



NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 42, Number 13

March 30, 2012

WHA Calendar:

WHA Board of Directors Meeting
Lander 5/17

WHA Trustee Educational Program
Lander 5/18

Other Events:

Hospital Advisory Group Meeting
4/12

American Hospital Association Annual Meeting
Washington, DC 5/6-5/9

Trustee Education Session to Focus on Legal Issues

The Wyoming Hospital Association's 2012 Trustee Education program kicks off May 18 in Lander with a series of legal perspectives on key issues of importance to Wyoming hospitals.

The May 18 session is open to all WHA member trustees and administrators.

During the day-long event, trustees will learn from prominent Wyoming

attorneys about such subjects as the board's role in quality oversight, and changes to the open meetings and open records laws, among other topics.

Trustees will also hear an update on federal health policy issues, including a discussion of the pending Supreme Court decision regarding the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act.

In addition to these educational items, the WHA's Trustee Education Council will also report on their progress in developing on ongoing Trustee Education Program.

To learn more, and to register for this important trustee educational event, contact the WHA at (307) 632-9344, or via email at rose@wyohospitals.com.

OHLS Implements Changes to Handle Staffing Shortage

The Office of Healthcare Licensing and Surveys (OHLS) is currently experiencing a temporary staffing shortage due to the departure of a staff engineer.

According to Ron Pearson, Administrator of Healthcare Licensing and Surveys, some procedural changes are being implemented to help sustain the workload and keep the healthcare construction plans review and inspections processes moving forward.

For minor projects, the final plan review by OHLS will be optional rather than required. Minor projects are those which will not affect 50 percent or more of a smoke compartment; not affect 50 percent or more of the building; and not affect more than

4,500 square feet of the entire facility.

More details on exercising this option are located in the OHLS web site: <http://www.health.wyo.gov/ohls/construction.html>.

Healthcare facility owners also have the option of either utilizing the OHLS or an approved third-party plan reviewer and/or interim inspector.

Facilities are not required to utilize third-party plan reviewers and/or interim inspectors.

If a facility chooses to have the OHLS conduct their plan review and/or interim inspections, these will be prioritized by order of receipt in the Healthcare Licensing and Surveys office.

Some Wyoming municipi-

ties have requested jurisdiction over healthcare facility construction. Whenever possible, these requests, which apply only to final plan reviews and inspections related to the International Building Codes, have been granted.

The option to use a third-party reviewer and/or interim inspector does not apply in those jurisdictions.

The OHLS will continue to review and approve all preliminary plan submissions. In addition, the OHLS will continue to perform all final licensure and Life Safety Code inspections.

A list of jurisdictions delegated plan review and inspection responsibilities is at <http://www.health.wyo.gov/ohls/construction.html>.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



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

Wyoming Hospital Association

*2005 Warren Ave.
Cheyenne, WY
82001*

www.wyohospitals.com

307.632.9344

Washakie Medical Center Launches Tele-ICU

An advanced, additional layer of care for hospitalized patients in Intensive Care now is available at Washakie Medical Center. The hospital joins 17 other Banner Health facilities in providing eICU® technology.

Utilized by Banner Health's iCare Intensive Care departments, eICU® technology is also referred to as the Tele-ICU. iCare consists of a team of offsite critical care nurses who remotely monitor ICU patients 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

As backup to existing bedside caregivers, these specially trained staff members work from a Clinical Operations Room (COR) located on the Banner Desert Medical Center campus in Mesa, Ariz.

"iCare will bring specialized care to the bedside of our patients to work collaboratively with the outstanding physicians and nursing staff at Washakie Medical Center to provide excellent patient care in our community," explained Sherrill Sorensen,

chief nursing officer at the hospital.

"Patients will be able to remain near their home, family and friends, for care and treatment in the hospital."

Each intensive care unit is equipped with a high resolution, full-motion, two-way video camera with audio hookup in each ICU patient room. From the COR, critical care nurses can assist the bedside caregivers to pick up even the smallest changes in a patient's condition.

Fall Prevention Training Available to Hospitals

The Wyoming Geriatric Education Center (WyGEC) and Cheyenne Regional Medical Center (CRMC) partnered to create an evidence-based project to provide training in policies and strategies to decrease falls in older adults.

Training based on the University of North Carolina at Greensboro's Fall Prevention curriculum was conducted in the fall of 2011. Onsite training was required for all CRMC clinical and management level nurses, CNAs, and

therapists (physical, occupational, speech and cardiac). Between September and November 2011, over 600 CRMC employees received the onsite training.

After successful implementation of this project, the evidence-based training was merged with the pre-existing CRMC annual online training for fall prevention.

The evidence-based training incorporates descriptions of risk factors for older adults, how to categorize their fall risk, and effective strategies for decreasing falls both as an inpatient and

upon discharge back into the community. There are practical examples of how balance can be affected by visual dysfunction, as well as combinations of health issues/diagnoses that are most likely to be related to falls.

WyGEC and CRMC would like to offer your facility a DVD copy of this training session. If you are interested in implementing this curriculum, please contact Jenny Wolf at jcox5@uwyo.edu or call (307-766-2829) to obtain a complimentary copy of the DVD.

WMS Seeks Nominations for Community Service Award

Each year, the Wyoming Medical Society Board of Trustees recognizes physicians for their community contributions and service.

The prestigious WMS Community Service Award honors a physician for both their time and personal commitment for the benefit of

the community. The medical society is currently seeking hospitals' help in identifying deserving physicians who may qualify for the award.

Nominations are due by May 1, and the winner will be announced during the

WMS annual meeting June 8 – 10 at the Jackson Lake Lodge in Jackson.

Contact the WMS office at (307) 635-2424 with questions and to receive a nomination form. Questions may also be submitted via email to info@wyomed.org.