

## **Sundance Hospital Announces New Administrator**

Doris Brown has been hired as Administrator of Crook County Medical Services District in Sundance effective January 2, 2008. Doris was Administrator of Sabine County Hospital in Hemphill, Texas, a critical access hospital. Doris will be replacing John Osse who has served as interim administrator since August, 2007.

## **Wyoming Department Of Employment Surveys Hospitals**

The Wyoming Department of Employment recently sent questionnaires to hospitals as part of their research efforts relating to the supply of and demand for nurses on behalf of the Wyoming Health Care Commission. Recruitment, retention, and hiring practices are the focus of the survey. The goals of the survey are to help hospitals identify common strategies and best practices that may be adopted by their human resources departments. Results of the study will be broadly distributed to facilitate formal and informal forums among all members of the community concerned with health care in Wyoming. Among other means of distribution, the results will be posted on their website at <http://doe.state.wy.us/lmi/>. As prescribed by Wyoming Employment Security Law 27-3-603, all information must be held in confidence, with results published only as summary statistics. The collection period extends from mid-December through early 2008. For further information or questions about the survey, please contact Sara Saulcy, Senior Economist, at 473-3819 or SSAULC@state.wy.us.

## **Sheridan Hospital Announces New Cancer Treatment**

Cancer patients can now receive both medical oncology and radiation oncology in Sheridan at the same location. This fall the Hematology Oncology Centers of the Northern Rockies (HOCNR) moved into the Welch Cancer Center at Sheridan Memorial Hospital, joining Radiation Oncologist John Stamato, M.D. and the radiation oncology staff to collaborate in providing cancer treatment services to the community.

Medical oncology typically includes chemotherapy mainly through I.V. infusion. Through this program, the Cancer Center has "almost every type of I.V. chemotherapy available," said Travis Preszler, physician assistant with HOCNR. Radiation oncology is used as more of a "spot" treatment - using a beam of radiation directly on the cancer cells to kill them. The Welch Cancer Center provides Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT). Dr. Stamato said this technology is the most advanced, precise method of External Beam Radiation. There are future plans to form a Tumor Board, a group of people from all specialties collaborating to determine the best way to treat complex cases. The staff of HOCNR used to have an office down town but worked with the staff at the Welch Cancer Center on many cases. Both groups felt they could most effectively serve patients in the Sheridan area from one location. HOCNR has offices in Billings, Butte, Cody and Sheridan. Currently four physicians rotate visits to Sheridan to treat patients. In addition to the cancer treatment services, several complimentary therapies are also available to patients at the Welch Cancer Center including massage, nutritional counseling and spiritual guidance.

## **Wyoming Miners' Hospital Board Aims To Reach More Miners**

The Wyoming Miners' Hospital Board is wanting to spend more money advertising benefits for people who worked one day in a mine or 30 years. Their proposed \$5.2 million budget is for the 2009-10 biennium. The money is from interest generated by the \$70 million miners' hospital fund. The Wyoming Miners' Hospital Board offers wellness screenings at different locations around the state for about 4,000 miners per year. There is also a hearing aid subsidy that has been helping 350 miners per year. The board is requesting money for advertising through newspapers, radio and billboards to advise miners of

the benefits available to them."Miner" is defined as a Wyoming resident who has worked in or at the site of a coal, trona, bentonite, gypsum, sand and gravel or uranium mine in this state or a contiguous state. The definition includes contractors.

## **Wyoming Health Information Resource (WYHIR)**

The Wyoming Health Information Resource (WYHIR) website is Wyoming's source for information regarding private and secure exchange of health information and is designed to promote knowledge of laws, regulations, policies, and best practices pertaining to health information exchange in Wyoming. WYHIR's primary objectives are to: (1) Provide Wyoming health care professionals with information to aid in health information exchange decisions, including clear and concise explanations of laws affecting health information exchanges; (2) Coordinate research and education to address barriers to health information exchange; and (3) Act as a clearinghouse for education and training on federal and state laws affecting health information exchange. WYHIR is a collaborative project between the University of Wyoming, Center for Rural Health Research and Education (CRHRE), the Wyoming Survey and Analysis Center (WYSAC), the Wyoming Health Information Organization (WYHIO), and over 100 volunteer stakeholders who devoted countless hours helping to document the problems associated with health information exchange in Wyoming. The web address for WYHIR is [www.wyhir.org](http://www.wyhir.org) and the website will be available January 1, 2008.

## **HAC & POA Indicator Fact Sheets Now Available**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced the release of two new educational products, The Hospital-Acquired Conditions (HAC) in Acute Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) Hospitals Fact Sheet and The Present On Admission (POA) Indicator Reporting by Acute Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) Hospitals Fact Sheet. These Fact Sheets provide information on this quality of care initiative including, the list of affected and exempt hospitals, the implementation timeline, and a detailed chart on the category of conditions, as well as general reporting requirements and information on coding, documentation, and claims. The Fact Sheets are available online at the website [http://www.cms.hhs.gov/HospitalAcqCond/07\\_EducationalResources.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/HospitalAcqCond/07_EducationalResources.asp), in the "Downloads" section of the Educational Resources web page on the CMS website.

## **Congress Passes Medicare Package**

The House has approved legislation (S. 2499) containing several Medicare and Medicaid provisions, including a 0.5% increase in the Medicare physician payment update for six months and an extension of funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program through March 31, 2009. The bill also permanently sets the inpatient rehabilitation compliance threshold at 60% for cost reporting periods starting July 1, 2006; extends Section 508 geographic reclassifications through September 30, 2008; and extends cost-based outpatient lab services for rural hospitals with fewer than 50 beds in certain low-population areas.