



***KHA's Current Report***  
**May 24, 2024**

**President's Perspective – Honoring Sacrifice This Memorial Day**

As we prepare to celebrate the Memorial Day weekend, which for many is the unofficial start to summer, I am reminded that Memorial Day, observed annually on the last Monday of May, holds profound significance. Beyond the barbecues and long weekends, this day serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by the brave men and women who have laid down their lives in service to their country.

Originally known as Decoration Day, Memorial Day traces its roots back to the aftermath of the Civil War, when communities across the nation came together to honor the fallen soldiers by decorating their graves with flowers. Over time, this tradition evolved into a national holiday dedicated to remembering all those who have died in military service.

For many, Memorial Day is a time to visit cemeteries and memorials, laying wreaths and flags to honor the fallen. Beyond the rituals of remembrance, Memorial Day also provides an opportunity for reflection on the broader significance of sacrifice. It is a day to contemplate the ideals these men and women fought and died for – liberty, justice and the pursuit of a better world. Their sacrifice is a beacon of hope, inspiring future generations to uphold these values and strive for a more peaceful and just society.

Additionally, Memorial Day reminds us of the ongoing commitment required to support those who serve in the armed forces. It is a time to express gratitude to veterans and active-duty personnel and to recognize the sacrifices made by their families. From the battlefields of distant lands to the challenges of reintegration into civilian life, the burdens borne by service members (including those in health care) extend far beyond their military service.

Take time this Memorial Day for remembrance and reflection. As we pause to remember the fallen, let's look to the future with a renewed sense of purpose. Let's honor the legacy of their sacrifice by working toward a world where peace and justice prevail. I wish you all a safe Memorial Day weekend.

*--Chad Austin*

**KHA Award Nominations Due June 1**

Help the Kansas Hospital Association identify individuals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. The deadline to nominate individuals for a KHA Award is June 1. We encourage health care organizations to enter a nomination for the following [awards](#):

[The Charles S. Billings Award](#) is KHA's highest honor. It recognizes a hospital leader for his or her lifetime of service and continuing contribution to Kansas's health care. This award was established in 1971 to honor Billings' dedication and years of service to Kansans.



[The Distinguished Health Care Advocate Award](#) honors individuals, organizations or groups that have made an exemplary contribution to the health and well-being of the people of Kansas through their leadership in the political or policy arena. This awards members of KHA the opportunity to recognize those who work on our behalf from outside our ranks.



[The Donald A. Wilson Visionary Award](#) recognizes hospital-related individuals who have made an outstanding, innovative contribution to health care delivery, health care financing or initiatives that improve the health and clinical outcomes of their community. This award was established in 2007 to honor Wilson's dedication and years of service to Kansans.



[The Trustee of the Year Award](#) honors a hospital board member who is a leader, gives back to the community and routinely goes beyond the call of duty. KHA members are encouraged to recognize a trustee who has served with distinction and made significant contributions to the betterment of their hospital and community.



[The Heart of Health Care Award](#), previously called the Health Care Worker of the Year Award, recognizes and honors the excellence of health care workers statewide. KHA will recognize all nominated employees (one employee from every hospital) for making a significant contribution to the betterment of their hospital. Any type of employee can be nominated. They can be a tenured employee with years of service or a newer staff member. New this year, there will be additional recognition as a "Rising Star" if your nominee has been in healthcare (or employed in your hospital) for less than five years.



[The Workforce Strategies Award](#) recognizes a team of employees, providers or volunteers who worked collaboratively to make a significant contribution to the well-being, retention or recruitment of health care workers at their facility(s) or in Kansas.



Thank you in advance for your assistance in helping us recognize and highlight those individuals deserving recognition. Make your nominations online by June 1. We have a new online nomination tool with Reviewr, and we hope this new tool makes the nomination process even easier.

--Cindy Samuelson

### **Refresher on the Basics of Managed Care Contracting Educational Webinar – June 12**

Join us for an educational webinar at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 12, when Richelle Marting, an attorney with Marting Law, LLC, will provide a basic overview of managed care contracting, a review of critical elements contained in the draft Healthy Blue contracts, tips for negotiating favorable terms and anti-trust implications of coordinated negotiations. In addition to course instruction, participants will be provided a [managed care contracting toolkit](#) to assist them in vetting managed care contracts.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

### **Register Now! Noon Briefing: Defending Your Revenue – June 18**

Join the Kansas Hospital Association for a noon briefing on Tuesday, June 18, when Rural Hospital Insurance of America, powered by HealthSure, will host a panel discussion moderated by Michael Patti, risk advisor, RHIA. This panel of experts will share practical strategies and tactics to combat these challenges so your hospital can be stronger in defending the revenue you're entitled to and preventing the unnecessary loss of these precious dollars.



--Hayley Finch-Genschorck

### **Joint Commission New and Revised Requirements for Infection Prevention and Control Webinar**

Effective July 1, 2024, The Joint Commission approved new and revised requirements for the "Infection Prevention and Control" chapter for Critical Access Hospitals and hospitals accredited by The Joint Commission. The IC chapter has been fully rewritten and replaces the current IC chapter for both accreditation programs. The revised chapter focuses on the structures supporting quality and safety.

The Joint Commission is offering a free on-demand webinar to introduce the new and revised requirements for the "Infection Prevention and Control" chapter for CAHs and hospitals accredited by The Joint Commission. The webinar will offer practical examples of how the requirements apply and highlight available resources, including a reference guide and a new infection prevention and control program assessment tool to assist organizations in meeting the requirements. The [prepublication reference guide](#) is available from the Joint Commission.

This on-demand webinar offers one CE credit or ACHE-qualifying education hour. To complete the activity, participants must view the recorded content, complete a short reading activity and complete the CE survey and attestation by June 18, 2024. There is no fee to attend this webinar, and there is no limit on the number of a facility's staff who can attend.

Click to  
Register

--Ron Marshall

### **Federal and National News**

#### **CMS Launches New EMTALA Complaint Reporting Option**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [launched](#) a new option for filing complaints related to possible EMTALA violations. This new reporting option is part of the Biden-Harris Administration's plan to educate the public and promote access to emergency care. Under EMTALA, patients presenting to a hospital seeking care have the right to an appropriate medical screening exam to see if an emergency medical condition exists and treatment until the emergency medical condition is stabilized or an appropriate transfer to another hospital is completed.

#### **Department of Labor Announces Final Rule Updating Hazard Communication Standard**

The U.S. Department of Labor announced a [final rule](#) from OSHA updating the current Hazard Communication Standard to better protect workers. The updated HCS increases the amount and quality of information on labels and safety data sheets and allows workers and first responders to react quickly in an emergency. The updates take effect on July 19.

Aligned primarily with the seventh revision of the United Nations' Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, the updated standard will require labels on small packaging to be more comprehensive and readable. It also makes changes to help ensure trade secrets no longer prevent workers and first responders from receiving critical hazard information on safety data sheets.

To learn more about [hazard communication](#) and the pending changes, OSHA provided short videos about the improved rule available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

### **CDC Issues Health Advisory for International Travel to Saudi Arabia**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a [health advisory](#) for cases of meningococcal disease linked to Umrah travel to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Umrah is an Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca in KSA that can be performed any time in the year. The Hajj is an annual Islamic pilgrimage, taking place June 14-19. Providers are reminded that individuals one year of age and older traveling to KSA should have a current quadrivalent vaccine or booster for meningococcal disease.

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

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

- [Medicare Shared Savings Program: Apply by June 17 for Jan. 1 Start Date](#)
- [Medicare Providers: Deadlines for Joining an Accountable Care Organization](#)
- [Institutional Providers: Medicare Enrollment and Certification Roadmap](#)
- [Improve Your Search Results for CMS Content](#)