

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 45, Number 5

January 31, 2014

WHA Calendar:

Healthcare 2/12
Effective
Communication
Webinar

Other Events:

Wyoming 2/10
Legislative
Session Convenes



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Medicare's Delivery System Reform Initiatives

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released findings on a number of its initiatives to reform the health care delivery system.

These include interim financial results for select Medicare Accountable Care Organization (ACO) initiatives, an in-depth savings analysis for Pioneer ACOs, results from the Physician Group Practice demonstration, and expanded participation in the Bundled Payments for Care Improvement Initiative.

Savings from both the Medicare ACOs and Pioneer ACOs exceed \$380 million.

"These innovative programs are showing encouraging initial results, while providing valuable lessons as we strive to improve our nation's health care delivery system," HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said.

"Today's findings demonstrate that organizations of various sizes and structures across the country are working with their physicians and engaging with patients to better coordinate and deliver high quality care while reducing expenditure growth."

While ACOs are designed to achieve savings over several years, not always on an annual basis, the interim financial results released today for the Medicare Shared Sav-

ings Program ACOs show that, in their first 12 months, nearly half (54 out of 114) of the ACOs that started program operations in 2012 already had lower expenditures than projected. Of the 54 ACOs that exceeded their benchmarks in the first 12 months, 29 generated shared savings totaling more than \$126 million – a strong start this early in the program.

In addition, these ACOs generated a total of \$128 million in net savings for the Medicare Trust Funds. ACOs share with Medicare any savings generated from lowering the growth in health care costs while meeting standards for high quality care.

While evaluation of the program's overall impact is ongoing, the interim results are currently within the range originally projected for the program's first year.

Moreover, through regular webinars; tools for sharing information and best practices; opportunities for ACOs to connect with one another; and other activities, ACOs are being provided the infrastructure and resources to learn from one another and to then diffuse what's working and what is not.

CMS announced that 232 acute care hospitals, skilled nursing homes, physician group practices, long-term care hospitals, and home

health agencies have entered into agreements to participate in the Bundled Payments for Care Improvement initiative.

Bundling payment for services that patients receive across a single episode of care, such as heart bypass surgery or a hip replacement, is one way to encourage doctors, hospitals and other health care providers to work together to better coordinate care for patients, both when they are in the hospital and after they are discharged.

This is the largest and most ambitious test ever of a bundled payment model in Medicare or any other payer in the U.S. Through this initiative, made possible by the Affordable Care Act, CMS will test how bundled payments for clinical episodes can result in more coordinated care for beneficiaries and lower costs for Medicare.

To learn more about the ways HHS is working to reform the health care delivery system visit: <http://www.cms.gov/Newsroom/MediaReleaseDatabase/Fact-Sheets/2014-Fact-sheets-items/2014-01-30-03.html>.

To learn more about the Bundled Payments for Care Improvement initiative, including program participants, visit: <http://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/bundled-payments>.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Margo Karsten

Karsten Named CEO at CRMC

Cheyenne Regional Medical Center's (CRMC) Board of Trustees have announced that they have appointed Margo Karsten, PhD, MS, BSN, as the health system's chief executive officer.

The trustees voted unanimously to appoint Dr. Karsten as CEO.

"Dr. Karsten has extensive healthcare and executive management experience in large and medium-sized healthcare systems," said Joe Evans, president of Cheyenne Regional's board

of trustees. "On behalf of Cheyenne Regional's employees, providers and volunteers, we look forward to continuing the work that Dr. Karsten started last year as interim chief operating officer and interim chief executive officer," Evans said.

During the interview process, Karsten stressed the need for greater community outreach from CRMC, as well as more "face time" from the CEO.

She was previously the president and CEO of Crea-

tive Health Care Management, a Minneapolis based healthcare care consulting firm, and also served as a chief nursing officer, chief operations officer and CEO at Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins.

Dr. Karsten has been with Cheyenne Regional since last July. She became interim CEO on Sept. 1, after the former CEO, Dr. John Lucas, retired.

The interviews were open to the public.

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

Cultural Competence: Recommendations for Sustainability

On February 12, 2014 there will be a webinar to discuss Cultural Competence and Recommendations for Sustainability.

Cultural competence refers to the skills we learn to work effectively in the context of differences.

Given our diverse work environments and the intention of working with diversity, it provides us with the opportunity to expand our awareness of self and the skills we must develop to

work effectively considering our differences.

The objective of this presentation is to provide recommendations for building an organizational structure to sustain cultural competence.

- Present the relationship between cultural competency, diversity and inclusion.
- Present organizational recommendations to sustain cultural competence

These monthly series are designed in collaboration to educate participants about effective communication obligations and offer practical example and tips.

The webinars are presented in collaboration by the Wyoming Hospital Association, the Wyoming Institute of Population Health, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights.

To register, please e-mail rose@wyohospitals.com.

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Grant Writing Class to be Held in Casper

A grant writing class is being hosted by the Wyoming Department of Health, Office of Rural Health and Grant Writing USA at the Casper Ramada Plaza Riverside on March 13-14, 2014 .

If you're ready to learn how to find and write grants you've come to the right place. Beginning and

experienced grant writers are encouraged to attend.

In this workshop you will learn how and where to find grants, how to write winning grants, the behind-the-scenes decisions that determine proposal acceptance and denial, and much more.

Tuition is \$425 per person and includes everything - workbook, the 300+MB

resource CD, two days of terrific instruction and life time, free access to exclusive Alumni Forums.

For more information contact Client Services Team at Grant Writing USA: 1-800-814-8191 or e-mail cs@grantwritingusa.com.