



KHA's Current Report
July 3, 2025

President's Perspective – Striving for a Healthier Kansas

Health and safety are important priorities for the Kansas Hospital Association and the members we serve. As the federal administration rolls out the Make America Healthy Again agenda, the KHA team has been highlighting the great work of our member hospitals.

Striving for a Healthier Kansas

The KHA team wishes you and all your hospital team members a happy Independence Day holiday. I hope you all take time to enjoy patriotic festivities with family and friends. I appreciate our Kansas hospitals emphasizing safety leading up to this holiday, reminding their communities to stay safe and avoid the most common reasons people travel to the hospital during holiday celebrations.

Health and safety are important priorities for KHA and the members we serve. As the federal administration rolls out the Make America Healthy Again agenda, the KHA team has been highlighting the great work our member hospitals have been doing for years through the Healthy Kansas Hospitals initiative. This work continues to align with our strategic aim of improving Kansas' health rankings, with a focus on preventive screenings. Critical to the work in support of KHA's strategic aim is leadership from the Optimal Health Committee.

The committee met on June 27 and welcomed Rebecca Swender, Senator Roger Marshall's office, who traveled from Garden City and spent several hours at KHA with the Optimal Health Committee discussing MAHA and asking KHA members for their feedback on how our members are addressing diabetes prevention and nutrition counseling in their communities; and ideas our members have for addressing policy barriers to delivering this care. The Optimal Health Committee, led by Chair Tina Davis, Ellsworth County Hospital and Vice Chair Jade Spellmeier, APRN, Goodland Regional Medical Center, provided insightful perspectives and recommendations, highlighting how hospitals are addressing chronic disease and nutrition while also identifying barriers related to public and commercial payer policies and reimbursement rates. We are grateful for Rebecca's time and the focus of Senator Marshall's office on improving the health of Kansas, which aligns with KHA's vision for Optimal Health for Kansans and Kansas Hospitals.

The Optimal Health Committee also discussed community health improvement projects that KHA members completed as part of the Healthy Kansas Hospitals mini-grant program, which was implemented last year. The program, sponsored by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Blue Health Initiatives, provided mini-grants of \$2,500 to 20 hospitals on a first-come, first-served basis. The grants supported health improvement efforts in the areas of active lifestyles, healthy eating and tobacco prevention. Additionally, physicians and practitioners on the committee shared their efforts and expertise to incorporate lifestyle medicine into their practices. Lastly, the committee engaged in a discussion on ways to improve employee health and wellness, sharing ideas for education and resources that can be incorporated into the Healthy Kansas Hospitals program.

KHA appreciates the expertise, dedication and passion of the Optimal Health Committee to improve the health of Kansans. Our team looks forward to continuing this work with the committee's guidance and identifying areas of alignment with federal and state efforts that will support KHA member hospitals.

All of us at the KHA wish you a safe and happy Independence Day!

--Chad Austin

Price Transparency in 2025: What's Required, What's Coming, What to Do Now

Hospitals are facing mounting expectations around price transparency. But shifting regulations, incomplete guidance and technical complexity make compliance a moving target. With the latest update from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (released in May 2025) and a new Request for Information open for public comment, health care provider organizations must balance immediate compliance with long-term strategy.

Whether you're confident in your transparency program, still finding your footing, or not sure where to begin, this webinar offers timely insights to help you respond with clarity and confidence. This webinar will break down what's enforceable today, answer key questions and outline what hospitals need to know now to prepare for what's next, including:

- Current requirements under CMS' most recent guidance
- Common challenges with machine-readable files, pricing estimators and identifying shoppable services
- What CMS is seeking through the RFI—and how hospitals can engage
- Key dates, deadlines and compliance strategies

Join CorroHealth experts Angela Sorbelli, JD, LL.M, MBA, CHC, vice president of regulatory affairs, CorroHealth and Nikki Graves, MBA, CHFP, senior director of operations, RCM Consulting, CorroHealth as they provide an update on the latest activity surrounding price transparency. [Register](#) for this free webinar, scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 16.

--Steve Poage

KDHE Seeks Input from Maternal and Child Health Partners

As part of the State's Title V Maternal & Child Health Services Block Grant Federal-State partnership, Kansas makes the annual application and report available to the public to gather input. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has created an online survey to collect information, opinions and perspectives from consumers and partners across the state. As a key partner informed of and concerned about the needs of MCH populations, services and resources, KDHE invites you to share your input. Find more information online at www.kansasmch.org. Complete the survey by July 11 [here](#).

--Karen Braman

CMS Releases ACA Marketplace Integrity and Affordability Final Rule

On June 20, 2025, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released the Affordable Care Act Marketplace Integrity and Affordability [Final Rule](#). Key provisions include:

- Revised procedures for stricter income verification and eligibility redetermination procedures
- Changes to the open enrollment period
- Implementing pre-enrollment verification for special enrollment periods

These provisions are expected to reduce enrollment in Marketplace plans. CMS estimates 725,000 to 1.8 million people may lose coverage. Additionally, these provisions are finalized in light of the reconciliation bill pending in Congress, which contemplates similar changes to Marketplace enrollment and coverage. The CMS Newsroom provided the following [summary](#). The rule takes effect on Aug. 25, 2025.

--Shannan Flach

Mandate to Waive Cost-Sharing for Preventive Care Upheld

On Friday, June 27, the Supreme Court backed a mandate for preventive services to be cost-free if supported by an expert panel. With a six-to-three [decision](#) in Kennedy v. Braidwood, the court overruled an appeals court's finding that members of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force were not constitutionally appointed. If the Supreme Court had agreed with the earlier decision, health plans could have reverted to charging out-of-pocket [costs for any service recommended](#) by the Task Force since the Affordable Care Act was enacted in 2010.

--Shannan Flach

KDHE Semmelweis Times Focuses on Infection Prevention

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment's quarterly publication, *Semmelweis Times*, provides insight into Kansas health care-associated infections, Antimicrobial Resistance and Antimicrobial Stewardship Efforts with a One Health Focus. The Winter-Spring 2025 issue focuses on hospital strategies for prevention and control of avian influenza and a measles update from Dana Hawkinson, MD, The University of Kansas Health System, "Doc Hawk." Check out the latest issue of the [Semmelweis Times](#).

--Karen Braman

Show Your Support of the KHA-PAC

Rock Chalk Jayhawk! It's time to show your KU pride and support the KHA-PAC in style! Last year, Wildcat fans toured Bill Snyder Family Stadium and raised more than \$900 for the KHA-PAC. Now, KU fans have a turn to step up and show them how it's done!

Join us at 3:00 p.m. on July 31 for an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of Allen Fieldhouse, the holy ground of Jayhawk basketball. After the tour, keep the fun going with drinks, food and camaraderie at Fields and Ivy Brewery. Tickets are on sale now. Buy a ticket for yourself or bring a friend! [Individual tickets](#) are \$100, or [purchase a pair](#) for just \$175.

Show the Wildcats that Jayhawks don't back down from a challenge, especially when it's for a great cause like supporting the KHA-PAC. Join the fun. Support the PAC. And Rock Chalk all the way! Get your tickets today!

--Tara Mays

ACOG Releases Guidance for Tailored Prenatal Care Delivery

In a recent [announcement](#), the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists released guidance on [Tailoring Prenatal Care Delivery for Pregnant Individuals](#). The Clinical Consensus document offers guidance on a transformative approach to the provision of prenatal care in three key areas:

- Addressing unmet social needs
- Frequency of prenatal visits and monitoring
- Incorporation of telemedicine and alternative care modalities

--Karen Braman

CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Issues Joint Statement

Following their meeting June 25-26, the Centers for Disease Control's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices issued a joint statement summarizing the committee's recommendations. The committee voted to approve the respiratory syncytial virus monoclonal antibody drug, clesrovimab, for infants younger than 8 months and to include the treatment in the Vaccines for Children program. The FDA approved clesrovimab, branded as Enflonsia, in early June. Additionally, the committee reaffirmed recommendations for annual influenza vaccination of all persons aged over six months who do not have contraindications. Further, the committee recommended that eligible individuals receive seasonal influenza vaccines only in single-dose formulations that are free of thimerosal as a preservative. See [ACIP's June 26 Joint Statement](#) for detailed information.

--Karen Braman

Federal and National News

CMS Center Issues Updates to State Operations Manual Procedures for Complaint Investigations

On June 27, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Quality, Safety & Oversight Group released [updates](#) to the State Operations Manual, Chapter 5, Sections 5500-5590. The updates to Chapter 5 provide procedures for complaint investigations and enforcement for all laboratory certificate types.

The updates include procedures for conducting complaint investigations in laboratories for all certificate types and temporary testing sites; revisions to complaint investigations and enforcement timelines; and reporting and investigating of transfusion-related fatalities.

TJC Launches Transformative Approach to Health Care Accreditation

On Monday, The Joint Commission launched [Accreditation 360: The New Standard](#), a major overhaul of its health care accreditation process. The initiative aims to reduce administrative burdens, enhance patient safety and modernize accreditation by leveraging technology, data analytics and a focus on outcomes.

Key changes include a simplified accreditation process, streamlined patient safety practices, focused outcome measures for certification and additional resources. [Read more](#) in TJC's news release.

CMS Releases Medicare CY 2026 ESRD and HHA Payment and Policy Updates

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released the calendar year 2026 proposed [End-Stage Renal Disease](#) and [Home Health Agency](#) Prospective Payment System payment and policy updates. CMS estimates that [ESRD PPS](#) payments will increase by approximately 1.9 percent, while [HHA PPS](#) payments will decrease by 6.4 percent.

Comments must be submitted by Friday, Aug. 29, for ESRD PPS proposals and by Tuesday, Sept. 2, for HHA PPS proposals.

MLN Connects Provider eNews Available

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

- [Alert: Medicare Fraud Scheme Involving Phishing Fax Requests](#)
- [Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program: Calendar Year 2025 Payment Rates](#)