



KHA's Current Report
October 18, 2024

President's Perspective – Fall District Meetings See Record Turnout

The first two weeks of October are when the Kansas Hospital Association is on the road hosting our semi-annual district meetings. The gatherings allow hospital leaders to network with their peers and hear several pertinent issues facing Kansas hospitals. Beyond the timely and informative information shared, the most rewarding aspect is always the dialogue and feedback during the meeting. Thank you to all our members who attended.

We started the meetings by discussing hospitals' financial health. We shared data from our All Payers Scorecard and discussed some initial findings from a study we will release in December. We will soon send members information on a December webinar to discuss the study's findings on Kansas hospitals' financial challenges. Some concerns about the KanCare contracting process were expressed in our discussion. Hospitals experiencing issues are recommended to email the [Medicaid director](#) with their grievances.

We also walked through KHA public education campaigns and resources specific to Medicare Advantage, the 340B Program and a future campaign on hospitals' financial health. Members were encouraged to launch local campaigns to complement our statewide efforts. Campaign folders were set up through Box for KHA members. If you have any questions, please let us know.

A portion of the meeting also discussed statewide and local workforce initiatives. KHA highlighted several efforts, including the next Virtual Health Care Career Day on Jan. 30, 2025; the [Happy in Health Care website and quiz](#); Kansas HOSA; the Kansas Health Care Preceptor Academy; and health care apprenticeships. KHA members also shared their best practices on recruitment and retention.

Members weighed in on the draft KHA 2025-2027 Strategic Plan. Gathering your input on the direction you want KHA to take for the next three years is always necessary. The feedback and results we collected will be shared with the KHA Board of Directors at its November board meeting for final approval of the KHA three-year strategic plan.

Another topic attendees had the opportunity to share and discuss was how KHA members use artificial intelligence. Several approaches are used, from clinical documentation to fine-tuning internal policies. We will pull together the takeaways from all six meetings and share them with our members as we build more resources in this area.

We discussed the latest state and federal advocacy initiatives for the remainder of the year and in preparation for the 2025 Kansas legislative session. The upcoming elections will dictate which health care policies will take priority at the federal and state levels.

Lastly, we drew attention to how members can engage with and impact the association's work through our KHA boards and committees. Our members' service on KHA committees is the association's essential work. Please fill out this [online nomination form](#) if you can serve on one of our 26 KHA policy groups (boards and committees).

If you missed these meetings, the slides can be found [online](#). As always, thanks to our sponsors, the Kansas Health Service Corporation, APS, KAMMCO and Qualivis, for allowing another successful round of district meetings. And, most of all, thanks to those of you who attended our meetings and gave us such great feedback! Don't hesitate to let us know if you have any questions or need additional assistance!

--Chad Austin

Upcoming Webinars on Price Transparency

It is essential hospitals implement additional price transparency standards by Jan. 1, 2025. We encourage hospitals to register for a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services price transparency webinar at noon on Oct. 21. In addition, KHA will host a price transparency webinar at 1:00 p.m. on Dec. 10 to review the new requirements.

As of July 1, 2024, hospital machine-readable files must conform to a CMS template layout and data specifications. Starting Jan. 1, 2025, you must also encode additional data elements.

Please let [Shannan Flach](#) know if you are unsure of your ability to meet these standards by Jan. 1.

Monday, Oct. 21, from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Hospital Price Transparency: Encoding January 2025 Requirements in the Machine-Readable File Webinar

Join CMS to review:

- How to encode the data elements required by Jan.1, 2025
- Tips to make sure your MRFs conform to the requirements effective July 1, 2024

[Click to Register](#)

--Shannan Flach

KHC and KHA to Release Issue Briefs on Emergency Department Visits

The Kansas Healthcare Collaborative and the Kansas Hospital Association are partnering to release a series of [issue briefs on Emergency Department visits](#) in Kansas, using the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Emergency Department Prevention Quality Indicators. In September 2023, AHRQ released a new group of area-based quality measures called Emergency Department Prevention Quality Indicators. Five PQE measures reflect ED visit rates for potentially preventable ED visits. The PQEs are area-based measures, meaning they are evaluated and reported for geographic areas, usually counties. The PQEs are "avoidable use" measures in that they identify conditions sensitive to the health status of a county's population (or other area) and the availability and quality of health care services in the county. PQEs are not used to measure quality at the hospital level. KHA and KHC hope the results in the issue briefs will be useful to hospitals and other organizations planning population health improvement activities, community health needs assessments or other health improvement efforts.

--Karen Braman

FDA Issues Exemptions from Nov. 27, Compliance Deadline for Updated DSCSA Requirements

On Oct. 9, the Food and Drug Administration issued [exemptions](#) from the upcoming Nov. 27, 2024, compliance deadline for the U.S. Drug Supply Chain Security Act requirements. The updated exemptions from the FDA do NOT change the following requirements for pharmacies:

- Know your drug suppliers and ensure they are authorized trading partners.
- Know where your product tracing or transaction information (data) is stored and how to access it.
- Know what the suspect product is, how to identify and investigate it and what to do if it is deemed illegitimate.
- Policies and procedures for prescription drug purchasing and investigations for suspect or illegitimate products.

According to the FDA's announcement this week, the FDA continues receiving feedback from trading partners regarding readiness to adequately meet the Food Drug and Cosmetic Act requirements by the Nov. 27, 2024, compliance deadline. The FDA recognizes that trading partners who have initiated their systems and processes and have established electronic DSCSA data connections with their trading partners may need additional time beyond Nov. 27, 2024, when the stabilization period ends, to strengthen capabilities to mitigate data issues associated with electronic DSCSA transaction information and transaction statements and to ensure uninterrupted product distribution. The FDA's notification outlines exemptions for manufacturers, repackagers, wholesale distributors and dispensers with 26 or more full-time employees.

Review the [FDA's Oct. 9 notice of exemptions to the DSCSA](#) for detailed information about exemptions. KHA will monitor compliance requirements and exemptions and their impact on hospital pharmacies, communicate with the Board of Pharmacy and continue to provide updates to KHA members.

--Karen Braman

SUNRx 340B Webinar Series: 340B Regulatory Brief

Please join us for an informative webinar hosted by SunRx featuring special guest Maureen Testoni, president and CEO at 340B Health. The webinar will be at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 6.

This webinar will focus on the ever-changing regulatory environment for 340B pharmacy, which requires eligible entities to be nimble and disciplined in managing their program. Litigation, pharmacy pricing constraints, ESP and elections all contribute to disruption in the 340B marketplace. Navigating the current ecosystem of 340B pricing limitations created by Big Pharma requires understanding the current regulatory environment. This webinar will provide insights supporting decisions that position your entity to maintain a compliant and optimized 340B pharmacy program.

In this session, Testoni and SunRx share valuable insights into managing your 340B pharmacy strategy, including the program's history, the current Federal and State Regulatory Environment and how to prepare for the future.

[Click to Register](#)

--Steve Poage

CMS Releases List of Potential \$2 Drugs

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released a [request for information](#) and a sample list of prescription drugs that the agency intends to include under the proposed [Medicare \\$2 Drug List Model](#). Under this model, beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare Part D would have access to these drugs for a low, fixed copayment of no more than \$2 for a month's supply per drug. CMS issued this RFI to support the continued development of the model. For more information, find [CMS' press release](#). KHA will be soliciting feedback from members and partners to include in comments on the RFI. Please contact [Karen Braman](#) or [Jaron Caffrey](#) at (785) 233-7436, if you would like to provide feedback on this proposed model.

--Karen Braman

Qualivis Webinar: State of the Market – Navigating Workforce Trends, Challenges and Opportunities

As we approach the end of 2024, it is an excellent time to evaluate the current state of the health care workforce and how we can help our members prepare for winter ahead. Join us at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 25, for Qualivis' State of the Market webinar. We will look at current labor challenges and supply and demand trends. We will also highlight the focus on clinical quality and engagement while ensuring that proper resources are in place for the upcoming holidays.

[Click to Register](#)

If you have questions or need additional information, contact [Dennis George](#) at (913) 327-8730.
--Dennis George

Midwest High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area

The [Midwest High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area](#) comprises 73 designated counties in Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota and Illinois. The goal of the Midwest HIDTA is to enhance and facilitate the coordination of regional drug-control efforts among local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to reduce drug trafficking and its harmful consequences. The Midwest HIDTA strengthens drug control efforts by forging partnerships among local, state, tribal and federal law enforcement agencies to facilitate information and intelligence sharing, cooperative investigations and joint operations designed to reduce drug trafficking and drug availability. Such efforts by the Midwest HIDTA support 61 initiatives including 44 drug task forces, six domestic highway interdiction programs, five intelligence initiatives, two prevention initiatives and three support initiatives. For more information, visit the [Midwest HIDTA Resources](#), which includes the [Midwest HIDTA Kansas Overdose Report – 2024](#).

--Karen Braman

Scholarships Available for Support for Tobacco Recovery Training Course

Scholarships are available for the [Support for Tobacco Recovery Training course](#). The STaRT course, provided by KU Tobacco Treatment Education, was designed for peer support specialists, mentors and community health workers. For more information regarding the Tobacco Treatment Education courses, contact [MeLinda Lair](#), program manager, at (913) 945.7888.

--Karen Braman

Registration Reminder – 2024 KPQC Virtual Fall Conference

There is still time to register for the Oct. 22, [Kansas Perinatal Quality Collaborative](#) Virtual Fall Conference. This year's conference theme is *Birth & Beyond: What Keeps You Up at Night?* Join the KPQC for this virtual, complimentary conference featuring clinical and health policy leaders. Engage in conversations and learnings to improve maternal outcomes and health equity.

[Click to Register](#)

--Karen Braman

Kansas Health Equity Summit Oct. 30 – Register Today

The 2024 Kansas Health Equity Summit, *Creating Oases in Deserts*, is from 8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 30, at the Eugene M. Hughes Metropolitan Complex in Wichita. The summit is a comprehensive event dedicated to addressing and mitigating the challenges posed by resource deserts. This summit unites health care professionals, payers, state collaborators and community organizations to explore strategies and solutions for improving health equity in underserved communities.

Key Discussion Topics for this year's summit include:

- Identifying Social Drivers of Health Deserts
- Community Empowerment
- Breaking Barriers to Access
- Utilizing Community Health Workers Harnessing Data for Action

Visit the [conference webpage](#) to register and see more information about our breakout sessions. Registration closes on Oct. 21.

--Karen Braman

Diagnostic Excellence – Age-Friendly Health Systems Seed Grant Program

The Diagnostic Excellence–Age-Friendly Health Systems Seed Grant Program, Cohort 2, is an Institute for Healthcare Improvement initiative through the support of The John A. Hartford Foundation. This DxEx–AFHS Cohort 2 Request for Proposals seeks to identify novel ways to improve the care and outcomes of older adults (age 65+ years) through the reliable implementation of best practices and innovations in system and process designs supporting age-friendly diagnostic practices. The Age-Friendly Health Systems initiative focuses on reliably providing a set of four evidence-based elements of high-quality care to older adults, known as the 4Ms: What Matters, Medication, Mentation and Mobility. The 4Ms will also serve as the approach to improvement in diagnosis for older adults.

IHI, with the support of The John A. Hartford Foundation, will award up to eight grants of up to \$75,000 each to health care organizations to pilot-test new interventions and practices using improvement and/or implementation science that identify and test the methods, infrastructure, staff, and/or training necessary to improve diagnosis for older adults. Eligible organizations invited to apply include organizations that deliver direct patient care with experience in improving diagnosis (e.g., successful in obtaining external funding for improving diagnosis) and have prior experience in enhancing care for older adults – such as achieving Age-Friendly Health Systems recognition at the Participant or Committed to Care Excellence. Preference will be given to organizations and/or health systems (whether a whole health system or a smaller facility within it) that have not received a DxEx seed grant in the past two years.

Applications are due by 10:59 p.m. on Nov. 8. See the [Request for Proposal](#) for detailed information.

--Karen Braman

Federal and National News

CMS Finalizes Appeal Rights for Certain Changes in Patient Status

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released a [final rule](#) regarding establishing an appeals process for particular Medicare beneficiaries initially admitted as hospital inpatients and subsequently reclassified as outpatients receiving observation services. The new process consists of standard, expedited and retrospective appeals processes.

NHSN Updates Hospital Respiratory Data Reporting

The new Hospital Respiratory Data module, including the HRD Daily and HRD Weekly Reporting Pathways, is now available in the National Healthcare Safety Network application.

NHSN recommends that facilities voluntarily submit HRD before the required deadline of Friday, Nov. 1, to ensure familiarity with the module and reporting process. Any data submitted voluntarily will be used for surveillance and must reflect accurate data, not "test" data.

The HRD NHSN website has been updated with [resources](#).

MLN Connects Provider eNews Available

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

- [Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities: Guidance on All-Inclusive Cost Reporting](#)
- [No-Pay Medicare Summary Notice Mailing Frequency Changed to Every 120 Days](#)
- [Health Literacy: Help Your Patients Get Information and Services](#)