

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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WHA Calendar:

Flex Planning Meeting
Casper **4/2**

WHA Board Meeting
Riverton **5/16**

Trustee Education Program
Riverton **5/17**

Other Events:

WSHE Spring Meeting
Casper **5/22-5/24**

NE Wyoming Skin and Wound Symposium
Sheridan **6/7-6/8**

Infection Prevention Conference Emphasizes Partnerships

For the third year, Mountain-Pacific Quality Health will present a two-day conference focused on patient safety and the prevention of infection.

The 3rd Annual Infection Prevention Conference will be held in Casper at the Ramada Plaza Riverside.

The conference, sponsored in part by the Wyoming Hospital Association, is set for April 17 and 18. It is open to all healthcare providers and the public. It will highlight relevant topics in infection prevention.

This year's theme emphasizes the need for collaboration and partnership in reducing healthcare acquired infections. Based on the theme "Partners in Prevention: Your Role in Healthcare Acquired Infection Prevention," conference highlights will include:

- Understanding infectious disease prevention for multi-drug resistant organisms
- Being able to able to implement an Antibiotic Stewardship Program
- Being able to complete and implement an Infection Control Risk Assessment (ICRA)

- Being able to explain and validate the role and responsibilities of infection prevention with leadership

- Understanding and implementing best practices for environment cleaning, sterilization and disinfection

The faculty for the third-annual conference includes experts in infection prevention from around the country.

Cynthia Ellwood, Ph.D., CIH, will be speaking about how to plan infection prevention interventions prior to and during the construction of a healthcare facility.

Dr. Ellwood is the founder and principal industrial hygienist at Associates in Occupation + Environmental Health, LLC, of Black Hawk, Colo.

Dr. Ellwood has 27 years of experience working in industrial hygiene and safety consulting.

David Richard Woodard, M.Sc., CLS, CIC, CPHQ, with Valley Health Systems in Las Vegas, Nev., will speak about environmental cleaning, disinfection and sterilization.

Mr. Woodard is the System Director of Infection Prevention at Valley Health Systems, and he is also an

adjunct instructor of infection control at Touro University in Nevada.

The cost to attend the conference is \$40 per day, which includes lunch and breaks.

The registration deadline is April 10, and the Ramada Plaza Riverside will hold a group of rooms at the conference rate until April 3.

More information about the conference is available online at www.uwyo.edu/geriatrics or by calling Ellen Williams with Mountain-Pacific Quality Health – Wyoming at (307)214-3286.

Conference sponsors are Mountain-Pacific Quality Health – Wyoming, Wyoming Geriatric Education Center, Wyoming Infection Prevention Advisory Group, Wyoming Hospital Association, and Wyoming Department of Health.



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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Palliative Care the Subject of WMC Ethics Conference

Wyoming Medical Center's annual regional ethics conference is set for April 27 at the Highland Park Community Church in Casper.

This daylong session features several speakers presenting their expertise on important aspects of palliative care.

Palliative care is an emerging program of the healthcare system that will significantly improve quality of care, communication, and

coordination of care for those patients who are seriously ill, and it will reduce the physical, emotional, and financial stress of aggressive treatment options.

Palliative care is not new, but is one of the least understood healthcare service lines. Palliative care is more than just hospice and end-of-life care, it is a team-oriented approach to care for the sickest of patients.

Hospitals and communities must build a system that

promotes excellence and advanced care planning.

Hospital employees and physicians must receive training on advanced care plan facilitation in order to have that "crucial conversation".

These and other topics will be discussed during the conference. For additional information, or registration, please visit www.wyomingmedicalcenter.org or contact Matt Frederiksen at (307) 577-2034.

Wyoming Receives Grant to Transform Nursing Education

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) announced last week that Wyoming Center for Nursing and Health Care Partnerships will be one of only 20 states to be part of a new \$3 million initiative, the Future of Nursing State Implementation Program.

The program is designed to help states prepare the nursing profession to address our nation's most pressing health care challenges—access, quality, and cost.

The program bolsters efforts already underway in

50 states and the District of Columbia—the Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action—to transform healthcare through nursing and meet the challenges stemming from an aging and more diverse population.

A joint initiative of AARP and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Campaign for Action is working to implement the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) evidence-based recommendations on the future of nursing.

The initiative will pro-

vide two-year grants of up to \$150,000 to 20 state-based Action Coalitions that have developed or made substantial progress toward implementing the IOM recommendations. The grant also calls for states to obtain matching funds.

"Our focus is on transformation of nursing education that will truly enhance healthcare in Wyoming and this was a key factor in being selected," said Mary Burman, Dean of the Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing at the University of Wyoming.

WMC to Sponsor Conference on 'The New HIPAA'

In January 2013, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights released new regulations strengthening the privacy and security protection of the already complex HIPAA law.

The "New HIPAA," the Omnibus HIPAA Rules, went into effect March 26,

2013. However, covered entities and business associates have until September 23, 2013, for full compliance.

Since the commencement of HIPAA, most organizations have moved from paper charting to electronic medical records (EMRs).

Wyoming Medical Center is sponsoring a confer-

ence on May 10, at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel in Casper.

For additional information or conference registration forms, please visit Wyoming Medical Center's website at wyomingmedicalcenter.org or call Matt Frederiksen at (307) 577-2034.