



NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 47, Number 16

May 13, 2016

WHA Calendar:

WHA Board of
Directors
Meeting
Cody, WY

5/18

WHA CEO/
Trustee
Educational
Program
Cody, WY

5/19

Other Events:

LeadingAge
Wyoming
Spring Meeting
Cody, WY

5/17-
5/18

CMS Publishes Final Rule on Fire Safety Requirements

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the final rule (<https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection>) to update health care facilities' fire protection guidelines to improve protections for all Medicare beneficiaries in facilities from fire.

The new guidelines apply to hospitals; long term care (LTC) facilities; critical access hospitals (CAHs); inpatient hospice facilities; programs for all inclusive care for the elderly (PACE); religious non-medical healthcare institutions (RNHCI); ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs); and intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ICF-IID).

This rule adopts updated provisions of the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) 2012 edition of the Life Safety Code (LSC) as well as provisions of the NFPA's 2012 edition of the Health Care Facilities Code.

CMS strives to promote health and safety for all patients, family and staff in every provider and supplier setting. Fire safety requirements are an important part of this effort.

"This final rule meets health care facilities' desire to modernize their environments while also ensuring the neces-

sary steps to provide patients and staff with the appropriate level of safety," said Kate Goodrich, MD MHS, Director Center for Clinical Standards and Quality, CMS.

The provisions in this final rule cover construction, protection, and operational features designed to provide safety for Medicare beneficiaries from fire, smoke, and panic. Some of the main requirements laid out in this final rule include:

Health care facilities located in buildings that are taller than 75 feet are required to install automatic sprinkler systems within 12 years after the rule's effective date.

Health care facilities are required to have a fire watch or building evacuation if their sprinkler systems is out of service for more than ten hours.

The provisions offer LTC facilities greater flexibility in what they can place in corridors. Currently, they cannot include benches or other seating areas because of fire code requirements limiting potential barriers to firefighters.

Moving forward, LTC facilities will be able to include more home-like items such as fixed seating in the corridor for resting and certain decorations in patient rooms.

Fireplaces will be permitted

in smoke compartments without a one hour fire wall rating, which makes a facility more home-like for residents.

Cooking facilities now may have an opening to the hallway corridor. This will permit residents of inpatient facilities such as nursing homes to make food for themselves or others if they choose to, and, if the patient does decide to make food, facility staff is able to provide supervision of the patient.

For ASCs, all doors to hazardous areas must be self-closing or must close automatically. Additionally, alcohol based hand rub dispensers now may be placed in corridors to allow for easier access.

The LSC is a compilation of fire safety requirements for new and existing buildings and is updated every three years. Currently, CMS is using the 2000 edition of the LSC to survey for health and safety compliance. With this rule, CMS is adopting provisions of the 2012 edition of the LSC and provisions of the 2012 edition of the Health Care Facilities Code to bring CMS's requirements more up to date. In addition, the 2012 edition of the NFPA's Health Care Facilities Code gives more detailed provisions specific to different types of health care facilities.



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

Wyoming Hospital Association

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Powell Hospital Opens Chrysalis Room

A new Chrysalis Room at Powell Valley Care Center aims to help people nearing the final hours of their lives and for those who love and care about them.

The Chrysalis Room is Powell Valley Healthcare's approach to honoring the end-of-life experience.

The Room will provide a supportive environment in the care center to help families and friends while their loved ones are receiving end-of-life care.

Amenities in the room include a dinette area, a comfortable sitting area and a pullout couch for family members to sleep on.

Staff will provide caring support as needed.

Chrysalis Room services are provided with no extra charge.

Money from the foundation was used to furnish the room. That money came through donations.

Safety Advisors Offered to Wyoming Businesses

The Wyoming Department of Workforce Services is deploying a new unit designed to significantly expand safety expertise and resources to employers around the state.

Developed internally by DWS Standards and Compliance staff in consultation with Gov. Matt Mead, the Workers' Compensation Safety and Risk Unit (WCSRU) will offer safety advisors who will provide free, expert safety and health advice to Wyoming businesses and public sector employers at the request of the employer.

"The new Workers' Compensation Safety and Risk Unit presents an innovative opportunity for DWS to better serve Wyoming employers and workers and move the needle on workplace safety," said John Cox, director of the DWS. "This reorganization equates to a higher level of service delivery for employers, greater reach in terms of safety consults and the potential for lower workers compensation premiums."

Like OSHA consultants, the unit's staff will conduct health and safety surveys to help employers recognize

and remedy safety hazards in their workplace — without fines or penalties.

Unlike OSHA consultants, the WCSRU staff will bypass time-consuming federal requirements, which add an extra layer of reporting and operational constraints, and limit the services DWS is able to provide.

The Safety and Risk Unit's services will expand to assist employers with a detailed analysis of workers' compensation information to determine injury trends and best practices for prevention.

WyAMSS Elects New Board Members

The Wyoming Chapter of the National Association of Medical Staff Services has elected new board members.

Cindy Rohde, CPMSM from West Park Hospital is the President; Deb Wade from Campbell County Health is President Elect; Teena Gering, CPCS, CPMSM from Cheyenne Regional Medical Center is Secretary/Treasurer; and Amy Ligocki, CPCS, CPMSM is Past President.

The goals of WyAMSS are to enhance the skills and general competence of practicing Medical Staff Services Professionals; assist members to understand and succeed in the changing organizational structure of the health care industry; promote a positive, powerful and professional image for the Medical Staff Services profession and for the Association itself, and support the mission and activities of

the National Association Medical Staff Services (NAMSS).

WyAMSS was established in 2012, when a small group of executive and medical staff coordinators came together with a vision to create an organization to provide an opportunity for continuing education, networking and professional development in the areas of credentialing and practitioner support services.