



# NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 46, Number 26

July 10, 2015

### WHA Calendar:

<b>WHA PAC Golf Tournament</b>	9/1
<b>WHA/Leading Age Annual Meeting &amp; Convention Casper</b>	9/2-9/3

### Other Events:

<b>HIDI Meeting</b>	7/27-7/29
<b>Wyoming Quality Conference Casper</b>	8/19-8/20

## President's Message

The rules for SF145 have been presented to the Governor and should be signed soon. This is the \$2 million that was appropriated to help cover a small amount of our uncompensated charity care costs.

All CEOs will receive a letter describing how to apply. I encourage all of you to apply for the funding.

Also, for those critical access hospitals that had under 100 days cash on hand from July 1, 2014-December 31, 2014, there were letters sent out several weeks ago from the state auditor's office telling you how to go about applying for and receiving funding to help you with your cash short falls.

To date, only a few of the half dozen hospitals that qualify have applied and the deadline is July 31. A copy of the instructions can be found at the WHA website.

As many of you may be aware, the feds have decided that even though ICD-10 will go live on October 1, they are going to hold physicians harmless and continue to pay them even if there are mistakes in how they submit their bills.

Hospitals on the other hand will not receive any sort of concessions and will be held to the rules as they are set forth.

One thing to be aware of, the billing for physician services on an inpatient basis

must be done correctly and meet the guidelines of ICD-10. These claims are not exempt for inpatient services, so hospitals need to be vigilant and submit clean claims to ensure payment, especially if you employ your providers.

Speaking of ICD-10, I am happy to say 11 of our hospitals have either registered or tested with the state Medicaid office.

I am really concerned about those that have not. Many of our members believe that if they are able to get claims cleanly to their clearing houses that their claims are clean and will process correctly.

This is where we are all struggling. I would encourage all of you to sign up with the state and do end to end testing instead of trusting your clearing houses. ICD-10 testing with the State has been extended through August 21.

There are problems with the clearing houses getting your claims submitted cleanly to the state. I just don't want any of you having cash flow issues after October 1 because you trusted your clearing houses or because you didn't do all you could to ensure you could bill properly.

July 1 was also the deadline for all of you to submit only electronic claims to Medicaid and any paper claims will be rejected.

I hope all of you checked with your billing departments and your clearing houses to make sure you were no longer submitting paper claims.

The last report I had showed that almost every hospital in our state was still submitting some paper claims... some of which were coming from your clearing houses. Again, I am trying to protect your cash flow and make sure that is not interrupted.

Finally, I want to remind you all again that you must re-enroll for Medicaid by the end of the year.

This is mandated by the federal government. To date, 56% of our hospitals have completed the re-enrollment process. The process takes 4-6 weeks.

I would encourage you to not put this off and to get it done and out of the way to avoid any possible problems later in the year.

I know there is a great deal being thrown at us constantly. I admire what you do and I have walked in your shoes.

I worry about each of you and am trying to communicate and keep you informed the best I can.

Our jobs and this industry are not easy but we do make a huge difference in our communities and in the lives of those we serve.



## WPH Recognized as Healthcare Organization of the Month

This month, West Park Hospital (WPH) has been awarded the Healthcare Organization of the Month by Studer Group.

Each month, Studer Group honors an organization that stands out from its peers and is a true example of what healthcare is.

“We were delighted to receive the news! This recognition from Studer is exciting based on their national leadership in healthcare, customer service

and evidence based leadership. WPH selection as the July Studer recipient is very well deserved based on the great job all the WPH staff and medical staff have done in implementation and hardwiring of Studer Principals which are integral in WPH “ALWAYS Initiative,” stated West Park Hospital CEO, Doug McMillan.

It is a distinguished honor that Studer Group bestows upon hospitals that are then considered Fire Starter

hospitals.

A Fire Starter hospital is one that keeps the true essence of the organization alive and flourishing. They “ignite the flame” of service and care for others.

West Park Hospital employees and medical team work tirelessly to insure patient centered care.

Since partnering with Studer Group, West Park Hospital’s 9 out of 9 Patient Satisfaction Domains have increased in percentile rank.



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

## WY EMS Annual Trauma Conference – August 20-23

The Wyoming Office of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) has announced that registration is now open for the upcoming 45th Annual Wyoming Trauma Conference.

The event will be held August 20-23 at Little America in Cheyenne.

Andy Gienapp, Wyoming EMS manager affirms the important role the conference plays in serving as the premier educational and

training opportunity for all EMS volunteers and professionals statewide.

This year’s conference agenda will again providing timely training and motivating programs for all involved in Wyoming’s emergency response and trauma systems.

The event begins on August 20 with a preconference program on Traffic Incident Management Systems.

The balance of the confer-

ence includes instructional sessions and workshops on topics such as advanced burn life support, pre-hospital trauma life support, pediatric protocols, basic disaster life support, AirLife flight safety and 12-lead EKG technique update.

Full conference details and registration information can be found at [www.health.wyo.gov/sho/ems/conferences.html](http://www.health.wyo.gov/sho/ems/conferences.html) or call 307 777-7955.



## ICD-10 - What Clinicians Need to Know Now Webinar

The healthcare industry is transitioning from the current ICD-9 medical classification code set to the ICD-10 standards on October 1, 2015. This is a significant change and could impact clinical and business operations if providers are not prepared.

The Wyoming Department of Health’s Division of Healthcare Financing (the Division) has been

working through the challenges of ICD-10 and making appropriate updates to its systems, policies and operations, and is offering free help to providers to help minimize the impact of this transition on current Medicaid operations and reimbursements.

Join Dr. Joe Nichols, a leading ICD-10 specialist and board-certified orthopedic surgeon, as he shares his

ICD-10 knowledge and how to prepare for this significant transition.

Following Dr. Nichols’ presentation, you will have an opportunity to ask questions of the Wyoming DOH Division of Healthcare Financing (the Division).

The webinar is scheduled for Wednesday, July 15, 2-3.

To register visit <http://www.qhs.org/janda/inner.php?PageID=91>

**Wyoming Hospital  
Association**

**2005 Warren Ave.  
Cheyenne, WY  
82001**

**[www.wyohospitals.com](http://www.wyohospitals.com)**

**307.632.9344**