



# NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 46, Number 39

October 2, 2015

### WHA Calendar:

<b>HFMA Meeting Laramie</b>	11/18- 11/19
<b>WHA Board Meeting Lander</b>	11/23

### Other Events:

<b>Labor, Health &amp; Social Services Committee Buffalo</b>	10/19- 10/20
<b>LeadingAge Wyoming Board Meeting</b>	11/10

## WHA Selected to Continue Improvements in Patient Safety

The Wyoming Hospital Association, as a part of the American Hospital Association/Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET) Hospital Engagement Network, has been selected as one of 17 national, regional, or state hospital associations and health system organizations to continue efforts in reducing preventable hospital-acquired conditions and readmissions.

Through the Partnership for Patients initiative – a nationwide public-private collaboration that began in 2011 to reduce preventable hospital-acquired conditions by 40 percent and 30-day readmissions by 20 percent – Wyoming will participate in a second round of Hospital Engagement Networks to continue working to improve patient care in the hospital setting.

“Wyoming hospitals have maintained long-standing commitment to high-quality, safe and effective patient care” comments Neil Hilton, WHA Vice President. “This extension of the Hospital Engagement Network program will assist in providing a consistent and effective framework to carry forward with ongoing quality improvement efforts, and we look forward to working with our partners at HRET for the benefit of Wyoming hospitals across-the-board.”

The Department of Health and Human Services has estimated that 50,000 fewer patients died in hospitals and approximately \$12 billion in health care costs were saved as a result of a reduction in hospital-acquired conditions from 2010 to 2013.

Nationally, patient safety is improving, resulting in the avoidance of 1.3 million adverse events and infections. This translates to a 17 percent decline in hospital-acquired conditions over the three-year period.

The Partnership for Patients and the Hospital Engagement Networks are one part of an overall framework established by the Affordable Care Act to deliver better care, spend dollars more wisely, and improve care.

Initiatives like the Partnership for Patients, Accountable Care Organizations, Quality Improvement Organizations, and others have helped reduce hospital readmissions in Medicare by nearly 8 percent between January 2012 and December 2013 – translating into 150,000 fewer readmissions – in addition to the quality improvements mentioned above.

“We have made significant progress in keeping patients safe and we are focused on accelerating improvement efforts through collaboration and reliable implementation of

best practices,” said Patrick Conway, M.D., CMS acting principal deputy administrator and chief medical officer. “This second round of Hospital Engagement Networks will allow us to continue to improve health care safety across the nation.”

Round two of the Hospital Engagement Networks will continue to work to develop learning collaboratives for hospitals and provide a wide array of initiatives and activities to improve patient safety.

They will be required to: conduct intensive training programs to teach and support hospitals in making patient care safer; provide technical assistance to hospitals so that hospitals can achieve quality measurement goals; and establish, implement, and improve the system to track and monitor hospital progress in meeting the Partnership for Patients’ quality improvement goals.

The activities of the Hospital Engagement Networks will be closely monitored by CMS to ensure that they are generating results and improving patient safety.

For more information on the CMS Partnership for Patients and the Hospital Engagement Network, contact Neil Hilton, Vice President of the Wyoming Hospital Association at 307-632-9344.



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



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## Iverson Guest House Celebrates Three Years

The Iverson Memorial Hospital Foundation Guest House opened in September of 2012 to provide comfortable, clean, convenient, safe and affordable lodging for out-of-town families who have a loved one undergoing treatment at Iverson.

As well, some of the guests are patients going through extensive treatment who find travel out of town is difficult because of weather or frequency of the treatments.

“The Guest House was built strictly for the comfort of our patients. We conducted a capital campaign and built and furnished the house with private dollars, private dollars from people who will never use the facility.

Those private dollars allow family members to concentrate on what really matters...the patient,” said Tom Mangan IMH Foundation Board Member and Foundation Guest House LLC Committee, member.

Since opening nearly 500 patients and family members have stayed in the Guest house.

Most of the guests have come from the northern part of Albany County, Saratoga and Encampment.

Hospitality houses offer much more than a night's stay. Nothing is ever as comfortable as one's own home but a hospitality house can come close.

## Banner Health Announces Leadership Structure

Banner Health has announced change in its leadership structure for southern Wyoming.

Platte County Memorial Hospital's Chief Executive Officer, Shelby Nelson has been named chief executive officer of Banner's southern Wyoming operations.

In this new role, Nelson will lead an executive team that will be responsible for operations and strategic planning for Community Hospital in Torrington and Platte County Memorial

Hospital in Wheatland.

Nelson has worked for Banner Health since the 1980s and has been the chief executive officer for Platte County Memorial Hospital since 2011 and interim chief executive officer for Community Hospital since December 2014.

In addition to her regional chief executive officer duties she will serve as the chief operating officer at Platte County to oversee day-to-day operations there.

“After close examination

of our growing number of services and opportunities in southern Wyoming, we have determined that the best way to strengthen our strategic and operational goals is to collaborate on our approach to patient care and long-term planning,” said Jim Ferando, president of Banner Health's Western Region. “Doing so will help strengthen our role as a trusted advisor and health steward in the area.”

## Wyoming National Rural Health Day Photo Contest

Nominations are now be accepted for the Wyoming 2015 National Rural Health Day Photo Contest.

Send a high resolution version of your photo to [sharla.allen@wyo.gov](mailto:sharla.allen@wyo.gov).

Include your name, email address, phone number, and a caption of your photo.

Images submitted must

be royalty-free. By submitting a photo, you acknowledge you have the right and permission of the owner of the photo to use it for this contest.

Photos may be posted on the Wyoming Office of Rural Health website and may be used for future publications.

Photos will be judged by

Wyoming Office of Rural Health staff on creativity, originality, photo quality, how well it communicates the concept of “rural health” and overall appeal.

For more information contact Sharla Allen at 777-7293 [sharla.allen@wyo.gov](mailto:sharla.allen@wyo.gov)

Deadline for submission is Friday, November 13.