



KHA's Current Report
March 14, 2025

President's Perspective – Federal Visits Focus – Fund Medicare and Medicaid, Protect 340B

Last week, I had the opportunity to travel to Washington, DC, with representatives from Kansas hospitals as part of the American Hospital Association's Advocacy Day to visit our members of Congress on Capitol Hill to discuss our federal priorities. We had the opportunity to meet with Congressman Tracey Mann, Congressman Derek Schmidt and Congresswoman Sharice Davids and staff for Senator Jerry Moran and Congressman Ron Estes. While there have been substantial changes related to the turnover in power to the Donald Trump Administration and complete Republican control of Congress, our message to our representatives and senators has remained remarkably consistent: ensure stable programmatic Medicare and Medicaid funding and protect the future of the 340B Drug Pricing Program.

This consistency has paid off as the first major bill of the 119th Congress – the fiscal year 2025 Continuing Resolution, the bill that will fund the federal government for the duration of the current fiscal year – protects telehealth access, Medicare's low-volume adjustment, the Medicare dependent hospital program, and –importantly for Kansas – further delay in the Affordable Care Act's disproportionate share hospital cuts. While this bill does not extend the so-called "doc fix" or the ACA's enhanced premium tax credits, earlier iterations of the CR were rumored to include some of these items potentially. Our work with our federal elected officials over the years to help them understand these complex issues and AHA's excellent timing for a large lobbying day certainly paid off!

The House passed its version of the CR on Tuesday night by a slim 217-213 margin, with one Republican voting no and one Democrat voting aye. Regardless of how things go from here, the more conservative chamber has passed the bill it deemed the most conservative it could pass, and these important health care extenders were included. Whatever ultimately passes will include them, even if we have to endure a government shutdown.

The next major agenda item on the horizon is the budget reconciliation bill, which must address the expiration of the Trump I-era tax cuts. To pass this bill, Congress must adopt a new budget resolution that sets the reconciliation bill's spending and revenue targets. The House and Senate are in conference to unify their vastly different budget resolutions. Of particular concern for the health care community, the House's version of the budget resolution instructs the House Energy and Commerce Committee to find \$880 million in cuts over ten years. If they do not touch Medicare, they must cut Medicaid to some extent to meet this mandate. We oppose widespread

Medicaid reductions and have made this clear to our delegation. Expect this to be a point of contention on the reconciliation bill going forward.

Finally, we are working with our delegation on a proposal to help hospitals retain their 340B eligibility despite Medicaid waiver changes at the state level. With Kansas's adoption of a Sec. 1915 Medicaid waiver, some hospitals are dangerously close to the 340B eligibility line because their cost reports do not allow them to count uninsured, uncompensated care in their eligibility calculation. We are exploring options to address this with an upcoming budget or spending bill provision.

As always, we encourage your participation in KHA's advocacy efforts on the federal and state levels. Please don't hesitate to contact the KHA staff if you need assistance!

--Chad Austin

Agenda Set for 2025 KHA Spring District Meetings

KHA District Meetings provide members with timely information, essential in helping KHA learn about your top issues. We encourage CEOs, CFOs, HR executives, trustees and senior staff to join us. We want to have interactive conversations, so we invite key staff working or interested in the topic areas below.

- Financial Strategies – Price transparency, financial stability and economic awareness campaign
- Quality and Safety – Challenges with rural OB care and optimizing reimbursement for population health
- Workforce Strategies – Workforce vacancy and turnover, new hybrid RN program and physician recruitment
- KHSC and APS Spotlight Services
- State and Federal Advocacy
- Member Updates and District Discussions
- State and Federal Advocacy and Regulations Discussions

The [full agenda](#) is online. Join us to network with your peers and KHA staff at 9:30 a.m. Meeting times will be from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., with lunch provided. You can attend any meeting, so pick the best location for your schedule! These meetings are provided at no charge.

KHA District	Date	Location	City
NW	April 1	Logan County Health Services - EMS Building	Oakley
SW	April 2	St. Catherine Hospital-Garden City	Garden City
SC	April 3	Pratt Regional Medical Center	Pratt
NC	April 4	Abilene Childcare - Nichols Education Center	Abilene
SE	April 8	Mercy Hospital Pittsburg	Pittsburg
NE	April 9	Sunflower Foundation - Powerhouse Conference Center	Topeka



Thank you to our sponsors for these free meetings: Diamond-Level: APS, KAMMCO and KHSC; Platinum-Level: Qualivis.

--Cindy Samuelson

Provider Tax Update

The funds for the Medicaid enhancement payments for the fourth quarter of 2024 will go to the MCOs today, and hospitals should begin receiving payments next week. In addition, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services approved the distribution of the 2024 uncompensated care costs payments on Wednesday of this week. UCC payments go to prospective payment system hospitals. KHA is working with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to distribute the funds as quickly as possible and will send out a payment amount and more information on the 2024 UCC payment date when it becomes available.

--Audrey Dunkel

Administrative Professional Networking Roundtable Zoom Meeting – March 27

There's still time for administrative professionals and executive assistants to register for our next KHA Administrative Professional Networking Roundtable Zoom Meeting from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, Mar. 27. This free, interactive session will focus on exchanging best practices, brainstorming and sharing valuable tips.

This isn't just another webinar – active participation is encouraged, so please have your cameras on and audio ready. Note that the session will not be recorded.

CEOs, we ask that you share this information with your executive assistants and encourage them to register.



After registration, you'll receive a survey to gather your ideas and topics for discussion. We're eager to hear what you'd like to share or ask! If you have questions, contact [Tom Hagen](#) at (785) 233-7436. Let's make these discussions engaging and productive.

We look forward to seeing you there.

--Tom Hagen

CMS Innovation Center Discontinues Payment Models

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Innovation Center announced Wednesday that it will end several payment models intended to save money in Medicare and Medicaid.

The models identified to end early are:

- Primary Care First (2021 – 2026)
- Making Care Primary (2024 – 2034)
- ESRD Treatment Choices (2021 – 2027; will propose termination through rulemaking)
- Maryland Total Cost of Care (2019 – 2026)

Additionally, the CMS Innovation Center will no longer pursue two previously announced models under the Biden administration:

- Medicare \$2 Drug List
- Accelerating Clinical Evidence

CMMI will announce a new strategy for models that empower people "with information to make better decisions, and driving choice and competition." CMS estimates that ending these models early will save almost \$750 million.

Participating health care providers will have through the end of the year to transition to other models and should expect follow-up communication from their models with timelines, technical assistance and other information regarding the wind-down and close-out.

--Jaron Caffrey

2024 American Hospital Association Annual Survey

On March 12, the Kansas Hospital Association emailed hospital CEOs and CFOs the materials necessary to complete the 2024 AHA Annual Survey. The survey deadline for completion is May 31. The data provides critical information to KHA when implementing tools and solutions for Kansas hospitals, to populate information for membership on [KHASTAT.org](https://www.khastat.org) and the KHA Economic Impact Report. The survey is relied on by the KHA Advocacy Team at the state and national level to educate legislators, the public and membership through a number of publications.

Survey materials include a [walkthrough](#) explaining how to complete the survey online and a [copy of the survey](#) as a reference. The survey is available [online](#) for completion. The web-based collection tool is efficient and secure. For assistance with survey log-in, if you need an extension to complete the survey or didn't receive it, please contact [Dee Lewis](#) at KHA (785) 276-3110.

--Dee Lewis

TRICARE West Regional Update

On Jan. 1, TriWest Healthcare Alliance began administering the TRICARE program across 26 western states. TriWest has experienced unforeseen issues and recognizes that the TRICARE transition has led to challenges. TriWest is working to address outstanding issues.

The [provider information guide](#) contains important information and resources related to the TRICARE transition. Also included is an [update](#) on the progress as TriWest continues to improve efficiency.

Please let me know if I can provide any additional assistance.

--Shannan Flach

Modernized Scheduling for VA Community Care Appointments in Kansas

The Department of Veterans Affairs is enhancing the scheduling process for Veteran community health care appointments across Kansas through a new platform called External Provider Scheduling. This system allows VA schedulers to directly book authorized appointments into participating community providers' scheduling systems in real-time, eliminating delays caused by phone calls and faxes.

Veterans who rely on community care will experience faster access to medical services as the time between approved consultations and scheduled appointments is significantly reduced. EPS is particularly beneficial in rural areas of Kansas, where access to timely care has historically been a challenge.

Key Benefits of EPS for Kansas VA Schedulers:

- Real-time scheduling into community provider systems
- Elimination of redundant communication via phone and fax
- Reduced appointment wait times, ensuring faster care for Veterans
- Simplified referral and scheduling process, improving efficiency
- Ability to schedule multiple appointments in a single interaction

Key Benefits for Kansas Community Providers:

- Instant referral authorization, reducing administrative burdens
- Seamless integration with existing scheduling systems
- No additional costs or fees for participation
- Simplified processes for handling VA-referred patients
- Guaranteed payment, ensuring financial reliability

EPS is part of VA's ongoing commitment to improving Veteran health care access in Kansas. By leveraging this modernized scheduling system, Veterans across the state – whether in urban centers like Wichita and Overland Park or rural communities – can receive timely and coordinated care with greater ease.

To learn how you can participate, please email EPSPProviderEngagementTeam@va.gov.

--Steve Poage

OSFM Maintenance Overview and Electrical Systems Guidance

The Office of the State Fire Marshal has provided the following two documents for your review:

- [Fire Fact 081 – Maintenance Overview \(fire alarms, sprinklers, etc.\)](#)
- [KO918 Electrical Systems – Essential Electrical System Maintenance and Testing 2025](#)

Both documents can be found on the [Regulatory page](#) of the [KHA website](#). Please share this information with your facility and survey preparedness teams.

--Larry Van Der Wege

Register Now for the KARQM Spring Conference – April 9

Please join us on April 9 for the 2025 KARQM Spring Conference. The Kansas Association of Risk and Quality Management is an affiliate of the American Society of Healthcare Risk Management, the leading national organization serving health care risk management professionals and an allied organization with the Kansas Hospital Association

This program will provide risk and quality management and related professionals with essential information to enhance their skills in managing health care systems and processes. Risk managers, quality improvement personnel and all related professionals in a health care setting such as nurses, health information management personnel, case managers and health care administrators will benefit from this program.



--Larry Van Der Wege

KHA Membership Directory Updates Due March 21

The Kansas Hospital Association Membership Directory is an indispensable tool for members. We strive to assist members in communicating with peers, and we need your help to ensure the information is current. Last week, KHA members were sent a draft of their current data as it appears in the KHA database and online directory. We asked you to edit this document, providing us with the names, titles and email addresses of your executive staff. If you haven't already done so, please return the requested information, noting any edits, additions or deletions you wish made by March 21, to the attention of Jan Fenwick, (KHA, 215 SE 8th Ave., Topeka, KS, 66603; email jfenwick@kha-net.org; or fax: (785) 233-6955). New this year, the information provided to members for updating is available in Word format to make it easier to update. **If you would like your information sent to you in Word, email jfenwick@kha-net.org, and she will email it to you.** As a reminder, the online and print directories are only available to KHA members.

In addition, our publishing partner for the directory, E&M Consulting, is wrapping up its advertising campaign for the KHA Membership Directory. They will be contacting members with advertising opportunities. They are very professional and produce a high-quality directory. If you are interested in advertising or have questions, please contact an E&M sales associate at (800) 572-0011, Ext.8005, or advertising@emconsultinginc.com. As always, your support of the Kansas Hospital Association is greatly appreciated!

--Jan Fenwick

Federal and National News

CMS Issues Marketplace Integrity and Affordability Proposed Rule

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services [released](#) a [proposed rule](#) establishing standards for the health insurance marketplaces, health insurance issuers, brokers and agents who serve consumers receiving health insurance through the marketplace.

If finalized, the rule would [adopt](#) pre-enrollment verification for special enrollment periods, adopt evidentiary standards for CMS to use in assessing whether to terminate an agent's, broker's or web-broker's marketplace agreements for cause, revise actuarial value standards for health plans, revise automatic reenrollment hierarchy and require marketplaces to deny eligibility for advance payments of the premium tax credit.

Comments about the proposed rule will be due 30 days after the date of display in the *Federal Register*.

Registration Is Open for 2025 Midwest Psychiatric Administrators Coalition Conference

The Nebraska Hospital Association will host the 2025 Midwest Psychiatric Administrators Coalition Conference on Thursday, April 10, and Friday, April 11, in Boys Town, Nebraska.

[Click to Register](#)

This year's conference is focused on bringing together psychiatric hospital administrators and psychiatric residential treatment facility leaders from across the Midwest to learn from each other about trends and issues facing the industry and share successful strategies.

MLN Connects Provider eNews Available

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

- [Therapy Services: Get Updates for CY 2025](#)
- [Hospitals: Apply for Additional Residency Positions by March 31](#)