

KaMMCO & CMS Quality Payment Programs



As we near the end of 2017, do you have a clear picture of CMS's Quality Payment Program (QPP) deadlines ahead in 2018? Here's a quick look at what's coming up, and links to the resources you need to be prepared.

Performance:

The first performance period opens January 1, 2017 and closes December 31, 2017. During 2017, record quality data and how you used technology to support your practice. If an Advanced APM fits your practice, then you can join and provide care during the year through that model.

Send in performance data:

To potentially earn a positive payment adjustment under MIPS, send in data about the care you provided and how your practice used technology in 2017 to MIPS by the deadline, March 31, 2018. In order to earn the 5% incentive payment by significantly participating in an Advanced APM, just send quality data through your Advanced APM.

Feedback:

Medicare gives you feedback about your performance after you send your data.

Payment:

You may earn a positive MIPS payment adjustment for 2019 if you submit 2017 data by March 31, 2018. If you participate in an Advanced APM in 2017, then you may earn a 5% incentive payment in 2019.

KaMMCO understands the massive healthcare transition to QPP that began in 2017 is a considerable area of focus and activity for our members. QPP Resources can be accessed on www.KaMMCO.com or visit CMS's new QPP resource page at www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Payment-Program/Quality-Payment-Program.html.

Sure, My Wireless is Secure

Security researchers recently uncovered a protocol bug in WPA2 (Wi-Fi Protected Access) that potentially allows a cyber attacker to decrypt wireless traffic. Appropriately named KRACK, this bug potentially affects EVERY wireless router made, whether being used at an office or at home. While connections to secure websites remain secure, this vulnerability allows a third party to gain access to a wireless network and all devices connected to it (iPhones, iPads, printers, computers, etc.). The third party can access print jobs sent from computer to printer, files transferred between two computers on a network, and also the ability to install malware on devices.

The Wi-Fi Alliance, a network of companies responsible for Wi-Fi, has responded to the disclosure of the vulnerabilities, saying, “this issue can be resolved through straightforward software updates. The Wi-Fi industry, including major platform providers, has already started deploying patches to Wi-Fi users.”

All routers must be patched. Android, Linux, and Apple patches are forthcoming. Microsoft has already released a patch to address the issue.

What can you do?

Push your vendors for updates. Visit the brand website of the router and chat or email support to learn when an update will be available. If the router is provided by an internet provider (such as Cox), contact the provider to determine when a patch will be available and how it will be installed. Carefully monitor all traffic for malicious activity.

For additional information check out: www.krackattacks.com.

Avoid Disaster by Preparing in Advance for Business Interruption

September 2017 was recorded as the most active month of any Atlantic hurricane season. While we recognize the devastating effects a natural disaster such as a hurricane or tornado can cause, we know fires, flooding, and even earthquakes in Kansas can wreak havoc with the records housed in a medical practice or hospital.

KaMMCO’s Cyber Security Insurance partner has scheduled an upcoming webinar that focuses on minimizing the business interruption these events cause through the preparation and testing of business continuity and disaster recovery plans (with particular concentration on cyber issues). Learn about the various threats and risks that companies face, how to protect personnel and assets, and how to function in the event of a disaster and other business interruption events.



[Register now](#) for the one-hour webinar, Preparing for the Unexpected: Using Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Plans to Minimize Business Interruptions scheduled for Wednesday, November 15, 12:30 p.m. CT. Privacy and Compliance Officers, Risk Managers, security, technical and support staff, executives and others who are responsible for cybersecurity governance are encouraged to attend. Event ID: 2009; Event Password: 9870

Take this opportunity to review the Cyber Security Insurance training and materials available to all KaMMCO members at www.KaMMCO.com

KHIN Training – Key to Successful Continuity of Care

By Connie Christian, MBA, CPHRM

Facility Risk Management & Patient Safety Advisor

The Kansas Health Information Network (KHIN) currently has more than 1,500 hospitals and clinics participating in its physician-led Health Information Exchange (HIE). During the month of November, KHIN is offering online training to ensure KHIN users can effectively and efficiently utilize the system.



To help ease the burden of training, KHIN is offering online training over the lunch hour on multiple dates. If you have not had the opportunity to participate in training, have new staff, or your processes have changed and you would like to utilize KHIN in a new area, visit www.KHINonline.org and register for an upcoming training class scheduled for November 7, 14 or 28.

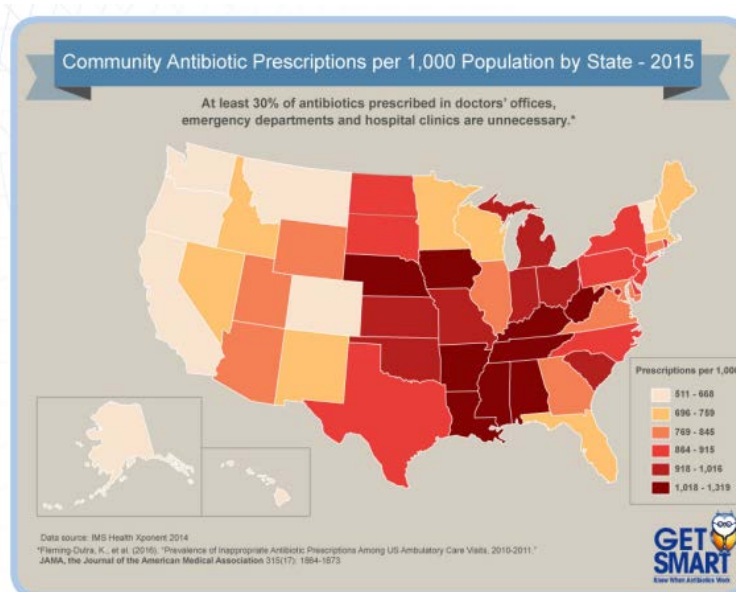
During the initial process of implementing and integrating an organization’s electronic health record with KHIN, the primary users may have only involved Information Technology and Administration staff. These individuals are vital to successful implementation, however, once the implementation is complete and integration underway, healthcare providers and frontline staff should be brought into the process to ensure they can access the patient care information. Along with getting healthcare providers and front line staff from nursing, health information management, case management and registration signed into the system, the KHIN project managers also offer training for navigation of the Exchange to access patient information needed for safety and continuity of care.

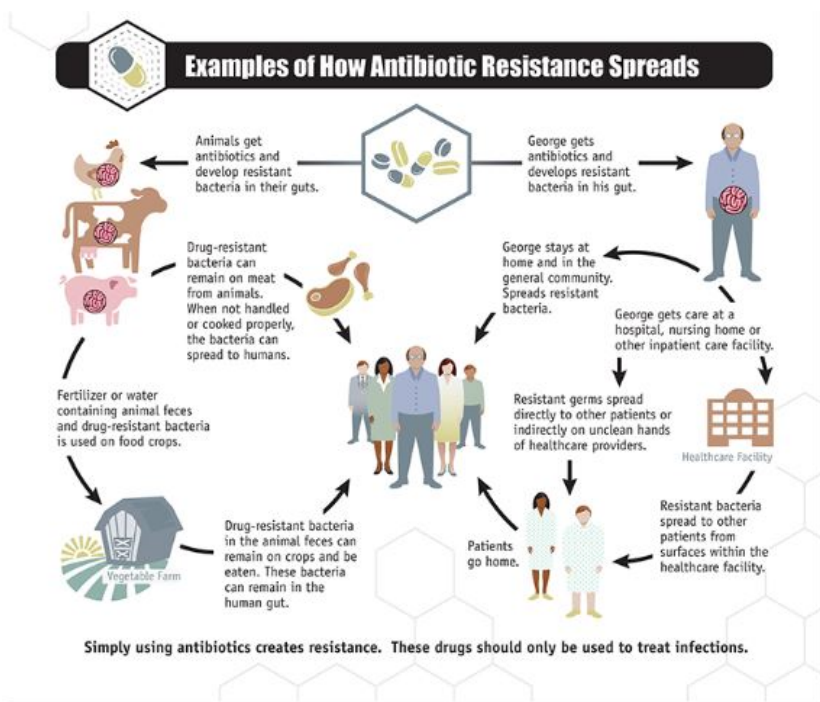
Healthcare providers can quickly access their patients’ data across disparate healthcare systems, reducing treatment delays and enhancing clinical decision making. Patient data that is received by the KHIN may include: a list of facilities and clinics where the patient was seen, admit and discharge dates, lab results, procedures and diagnoses, current and past medications, allergies, chief complaint, visit notes, operation notes and the patients’ primary care providers. KHIN improves patient care coordination and transitions of care by allowing healthcare professionals to access their patients’ most recent healthcare encounters.

Antimicrobial Stewardship Webinar – November 16

In observance of National Antibiotic Awareness Week, November 13–19, 2017, state health leaders are offering a free webinar for healthcare professionals, “Antibiotic Stewardship Beyond Hospital Walls.” The one-hour webinar is offered two times on Thursday, November 16: 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. or 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment’s (KDHE) Healthcare-Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance (HAI/AR) Program and the Kansas Healthcare Collaborative (KHC) invite you to learn more about antimicrobial stewardship, resources available, and how we can work collaboratively to address this critical public health issue.





Presenters include Jo-Ann Harris, MD, Pediatric Infectious Disease Consultant, Midwest Women’s and Children’s Specialty Clinic, Overland Park Regional Medical Center, Overland Park; and Katie Burenheide Foster, PharmD, MS, BCPS, FCCM, Pharmacy Clinical Manager & PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Director, Stormont-Vail Health System, Topeka.

Continuing education credit is offered for physicians, APRNs, RNs, and LPNs.

For more information about the webinar, [download the informational brochure here.](#)

Register for the free workshop [here.](#)

About Antimicrobial Stewardship

Antimicrobial resistance means microbes stop responding to the drugs designed to kill them. Resistance to antibiotics (intended to destroy bacteria) is one of the most important health threats of the 21st Century. Over the years, improper and unnecessary use of antibiotics has led to the emergence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Each year in the United States, at least two million people fall ill and 23,000 people die from infections caused by resistant bacteria and fungus.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s top five health threats, improving the use of antibiotics is an important patient safety and public health issue, as well as a national priority. Kansas has been identified as having some of the highest antibiotic prescribing patterns compared to other states. Antimicrobial stewardship is the appropriate use of antimicrobials, such as antibiotics, and is the key to optimizing outcomes for patients while reducing resistance in organisms.

Save the Date: New educational offering on data analysis December 13

KaMMCO members should mark their calendars now for a new educational session coming in December.

Today’s Medicare payment programs reward quality over quantity, and success relies upon high quality, accurate data, secured in a trusted health information exchange that physicians can utilize for analysis of patients’ and populations’ healthcare trends. To help Kansas physicians prepare for this new data-driven world, KaMMCO Health Solutions and Laura McCrary, Ed.D, Senior Vice President KaMMCO Health Solutions Inc., and Executive Director, Kansas Health Information Network, Inc., will present an online educational event on Wednesday, December 13 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Registration will open soon!

The event is approved for *AMA Category 1 Education Credit™*.

Q/A: Mandatory Reporting Issue

- Q.** Dr. Smith is treating a 16-year old girl who says she was date raped. She doesn't want our doctor to tell anyone but isn't he obligated to report this to the Kansas Department of Children and Families (DCF)?
- A.** No. This type of incident is reportable to DCF only if it occurred at the hands of a family member or someone who is exercising control over the child, for example, a guardian or foster parent. However, rape is a crime and the child should be encouraged to report it to the local authorities.

Mandated reporters are required to report child abuse or neglect under the Kansas reporting law K.S.A. 38-2223. When physicians, nurses, other healthcare professionals, and chief administrators of hospitals suspect that a minor has been injured as a result of physical, mental or emotional abuse, or neglect or sexual abuse they must report the suspected abuse promptly to DCF or to the authorities if DCF is closed. Failure to make a report of suspected abuse is a class B misdemeanor.

For more information about reporting child abuse and neglect in Kansas visit the following link:
<http://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/PPS/Documents/GuidetoReportingAbuseandNeglect.pdf>