



NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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WHA Calendar:

WMS/WHA Patient Safety Summit
Casper 11/2

Other Events:

STEMI/SCA System Meeting
Casper 10/29

Joint Labor Health and Social Services 11/12-11/13

WMC Leaders to be Featured at Patient Safety Summit

Leaders from Wyoming Medical Center in Casper will serve as the featured luncheon speakers at the first-ever Wyoming Patient Safety Summit.

The one-day event at the Ramada Plaza Riverside in Casper on Nov. 2 will focus on continuous improvement in patient safety across all of Wyoming's healthcare delivery channels.

It will feature discussions about medical error disclosure, medical law, Wyoming's apology law, patient safety organizations and care transitions.

The event is sponsored by the Wyoming Medical Society and the Wyoming Hospital Association.

WMC President and CEO Vickie Diamond, WMC Chief Operations Officer and Senior VP of Patient Services Julie Cann-Taylor, and WMC Risk Manager Shawna Willcox will discuss efforts to first establish and then strengthen the hospital's culture of safety in the last three years. WMC Chief Medical Officer Carol Solie, M.D. will moderate the panel discussion.

"This summit is a great opportunity for participants to raise awareness of patient safety in all healthcare fields," said Diamond. "It will also allow us to learn

from one another and give us the opportunity to benefit from sharing our experiences."

The WMC lecture is entitled *Our Safety Journey: Better Every Day*. The hospital's safety journey began in earnest in 2009 when Diamond recognized the need for standardized safety protocols within the framework of the hospital. As she describes it, the pieces were there to improve patient safety but not all of those pieces were working together.

Diamond was also inspired to improve hospital safety in 2009 following a trip to the NASA Kennedy Space Center headquarters at Cape Canaveral, Fla. This visit included a powerful discussion about the Columbia shuttle disaster and how serious safety mistakes ultimately caused the 2003 explosion that killed all astronauts on board.

Diamond will discuss her crusade to improve safety measures during the summit. The event will serve as the perfect venue for the WMC featured speakers to describe the improved safety culture at the hospital that has resulted in the reduction of serious safety events and an increase in accountability and education among hospital staff.

"In my experience, I have learned that once you become committed to providing a safer environment within an organization, dedication and teamwork will make it happen," said Diamond. "Good safety measures are all about establishing a process that everyone can follow. At Wyoming Medical Center, we are committed to patient safety and these measures that give our patients the safest environment possible."

The program will also feature Kimberly Irby, program manager for care transitions activities for the Colorado Foundation for Medical Care.

Kathy Springer, Patient Safety/Risk Management Account Executive for the Northwest Region of The Doctors Company, will also present at the summit. Ms. Springer is registered nurse with pediatric clinical experience.

The summit will also feature Dr. Alan Lembitz, Vice President of Patient Safety and Risk Management at COPIC. Dr. Lembitz's key areas of focus include physician education, communication including disclosure of unanticipated outcomes, physician management, patient safety, and others.

For a complete schedule of events, and to register online, visit www.wyomed.org/patientsafety.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Don't forget to send us a story about your hospital so we can feature you in our Member Spotlight



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CCMH Inks Partnership with the Studer Group

Campbell County Memorial Hospital (CCMH) recently announced a partnership with the Studer Group, a nationally recognized company whose mission is to make healthcare a better place for employees to work, physicians to practice medicine and patients to receive care.

The Studer Group (www.studergroup.com) coaches hospitals and healthcare systems by providing a detailed framework and practical how-tos to create a culture of service, clinical and operational excellence.

They build on the strengths and passion of each organization and also provide best practices and evidence-based leadership practices gathered from their work with over 700 hospitals throughout the country.

CCMH has committed to a three-year reciprocal relationship with the Studer Group to:

- Create a better place to receive care, measured by patient perception
- Create a better place to work, evidenced by improved employee engagement
- Build and sustain ac-

countability systems so results are hardwired across the organization

- Achieve financial results and growth targets
- Develop a culture of physician quality, safety and satisfaction

"We are very excited to begin this partnership," said Bob Morasko, CEO at CCMH. "The Studer philosophy of accountability at all levels of the organization aligns well with the existing departmental strategic/operational planning system that our managers and leaders have been using for several years."

State, WMC Receive Awards from Donor Alliance

Wyoming was recently recognized as one of the top states in the nation in terms of the proportion of state residents who sign up to be organ donors.

Wyoming was one of 10 states to receive a gold medal from the Health Resources and Services Administration during a ceremony earlier this month in Texas.

The agency recognized that nearly 60 percent of Wyoming adults had regis-

tered as organ donors through the end of 2011.

Some 15,000 Americans are awaiting organ transplants. Each day, 18 people die while waiting for a transplant.

In addition to the statewide recognition, Wyoming Medical Center in Casper earned a silver medal from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. That recognized the hospital's high rate of successful organ recovery from de-

ceased donors.

"It's not a new thing here," said Andrea Smith, a spokesperson for Donor Alliance. "Colorado and Wyoming have both had strong donor designation rates for some time. These states have a really strong sense of community.

(The award is) really a testament to the people of Wyoming and their willingness to help out their neighbors."

Trauma Nursing Course Offered at Lander Regional

A Trauma Nursing Core Course (TNCC) is being offered on December 7 and 8 at Lander Regional Hospital.

Space in the course is limited to 24 participants, and seats will be assigned on a first come, first served basis.

The two-day program

offers 14.2 contact hours of continuing education. It was developed by emergency and trauma nursing experts, and is made available through the Emergency Nurses Association.

Core-level knowledge and psychomotor skills associated with implementing the trauma nursing process

will be presented.

Only RNs may be verified as TNCC providers. Nurses should have at least six months of experience in assessing and treating trauma patients prior to attending the course.

For more information, contact Tina Harrenga at (307) 335-6294.