

# NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 45, Number 14

April 4, 2014

## WHA Calendar:

Healthcare Effective Communication Webinar **4/9**

Trustee Educational Program Casper **5/16**

## Other Events:

AHA Annual Meeting Washington, DC **5/4-5/7**

Western Regional Trustee Symposium Henderson, NV **6/11-6/13**



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## President's Corner

We are pleased to announce the formation of a partnership between WHA and the Wisconsin Hospital Association's CheckPoint, a public reporting program of quality, safety and service measures.

Wisconsin hospitals have been national leaders for over a decade in raising quality statewide by sharing best practices, committing to quality improvement and promoting transparency.

Over three years ago, WHA joined Wisconsin's PricePoint, a transparency web site that enables consumers to look up and compare hospital charges for any hospital in the state.

Last year, a subcommittee of board members from WHA and the Wyoming Business Coalition on Health examined a number of quality reporting tools designed to publically report hospital quality measurements, including the Leapfrog Group.

In the end, the two groups were not able to come to an agreement on which entity to

endorse. In January, the WHA Board voted to move forward with the Wisconsin quality reporting tool, while noting that hospitals still had the option to participate in Leapfrog or any other quality reporting tools.

We are now involved in a process to prepare for the launch of CheckPoint in mid to late August. Leading up to that launch, Kelly Court, Chief Quality Officer for Wisconsin's CheckPoint, will explain the details of the program at the Trustee Education Program in Casper on May 16.

The measures in CheckPoint were selected because (1) they are common reasons to go to the hospital and (2) because they reflect care that is scientifically proven to increase the chance of a positive outcome.

The purpose of CheckPoint is to provide information to:

- Consumers to help them choose a hospital
- Hospitals for quality improvement
- Guiding Principles of the Reporting System

The information in CheckPoint should be:

- Composed of available, evidence-based measures
- Comparable across similar hospitals

- Capable of benchmarking
- Available in a timely manner
- Capable of instilling confidence in consumers through the ethical distribution of reliable and valid data
- Readily accessible to consumers for selection purposes
- Available to Wyoming hospitals for quality improvement activities

The Advantages to Consumers, Employers and the Public:

- Enhance consumer choice by helping to identify high quality providers
- Assist employers in designing benefits that incorporate quality measures
- Promote research-based care to the public
- Raise the quality of care provided through competition and selection of providers
- Control growth of administrative resources, and
- Minimize conflicting or misleading quality information by providing a trusted source of information.



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

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## Dream BIG...BE a NURSE

Dream BIG...BE a NURSE is a high school summer camp being offered in Sheridan, Wyoming at the Wyoming Simulation Center this June.

This free camp will be held twice during the month of June (June 9-12/2014 and June 16-19th/2014).

The Dream Big-Be a Nurse camp is designed to help address future health care needs by attracting high

school students into the nursing profession.

The goal of the camp is to increase a student's understanding of the educational preparedness required for the profession.

Activities include: basic nursing skills, emergency care (CPR & First Aid), wound care, medication injections, and local health care facility tours of the Sheridan Memorial Hospital

and Sheridan Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Camp is limited to 24 students each week. Please visit the website: [www.wyosimcenter.org](http://www.wyosimcenter.org) for more information and to download a copy of the registration form.

Sponsors of the event include Wyoming Simulation Center, Sheridan College, Sheridan Memorial Hospital and Sheridan's VA.

## Senate Passes 12-month Physician Payment Fix

The Senate has approved, and sent to the President, a bill that would stave off scheduled cuts to Medicare physician payments through April 1, 2015.

Medicare physician payments were scheduled to be cut by 24% without Congressional action.

Among other provisions, the bill extends the Medicare-dependent Hospital Program, low-volume adjustment and ambulance add-on payments through April 1,

2015.

The bill also extends the delay in enforcement of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' two-midnight policy for an additional six months, through March 31, 2015 and prohibits recovery audit contractors from auditing inpatient claims spanning less than two midnights for the six-month period.

It delays the start of the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital cuts for one

year, until 2017; and extends the DSH cuts for an additional year through 2024.

Finally, it also delays implementation of ICD-10 for one year, until Oct. 1, 2015.



## Healthcare Effective Communication Webinar

A free educational webinar on Healthcare Effective Communications will be presented Wednesday, April 9 from Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Colorado Assistive Technology Partners will present on assistive technology in the health care settings.

This presentation builds upon the legal requirements that prohibit disability discrimination by providing additional infor-

mation on assistive technology that health care providers may want to use to ensure effective communication with individuals with disabilities.

The program will be presented by Julia Beems, MA. Julia Beems, MA is the Senior Instructor and the Assistive Technology Program Outreach Coordinator & Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center for the Advancement of Cognitive Technology Project Coordi-

nator with Assistive Technology Partners in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at University of Colorado Denver Anschutz Medical Center. She also holds a secondary appointment in Pediatrics

To participate in the webinar, please send your name and e-mail address to [rose@wyohospitals.com](mailto:rose@wyohospitals.com).

Login information and handouts will be sent prior to the webinar.