

**WHA Calendar:**

- Hospital Advisory Group Meeting **6/17**
- WHA PAC Golf Tournament Sheridan **9/29**
- WHA Annual Meeting & Convention Sheridan **9/30-10/1**

**Other Events:**

- Western Regional Flex Conference Lake Tahoe, NV **6/10**
- Western Regional Trustee Symposium Albuquerque, NM **6/10**
- Wyoming Medical Society Meeting, Sheridan **6/11**
- AHA Regional Policy Board Meeting Idaho **6/25**

## DataBank Provides Hospital Leaders Performance Data

It's a well-known business school aphorism: you can't manage what you don't measure.

In order to provide members with the data they need to support improved quality, safety, and decision making, the Wyoming Hospital Association has been providing the DataBank tool to members for more than 20 years.

Developed and maintained by the Colorado Hospital Association, DataBank is a web-based database of hospital utilization and financial performance indicators. Among other indicators, the database provides comparative information on:

- Average length of stay
- Outpatient statistics
- Charges and expenses per day and per stay
- Uncollected charges
- Number of days in accounts receivable gross
- Profitability

Hospitals submit their data monthly on the secure DataBank web site. Data submission usually takes less than an hour to complete, and the web site includes an Excel upload template that simplifies data submission even further.

### Databank at a Glance

- Launched for WHA members in 1986
- Up-to-date utilization and financial performance data
- Web-based data submission and reporting
- Timely data supports WHA's advocacy efforts

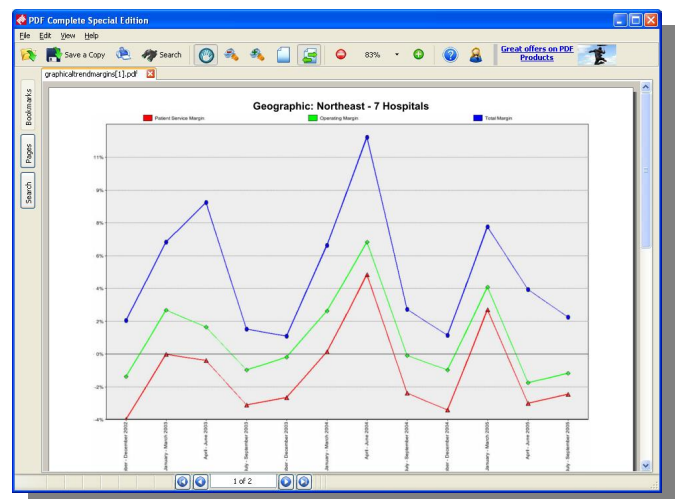
tages to participating hospitals. Most notably, it provides instant access to the data hospitals need to manage performance. And because the tools are web-based, hospitals can correct their data, customize their peer groups, and customize their reports.

The project also supports the WHA's primary mission of national and state-level advocacy. Timely, complete, and accurate data is fundamental to effective advocacy efforts, and DataBank makes such data available to the WHA.

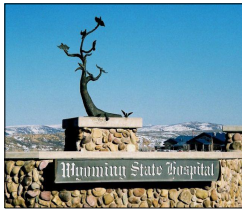
Once the data submission process is complete, hospitals can run reports of their own data, or they can create peer groups to provide performance comparisons and context.

The DataBank project offers a number of advan-

DataBank is available to all member hospitals at no charge. For more information about participating in the DataBank project, or for information regarding report training and support, please contact the WHA.



**Sample DataBank Report**



## State Hospital Earns Three-Year Reaccreditation

For the fifth consecutive time, the Wyoming State Hospital has earned a three-year reaccreditation for its assertive community treatment, inpatient treatment and residential treatment programs.

The Wyoming State Hospital is one of five Wyoming Department of Health healthcare facilities. The hospital has been providing mental health services in Evanston for Wyoming resi-

dents since 1887.

“Our dedicated staff works day in and day out to provide first-rate mental health care for our patients,” said Ted Brewer, Wyoming State Hospital administrator. “This reaccreditation is a welcome vote of confidence in our facility from an important organization.”

The latest accreditation from CARF International is the fifth consecutive three-

year accreditation awarded by the international accrediting body to the Wyoming State Hospital.

CARF is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body. Founded in 1966 as the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, CARF establishes consumer-focused standards to help organizations measure and improve the quality of their programs and services.

## Thomas Bill Would Increase Reimbursement To Hospitals

Wyoming Sen. John Barrasso is a member of a bipartisan group of senators who are co-sponsoring legislation to improve the quality of healthcare available to rural Americans.

The bill, called the Craig Thomas Rural Hospital and Providers Equity Act of 2009, or R-HoPE, is named after Wyoming’s late Sen. Craig Thomas. Sen. Thomas co-sponsored the original such bill. He died in 2007 after complications from leukemia.

In its 2009 form, the bill aims to improve rural

healthcare by improving Medicare reimbursement formulas for rural healthcare providers.

Introduced two weeks ago, R-HoPE is co-sponsored by Sen. Barrasso, as well as Sens. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., Pat Roberts, R-Kan., and Tom Harkin, D-Iowa. It is listed as S.1157.

“This comprehensive, bipartisan legislation will help stabilize our nation’s rural healthcare infrastructure,” Sen. Barrasso said. “It takes steps to change Medicare payment policies that discriminate against

rural hospitals and rural providers in Wyoming and across the country.”

Many rural healthcare providers, including hospitals, clinics and ambulance services, operate with negative Medicare margins. A recent report by MedPAC indicated that rural hospitals experienced a Medicare shortfall of 5.6 percent of costs in 2007.

R-HoPE would boost reimbursement payments to rural hospitals, and it would create a new loan program to help rural hospitals repair aging buildings.



Sen. John Barrasso

## HRSA Program Offers \$20,000 Annually for Faculty Service

The Health Resources and Services Administration’s (HRSA) Bureau of Clinician Recruitment and Service is seeking applicants for its 2009 Faculty Loan Repayment Program.

The program provides a financial incentive for degree-trained health professionals from disadvantaged backgrounds to pursue aca-

demical careers. Individuals who are selected for the program agree to serve on the faculty of an accredited health professions college or university for a minimum of two years.

In return for that commitment, HRSA will pay up to \$20,000 for each year of faculty service toward the outstanding principal and

interest on the recipient’s educational loans.

The deadline to apply for the program is July 7. To learn more about the program, and to get application information, visit <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/dsa/flrp>, or contact the HRSA call center at (800)-221-9393.

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