We hope your holiday season began with an enjoyable Thanksgiving! A number of issues are brewing, and we've outlined them below. A couple are not yet fully developed. We wanted you to be aware as the issues are addressed.

**FCC:** Kansas has a tie to the Federal Communication Commission. Commissioner Pai, is the son of a physician practicing in southeast Kansas. So as the FCC considers reducing the subsidy for hospital broadband from 85% to 65%, AHA has reached out to us to provide examples of the impact the reduction will have on already financially stressed rural hospitals. In the past, Kan-ed has subsidized broadband for Kansas hospitals. With Kan-ed moving away from its dedicated network, this policy discussion at the national level could truly impact hospitals in Kansas.

**CMS Meaningful Use Audits:** Kansas has seen its first CMS Audit! Thanks to Lathrop and Gage for sharing the attached letter. CMS began audits of Medicare providers and dual-eligible Medicare and Medicaid hospitals that have received federal electronic health-record system incentive payments in July. The CMS hired Figliozzi & Company of Garden City, N.Y., to perform the audits of providers that have attested to having achieved meaningful use of an EHR under the programs created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Those being audited will receive a letter from Figliozzi & Company with the CMS logo on the letterhead (see attached).

CMS advises providers to "save the supporting electronic or paper documentation that support your attestation," including documentation that will back up their payment calculations. A Meaningful Use Stage 1 Reference Guide for Eligible Hospitals and CAHs with suggested audit documentation is available at [www.hithelp.info](http://www.hithelp.info).

**Attestation Dates:** Today, Nov. 30, 2012, is the last day to register and attest for 2012 Meaningful Use for eligible and Critical Access Hospitals. If you have attested for 2012 let us know! The 2012 federal fiscal year ended Sept. 30, 2012. Eligible hospitals and CAHs had 60 days after the end of the federal year to submit their data. Eligible providers are paid on a calendar year ending Dec. 31. They have until Feb. 28, 2013, to register and attest for CY 2012. Click [here](http://www.hithelp.info) to view a useful CMS timeline with resources for attestation and registration.

**ONC visits Kansas:** KHA had the opportunity to bring ONC’s new Rural HIT Coordinator, Leila Samy, to three rural hospitals this fall. CEOs and representatives from 26 Kansas hospitals
shared with Leila the varied and creative models they have developed for implementation of electronic health records to meet meaningful use. Participants were also direct about their concerns and issues with the EHR incentive program. The Kansas Hospital Association gathered information from hospitals following her visit to compose the attached letter to ONC. Thank you to everyone for your input.

**ONC Seeks Comments on Draft Meaningful Use Stage 3 Recommendations:** A notice was published in the Federal Register this week announcing that the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology will accept comments through January 14 on the HIT Policy Committee’s draft recommendations for Stage 3 meaningful use of electronic health records. According to the request for comments, the committee seeks feedback on new and revised meaningful use objectives and measures; propose certification criteria for information exchange; 30 questions on clinical quality measures within the context of defined attributes for stage 3 CQMs; eight questions on privacy and security issues; and additional broad questions on the meaningful use construct. Comments must be submitted electronically through the [Regulations.gov](http://Regulations.gov) website.

**AHA Annual Information Technology Supplement Survey Deadline Extended:** This week, the American Hospital Association sent an additional mailing of the AHA IT Supplemental Survey to designated IT contacts or CEOs of member hospitals and extended the deadline for completion to Monday, December 17. PLEASE help us by completing the survey. Results from the survey are critical for 1) KHA’s advocacy efforts, 2) support of grant opportunities, and 3) are used to populate EHR Connect. Your participation is much appreciated. For more information, contact AHA survey support at (800) 530-9092 or surveysupport@healthforum.com.

Also, in the field is a survey being conducted by HIMSS directed specifically at CAHS. This survey is being conducted in partnership with ONC. We know that surveys take time on your part and appreciate your efforts!

Melissa Hungerford  
Executive VP/CEO-KHERF  
Kansas Hospital Association  
215 S.E. Eighth Ave.  
Topeka, KS  66603-3906  
(785) 233-7436  
(785) 233-6955 (fax)  
[www.kha-net.org](http://www.kha-net.org)  
[mhungerford@kha-net.org](mailto:mhungerford@kha-net.org)