinking, innovation and creativity. With the announcement of this think tank, KHF shared the organization's new strategic framework, including a bold purpose statement designed to pressure their board, staff and partners to do their best work for the people of Kansas. KHF's new purpose is three-fold:

1. Help Kansas lead the nation in health
2. Eliminate the inequities that create health disparities
3. To become the model for philanthropic impact.

KHF is currently recruiting for contract professionals to serve as part of this "think tank. KHF is looking for advisors, with learned or lived experience, who are passionate about the work and purpose of KHF and who have expertise or research interest in one of the three parts of the KHF purpose statement. Interested candidates should contact [Susan Kang](#) and include the following information: Cover letter, Curriculum vitae and a statement in the cover letter about which of the three parts of the KHF purpose statement your expertise most closely aligns.

*--Karen Braman*

## **Federal Rule Updates Opioid Treatment Programs**

The [final rule](#) updating certain provisions of regulations related to Opioid Treatment Program accreditation, certification and standards for the treatment of Opioid Use Disorder with Medications for Opioid Use Disorder in OTPs was released Jan. 31 by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Changes to the regulation include making flexibilities put forth during the COVID-19 public health emergency permanent, as well as expanding access to care and evidence-based treatment for OUD. The final rule also removes all language and rules pertaining to the Drug Addiction and Treatment Act Waiver from the regulations pursuant to the "Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023."

Methadone will still only be available through a limited number of roughly 2,000 federally approved opioid treatment programs nationwide. However, patients accessing those clinics will now be able to receive more take-home doses of methadone. Other changes include the ability of an OTP to prescribe medication for OUD via telehealth without an initial in-person physical evaluation and the removal of certain requirements for admission to an OTP to better align with evidence-based practice.

The final rule repealed the treatment regulations enforced by the Food and Drug Administration and created a new regulatory system based on an accreditation model. In addition, the final rule shifted administrative responsibility and oversight from the FDA to SAMHSA. According to the federal administration, the new actions will take effect within six months.

*--Karen Braman*

## **CMS Promoting Interoperability and NHSN Reporting**

Beginning in 2024, reporting to the National Healthcare Safety Network Antimicrobial Use and Resistance Module is required under the Public Health and Clinical Data Exchange objective of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Promoting Interoperability Program. Eligible hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals are required to be in active engagement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to report both AU and Antimicrobial Resistance data. Facilities will receive a report from NHSN indicating their successful submission of AUR data for the EHR reporting period or claim an applicable exclusion.

The NHSN Team is hosting an Office Hours session from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, Mar. 7. The session will begin with a brief presentation. The remainder of the hour will be used for questions and answers with attendees.

[Click to Register](#)

For more information and additional resources, please see the materials in the [Antimicrobial Use and Resistance section](#) of the CMS Reporting Requirements for Acute Care Hospitals page.

*--Sally Othmer*

### **It's Not Too Late to Join KHELSA**

Your hospital is encouraged to consider having your environmental and linen services staff join or renew membership in the Kansas Healthcare Environmental and Linen Services Association. KHELSA provides support and education for persons conducting the many facets of environmental and linen services for health care institutions. Membership fees are \$50. The ongoing information and networking are priceless. Whether you are a director of support services, director of housekeeping, executive housekeeper, director of environmental services, environmental services leader or director or supervisor of linen services, you will benefit from membership in KHELSA. Members represent both large and small health care facilities and come from rural and urban areas.

KHELSA sponsors a statewide educational program annually. The program addresses management issues, as well as housekeeping and laundry issues.

View the [KHELSA web page](#) for more information and to download a [membership application](#). We encourage you to share this information with the appropriate staff in your facility. Current memberships become delinquent after Mar. 31.

--Susan Pattie

### **Federal and National News**

#### **CMS Releases CY 2024 OPPS and ASC Correction Notice**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [released](#) a correction notice to the calendar year 2024 Medicare Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System and Ambulatory Surgery Center final payment and policy updates.

#### **CMS Refreshes Care Compare, Provider Data Catalog Data**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Care Compare website provides consumers with information on more than 100 quality measures for more than 4,000 hospitals nationwide. CMS recently updated data on the [Care Compare](#) and [Provider Data Catalog](#) websites. [Additional information](#) is available.

#### **CMS Issues Guidance for Organ Procurement Organizations**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [issued](#) revised guidance on Organ Procurement Organization Conditions for Coverage related to the use of the pancreata for islet cell research. The guidance is effective immediately and could impact quality reporting requirements.

#### **CMS Releases IPFQR Specifications Manual Version 1.1c**

Now available on [QualityNet](#) is version 1.1c of the Inpatient Psychiatric Facility specifications manual, effective for discharges beginning Jan. 1, 2023. Updates are outlined in the associated release notes and include changes to the index table of data elements to reflect the removal of the HBIPS-5 and TOB 2/2a measures from the IPFQR Program, clarified guidance for the TR-1 measures and additional guidance related to the abstraction of the sex data element.



### **CMS Selects Targeted Hospitals for FY 2026 Validation**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services selected the targeted sample of hospitals for data validation of measures within the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program and the Hospital-Acquired Condition Reduction Program for the fiscal year 2026 payment determination/program year. The quarters included in the data validation efforts for FY 2026 are the first quarter of 2023, the second quarter of 2023, the third quarter of 2023 and the fourth quarter of 2023. [Additional information](#) is available.

Selected hospitals will receive a direct email from the CMS Value, Incentives and Quality Reporting Validation Support Contractor. The updated list of hospitals selected for FY 2026 validation, as well as validation resources, can be found on [QualityNet](#).

A CMS webinar to discuss the inpatient data validation process is scheduled at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15. [Registration is required](#).

### **CMS Updates 2024 Medicare Advantage Program and Part D Payment Policies**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [released](#) the Medicare Advantage and Part D Rate [announcement](#) for calendar year 2025. CMS [estimates](#) that MA plans will receive an increase of 3.7 percent from 2024 to 2025, amounting to approximately \$16 billion. CMS provided redesign program [instructions](#) as [prescribed](#) by the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 related to the new Manufacturer Discount Program.

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

The deadline for hospitals participating in the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program and/or Medicare Promoting Interoperability Programs to submit calendar year 2023 electronic clinical quality measure data is Thursday, Feb. 29. Each quarter must contain at least three self-selected eCQMs, plus the mandatory Safe Use of Opioids-Concurrent Prescribing eCQM. The eCQMs must be the same across quarters. To meet CMS CY 2023 eCQM reporting requirements, report the Safe Use of Opioids-Concurrent Prescribing eCQM and at least three eCQMs from the [CY 2023 Available eCQMs Table](#), for four quarters, using HER 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.

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

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

- [Medicare Shared Savings Program: Application Deadlines for a Jan. 1, 2025, Start Date](#)
- [New Dental Specialty Codes for Medicare](#)
- [Hospices & Skilled Nursing Facilities: Report All Managing Employees](#)
- [Skilled Nursing Care & Skilled Therapy Services to Maintain Function or Prevent or Slow Decline: Reminder](#)
- [Help Address Heart Disease Disparities](#)