



KHA's Current Report
April 25, 2025

President's Perspective – Kansas Hospitals Have an Advocate on the U.S. Senate 340B Bipartisan Working Group

The 340B program has garnered significant attention at both the state and federal levels. Most recently, there have been renewed discussions regarding the 340B bipartisan working group at the federal level. You may recall the stated purpose of the U.S. Senate 340B bipartisan working group is to advance bipartisan policy solutions to make certain the 340B Drug Pricing Program can continue to achieve its intended goal of supporting hospitals and health centers serving vulnerable populations. The Kansas Hospital Association believes the group's goals are well-intentioned, and I had the opportunity to highlight these intentions in a recent opinion editorial in the *Kansas City Star* and the *Wichita Eagle*.

The federal 340B Drug Pricing Program has enabled safety net providers, including hospitals and health centers, to purchase medications at a discounted rate. This enables them to stretch their limited resources as far as possible, reaching more eligible patients and providing more comprehensive services in their communities. Hospitals, in turn, utilize the savings from the 340B Drug Pricing Program to provide access to services such as maternity care in rural areas, mental health services and cancer treatment closer to home. In Kansas, more than 90 hospitals, primarily rural, participate in the 340B Drug Pricing Program.

The 340B Drug Pricing Program is crucial for providing health care access to vulnerable Kansans without using taxpayer dollars. Senator Jerry Moran understands this program's significance well from his visits across Kansas to nearly every hospital in the state, where he engages with staff, hospital administrators, patients and board members.

Senator Moran serves on the Senate 340B working group and has devoted years to ensuring health care providers can access the resources needed to care for their patients. Kansas hospitals continue to appreciate Senator Moran's support on crucial health care issues like 340B.

Unfortunately, the original statute creating 340B has been fraught with disagreements, including drug manufacturers limiting access to the program. This, in turn, jeopardizes Kansans' ability to access necessary prescriptions and other vital health services. Without the 340B Drug Pricing Program, many Kansas hospitals would have to drastically reduce or discontinue health care services offered in their communities. Maintaining the integrity of the 340B Drug Pricing Program ensures access to essential care and affordable medications for our most vulnerable citizens, particularly those residing in rural Kansas. If the challenges facing 340B are left unaddressed, negative impacts will continue to be felt across our state.

Senator Moran and his bipartisan colleagues established the 340B Working Group to provide clarity to the program, ensuring its sustainability. Protecting the 340B Drug Pricing Program is critical to the health of our state, workforce and economy. We appreciate Senator Moran's leadership on this important program.

--Chad Austin

Noon Briefing: Self-Funded Benefit Plans Simplified – May 1

Join Kansas Hospital Association staff on Thursday, May 1, for a Noon Briefing featuring Rural Hospital Insurance of America, powered by HealthSure, an Alera Group Company. This webinar will discuss the advantages of self-funded health plans and how they can help rural hospitals gain more control over their health care spending while customizing benefits for their workforce.

Discover how self-funding can lead to reduced premiums, enhanced cash flow and increased financial flexibility. Learn about critical components like stop-loss insurance, Pharmacy Benefit Managers and 340B program opportunities that can maximize your savings and impact.

Panelists:

- Jesse Garcia, Risk Advisor
- Brant Couch, CPA, CIC, Managing Partner

Webinar Objectives:

- Understand financial and cash flow benefits
- Explore plan customization and employee care improvements
- Learn best practices for implementation and risk management
- Maximize pharmacy spending and 340B opportunities



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

Request for Assistance with SUD Study

Healthworks, the Kansas Hospital Association, the Department of Population Health at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita, the Kansas Board of Pharmacy and DCCCA are conducting a study designed to improve access to substance use disorder care in Kansas. We are seeking individuals to participate in an interview to explore ways to enhance access to substance use disorder care in Kansas. Responses will help inform our efforts to implement a series of interventions aimed at addressing barriers to treating individuals with substance use disorders. Participants who complete the interview will be eligible to receive a \$50 gift card. If you or someone in your organization is willing to participate in an interview, please email Susan Holmes at sholmes@kha-net.org, and she can provide more information.

--Jennifer Findley

Possible Hacking into the Legacy Oracle (formerly Cerner) Cloud Environment

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency published an [alert](#) warning of possible unauthorized access to Oracle's legacy Cerner servers. The alert states the scope and impact remain unconfirmed; however, it poses a risk to organizations and individuals. If your organization has utilized Oracle (formerly Cerner) in any capacity, please review the [CISA Alert](#) with your IT security team to conduct a thorough threat analysis and identify any necessary IT risk management measures.

--Larry Van Der Wege

Clinical Strategies for Management of a Measles Outbreak – KU School of Medicine Training

The University of Kansas School of Medicine, Wichita, Department of Family and Community Medicine is offering a virtual training from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. on April 30: *Clinical Strategies for Management of a Measles Outbreak*. By the end of the session, participants will be able to identify key clinical strategies for managing a measles outbreak. The activity was planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Colorado Medical Society. KU-Wichita, School of Medicine, Dept of Family and Community Medicine is accredited by the Colorado Medical Society to provide continuing medical education for physicians. KU-Wichita, School of Medicine, Dept of Family and Community Medicine designates this live activity for 1.50 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. [Register online](#) at <https://www.eeds.com/live/189594>. Registration for this virtual course is \$45.00. Refunds will not be granted after April 29.

--Karen Braman

Measles FAQs from April 11 Clinical Call

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics has partnered with KHA to provide [Measles FAQs](#), which will answer questions received in the April 11 Measles Clinical Call. Several questions centered on immunity and post-exposure guidance for health care workers. For further reference to this document, and other measles resources, please visit the [Measles Resources](#) section on the [Hospital Preparedness page](#) of the KHA website.

--Larry Van Der Wege

Kansas HAN – Infant MMR Vaccination Recommendations

In follow-up to its [March 21 Kansas Health Alert Network alert](#) on measles, mumps and rubella vaccination guidance for counties with confirmed measles cases and bordering counties, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment issued a follow-up HAN alert on April 21 clarifying [infant MMR vaccination recommendations](#). The April 21 HAN alert reiterates that infants aged six months to 11 months are recommended to receive an early dose of the MMR vaccine **ONLY** in the circumstances listed below. Please keep the following in mind:

- This early dose is for protection from measles and does not count as a valid dose for school entry.
- Subsequent doses should follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommended childhood schedule, which includes:
 - A dose at 12 through 15 months of age.
 - A final dose at four through six years of age.

KDHE stresses in the HAN alert that early vaccination should **ONLY** occur if:

- The infant resides in or plans to visit a county with confirmed cases of measles.
- The infant resides in or plans to visit a county immediately bordering a county with measles cases.
- An infant who will be traveling internationally.

For additional information on the measles outbreak in Kansas, refer to the [KDHE Measles Dashboard](#). For the full text of the HAN alerts, refer to [KDHE's HAN Alerts](#) page.

--Karen Braman

Get Ready to Golf for the KHA-PAC Aug. 11

Does the spring weather have you daydreaming of hitting the golf course? Us too! Mark your calendars for the annual [Kansas Hospital Association Political Action Committee](#) Golf Tournament on Aug. 11 at the beautiful Salina Country Club in Salina. Hold the calendar, recruit your team now and sign up to sponsor today by visiting <https://kha-pac.square.site/>.

For questions, please feel free to contact Tara Mays at tmays@kha-net.org.

--Tara Mays

New ACOG Guidance Recommends Transformation to U.S. Prenatal Care Delivery

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists is recommending significant changes to the way prenatal care is delivered in the U.S. According to the latest ACOG Clinical Consensus Committee document, [Tailored Prenatal Care Delivery for Pregnant Individuals](#), evidence shows health care professionals can individualize care delivery for average or low-risk patients so they have fewer in-person visits and use other care modalities. According to ACOG, the new approach would give pregnant patients, and their ob-gyns or other maternity care clinicians, the ability to develop prenatal care plans based on medical, structural, social determinants of health and patient preferences rather than a one-size-fits-all model. ACOG's goal with the new guidance is to promote equitable care by focusing on drivers that contribute to the disproportionate maternal morbidity and mortality rates seen among vulnerable populations.

--Karen Braman

QHi March Back to Basics Training Session May 8

The next [QHi Back to Basics Training session](#) is at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 8. After a brief program update, participants will walk through the basics of selecting measures, adding users, entering/uploading data and running/scheduling customized reports.

Click to
Register

For information on QHi updates and news of note, please check out the April edition of the [QHi Newsletter](#).

--Sally Othmer

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day Is April 26

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, an initiative to remove unwanted, unused or expired medications from your home, will occur Saturday, April 26. Proper disposal helps prevent medication misuse and protects the environment.

Find a [Take Back Day](#) event near you by visiting the official Drug Enforcement Agency's Take Back Day website, or use the [DEA's year-round collection locator](#) to find a permanent drop-off location in your community.

The DEA developed a [partnership toolbox](#) with helpful resources, including flyers, posters, social media graphics and public service announcements to support community outreach to promote the event.

--Karen Braman

Health Observances and Recognition Days for May

Month-Long Observances

- Arthritis Awareness Month (National)
- Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month (National)
- Better Hearing and Speech Month
- Better Sleep Month
- Bike Month (National)
- Celiac Disease Awareness Month (National)
- Critical Care Awareness and Recognition Month (National)
- Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month
- Ehlers-Danlos Syndromes and Hypermobility Spectrum Disorders Awareness Month
- Employee Health and Fitness Month (Global)
- Healthy Vision Month
- Hepatitis Awareness Month
- High Blood Pressure Education Month (National)
- Huntington's Disease Awareness Month
- Lupus Awareness Month
- Mental Health Month (National)
- Melanoma /Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month
- Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month
- Neurofibromatosis Awareness Month
- Nurses Month (National)
- Older Americans Month
- Oncology Nursing Month
- Osteoporosis Month (National)
- Physical Fitness and Sports Month (National)
- Preeclampsia Awareness Month
- Psoriatic Arthritis Action Month
- Run A Mile Days
- Skin Cancer Prevention and Awareness Month
- Stroke Awareness Month (National)
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month (National)
- Trauma Awareness Month (National)
- Women's Health Month (National)

Week-Long Observances

- May 1-7 – Physical Education and Sport Week (National)
- May 4-10 – Air Quality Awareness Week
- May 4-11 – Medical Fitness Week
- May 5-11 – Children's Mental Health Awareness Week
- May 6-12 – Nurses Week (National)
- **May 11-17 – Hospital Week (National)**, Food Allergy Awareness Week, Maternal Sepsis Week, Neuroscience Nurses Week, Skilled Nursing Care Week (National) and Women's Health Week (National)
- May 12-18 – Stuttering Awareness Week (National)
- May 18- 24 – Healthcare Documentation Integrity Week

Recognition Days | Events

- May 5 – Hand Hygiene Day (World), Melanoma Monday and Pulmonary Hypertension Day (World)
- May 6 – Asthma Day (World) and No Diet Day (International)
- May 7 – Children's Mental Health Awareness Day, Maternal Mental Health Day (World), School Nurse Day, Trauma Registry Professionals Day
- May 8 – Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (World), School Nurse Day (National) and Student Nurses Day (National)
- May 10 – Lupas Day (World)
- May 11 – Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Awareness Day (International)
- May 12 – Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Day, Fibromyalgia Awareness Day, Nurses Day (International) and Women's Checkup Day (National)
- May 18 – AIDS Vaccine Day (World) and HIV Vaccine Awareness Day
- May 19 – Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (National), Hepatitis Testing Day (National)
- May 20 – Autoimmune and Auto-inflammatory Arthritis Day (World)
- May 22 – Gout Awareness Day (National)
- May 23 – Don't Fry Day
- May 28 – Senior Health and Fitness Day (National)
- May 31 – No Tobacco Day (World)

The Kansas Hospital Association and the Society for Healthcare Strategy and Market Development are pleased to present the [2025 Calendar of Health Observances](#) and [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 community health events, internal and external communications, social media campaigns and more. The calendar is easy to navigate, interactive and features more than 230 health observances and recognition days. Don't miss out on receiving 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.

--Jan Fenwick