



KHA's Current Report
May 31, 2024

President's Perspective – 340B Drug Discount Program Supports Kansans

Kansas hospitals are essential to the state's health care delivery system. For instance, there were more than 260,843 discharges in the 122 Kansas community hospitals in 2023. Toward that end, Kansas hospitals are committed to providing compassionate health care to all Kansans. While unwavering in that commitment, many stiff headwinds are starting to test the ability to maintain that promise.

It is well documented that Kansas hospitals, especially those in rural areas, are financially struggling. A recent [study](#) by the Center for Healthcare Quality and Payment Reform suggests that nearly 700 rural hospitals across the country are at risk of closure. Unfortunately, Kansas ranks second in the country with the number of at-risk hospitals (57), only trailing Texas (77). The causes of the financial struggles are multi-faceted and include soaring labor and supply costs, growing uninsured rates, stagnant reimbursement and reductions in important programs such as the 340B Drug Discount Program.

The 340B Drug Discount Program, started in 1992, requires drug manufacturers participating in the Medicaid program to offer discounted drugs to certain hospitals and federally qualified health centers. In Kansas, 94 hospitals participate in the 340B Drug Discount Program, of which 84 are small, rural hospitals.

Unfortunately, drug manufacturers have recently started decimating the 340B Drug Discount Program by limiting the number of pharmacies a hospital may contract with. These actions are jeopardizing Kansans' ability to access needed prescriptions and other vital health services.

Fortunately, Kansas lawmakers recognized the drug manufacturers' harmful actions and have appropriately responded to ensure the further reduction of the 340B Drug Discount Program is paused. During the recent 2024 Kansas legislative session, the Kansas Legislature approved a budget proviso requiring drug manufacturers to honor 340B pricing at contract pharmacies under the Consumer Protection Act of Kansas.

Kansas hospitals appreciate Governor Laura Kelly's and the legislature's actions in supporting their local hospitals, federally qualified health centers and independent pharmacies over the profit-padding drug manufacturers. Keeping programs like the 340B Drug Discount Program intact will benefit our Kansas health care system and Kansans.

--Chad Austin

KHA Award Nominations Due June 3

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 has been extended to June 3. 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' 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 3. 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

National Council of State Boards of Nursing Releases Fraud Detection Tool

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing released [Fraud Detection Guidance for Employers and Educators](#). The purpose of the paper is to provide guidance to nurse educators and employers with recommendations for identifying fraud when they review nurse applications and transcripts for advanced study, employment, certification or other uses. The guidance identified mechanisms that may be used to deceive nursing regulatory bodies, employers and educators. It also provides recommendations for avoiding fraud in your institution.

--Karen Braman

KFF Survey Finds Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Mental Health Care

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, 90 percent of adults living in the U.S. say the country is facing a mental health crisis and many report major impacts of severe mental health concerns on their families. [Recent findings](#) show that people of color and other minorities continue to face additional barriers to treatment, such as stigma, lack of culturally competent care, scheduling challenges, and a history of negative experiences with health care providers.

--Karen Braman

The 2024 KHA Membership Directory Is Now Available

The 2024 Kansas Hospital Association Membership Directories are being distributed to the CEOs of all members. If you would like additional directories, please contact [Jan Fenwick](#) at (785) 233-7436.

In addition, we also have a [digital version](#) of the 2024 KHA Membership Directory for your use. Both the hard copy and digital versions are current as of May 1. As a reminder, the [online membership directory](#) is updated in real-time, so you always have the latest member organization executive staff information at your fingertips.

The KHA Membership Directory is a benefit only members can access, so you must enter your KHA username and password to access both the online and digital directory. If you haven't registered for a [username and password](#), just [complete the requested information](#). Your information will have to be verified by KHA staff (a confirmation email will be sent to you) before you will be able to access members' only portions of the website. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact KHA at (785) 233-7436.

--Jan Fenwick

Health Observances and Recognition Days for June Month-Long Observances

- Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month
- Aphasia Awareness Month (National)
- Cataract Awareness Month
- Congenital Cytomegalovirus Awareness Month (National)
- Fireworks Eye Safety Month
- Headache and Migraine Awareness Month (National)
- Hernia Awareness Month
- Liver Health Matters Month
- Men's Health Month
- Migraine and Headache Awareness Month (National)
- Myasthenia Gravis Awareness Month
- PTSD Awareness Month
- Scleroderma Awareness Month (National)
- Scoliosis Awareness Month

Week-Long Observances

- June 10-14 – Community Health Improvement Week
- June 10-16 – Men's Health Week
- June 13-19 – Nursing Assistant Week (National)
- June 17-21 – Healthcare Risk Management Week
- June 25-July 1 – Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week

Recognition Days | Events

- June 2 – Cancer Survivors Day (National)
- June 7 – #HAVhope Friday: National Day of Awareness
- June 8 – Brain Tumor Day (World), Family Health and Fitness Day
- June 14 – Blood Donor Day (World), Wear Blue Friday
- June 18 – Autistic Pride Day
- June 19 – Sickle Cell Day (World)
- June 25 – Vitiligo Day (World)
- June 27 – HIV Testing Day (National)

The Kansas Hospital Association and Society for Healthcare Strategy and Market Development are pleased to bring you the [2024 Calendar of Health Observances & 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 2024 community health events, internal and external communications, social media campaigns and more. The 2024 calendar is easy to navigate and interactive and features more than 230 health observances and recognition days. Don't miss out on the chance to receive 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.

[Download the 2024 Calendar](#)

--Jan Fenwick

Federal and National News

CMS Deadline for Provider Enrollment Is June 3

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has a new requirement for physicians who certify patient eligibility. For Medicare to pay for hospice services, the following physicians must enroll in Medicare or opt out by Monday, June 3.

- The hospice medical director or the physician member of the hospice interdisciplinary group who certifies the patient's terminal condition
- The patient-designated attending physician who certifies their terminal condition

CMS will deny hospice claims if the certifying physician isn't in the Medicare Provider Enrollment, Chain and Ownership System hospice [ordering and referring](#) files by June 3. Providers who are currently enrolled don't need to do anything. Hospices can quickly verify a physician's status using the CMS ordering and referring data file, which lists all Medicare-enrolled and opted-out physicians.

HRSA Nursing Grant Opportunity to Launch Soon

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has dedicated \$4.75 million to the Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention – Workforce Expansion Program. This [program](#) aims to increase the nursing workforce in rural (nonmetro) and underserved areas to address the critical shortage of nurses, specifically in acute and long-term care settings.

Eligible applicants include public and state-controlled institutions of higher education, as well as private institutions of higher education. An accredited school of nursing, health care facility or partnership of such a school and facility and entities that confer associate degrees in nursing, such as community colleges, are also eligible.

MLN Connects Provider eNews Available

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

- [Hospice Interdisciplinary Team: Addition of Marriage and Family Therapists and Mental Health Counselors](#)
- [Revised Part B Inflation Rebate Guidance: Using the 340B Modifier – Reminder](#)