



## *News Alert*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Wyoming Hospitals to Celebrate National Hospital Week**

55<sup>th</sup> Annual Event Emphasizes Importance of Community Hospitals

CHEYENNE ó Wyoming hospitals admitted more than 52,000 people in 2007, delivered more than 7,000 babies and treated more than 228,000 patients in their emergency rooms. In that spirit of caring for the people of Wyoming, the state's 26 acute care hospitals will celebrate National Hospital Week, May 11 ó 17.

Sponsored by the American Hospital Association, National Hospital Week serves as a reminder that hospitals are cornerstones of the communities that built and nurture them, and that hospitals serve people in every community from all walks of life.

“National Hospital Week is a terrific opportunity to highlight the critical role that Wyoming hospitals play in caring for the people of our state,” said Dan Perdue, president of the Wyoming Hospital Association. “At one time or another, we have probably all been relieved to see that familiar blue sign at the edge of town and to know that someone would be there to help us when we arrived.”

Hospitals across the state will celebrate National Hospital Week with events that are planned in each community based on this year's theme, “Where Healing Happens Every Day.”

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## **National Hospital Week/ Page 2**

The first National Hospital Day was held on Florence Nightingale's birthday, on May 12, 1921. That event was organized by a Chicago magazine editor as a public healthcare event to encourage trust in the city's hospitals in the wake of the Spanish Flu outbreak of 1918, which killed more than 600,000 Americans. The event expanded into an entire week in 1953, and every state currently celebrates National Hospital Week.

Hospitals today are multi-dimensional environments that offer every medical specialty, with a focus on prevention and wellness. During the weeklong event, millions of Americans will visit hospitals in their communities to learn about the breakthroughs, technologies and services that improve health and quality of life every day.

"High-quality care is the top priority of every hospital in this state," Perdue said. "Despite the many challenges healthcare providers face in a frontier state like Wyoming, our hospitals continually strive to improve their technologies, their facilities, and their service in order to provide the best care possible to the people of Wyoming," Perdue said.

### **About the WHA**

The Wyoming Hospital Association is a statewide association dedicated to providing leadership, representation and advocacy for Wyoming hospitals. Through leadership and collaboration among all healthcare providers, the WHA promotes information and education that enables Wyoming hospitals to deliver high quality health care that is accessible to all Wyoming citizens. For more information, visit the WHA web site at [www.wyohospitals.com](http://www.wyohospitals.com).

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