



**Wyoming
Hospital
Association**

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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October 28, 2016

WHA Calendar:

HFMA Meeting Cody	11/16- 11-18

Other Events:

Joint Corporations Committee Cheyenne	11/21- 11/22
Joint Labor Health & Social Services Committee Cheyenne	12/12- 12-13

DWS Continues Focus on Reorganization

The Wyoming Department of Workforce Services (DWS) Standards and Compliance Section is building on its program improvement focus following the successful development of the Workers' Compensation Safety and Risk Unit (WCSRU).

The Standards and Compliance Section, a branch of programs within DWS, is currently in the midst of a program improvement effort involving the OSHA Division.

The overhaul will primarily impact processes within DWS OSHA Compliance.

With the aim of greater effectiveness and efficiency, the Division has gone from a paper-based filing structure to an electronic system, allowing for more efficient follow up.

Because DWS OSHA's penalty collection authority is limited, the Division has contracted with a collection agency to more effectively collect on outstanding OSHA penalties. DWS has worked with the Department of Administration and Information to address staff retention challenges.

"There is no doubt that the DWS OSHA Division is a team of dedicated professionals who are committed to safer workplaces in Wyoming," said DWS Director John Cox.

"The Division has faced a series of challenges in years past. We are facing those roadblocks head-on with innovative solutions like the Workers' Compensation Safety and Risk Unit, and by implementing new strategies to address areas in need of improvement.

Through this reorganization, DWS OSHA is more closely aligning with its mission. I am confident the Division will come out on the other side stronger than ever."

In May of 2016, the Department introduced a new unit designed to significantly expand safety expertise and resources to employers in Wyoming.

Developed internally by DWS Standards and Compliance staff, the WCSRU offers safety advisors who provide free, expert safety and health advice to Wyoming businesses and public sector employers at the request of the employer.

The WCSRU is a group of safety advisors who previously worked out of the OSHA Division. These staff members now report to the Workers' Compensation Division.

WCSRU safety advisors now have the ability to more readily provide free, expert safety and health advice to Wyoming businesses and public sector employers without monetary penalties.

The Wyoming Department of Workforce Services is committed to ensuring that all of Wyoming's businesses are safe places to work. The goal is for every worker in Wyoming to have safe working conditions, free from recognized hazards.

The Department recognize that human resources are the state's most valuable assets, and to help employers and employees preserve the human capital, the Wyoming OSHA team provides for the administration of rules and regulations aimed at the prevention of accidents and occupational diseases, as well as offers a variety of educational tools for all industries, businesses, employees and associations.





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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Fitness Facility Available in Sundance Hospital

Crook County Medical Services District is now offering access to its brand new physical fitness center, overseen by exercise physiologist Naomi Jacobson.

This, however, is a gym with a difference: it's not just designed for the already fit and healthy, but also for community members who are suffering from illness or long-term conditions or who could benefit from expert advice on improv-

ing their wellness.

The newly opened fitness center contains a range of gym equipment, which Jacobson intends to build over time. At present, visitors can make use of light weights, Yoga mats, balance balls, resistance bands, a nustep, a treadmill, an elliptical and a recumbent bike.

The first visit to the facility will include a free personal training session with Jacobson if you are referred by your physician. Your referral needn't be due to a

medically controlled disease, it could also be inspired by the simple desire to improve your wellness.

The session includes a screening for such things as blood pressure and weight index as well as a discussion of where you would like your physical fitness to be.

Jacobson will also be partnering with the Extension Office to provide group fitness opportunities, such as the boot camp fitness classes, a "Mommy and Me" class and weekly yoga.

AHA Files Brief in FCA Case

The AHA filed a friend-of-the-court brief in United States ex rel. Berntsen v. Prime Healthcare Services et al., urging the federal court "to approach short hospital stay claims with sensitivity to the difficulties and consequences hospitals, physicians and patients face when navigating the uncertain world of Medicare's applicable coverage." The case "is the latest in a series of

attempts by qui tam relators and government auditors and attorneys to retrospectively review the medical judgments and clinical predictions that physicians make every day against an ambiguous standard that the CMS has struggled unsuccessfully to refine and clarify," the brief notes. "...It has become a no win situation for those physicians attempting to provide their patients with the highest appropriate quality of care

within the benefits defined for them by Medicare.

Against this backdrop, it is critical in False Claims Act litigation that the government specifically articulate the clinical criteria to explain why specific patients should have been placed in outpatient observation status rather than treated as inpatients and anchor that explanation in clear statements of coverage policy previously articulated by CMS."

Guardian Flight Wyoming Gains Accreditation

After completing a comprehensive audit of administrative documentation, medical practices, and facilities, the National Accreditation Alliance Medical Transport Applications (NAAMTA) is awarding Guardian Flight (Wyoming and Utah) medical transport accreditation for their fixed and rotor wing pro-

grams.

Guardian Flight, an air ambulance service for patients requiring any medical, surgical, cardiac, neurological, OB/GYN, pediatric, trauma, or burn specialty support, serves Wyoming from bases in Lander, Riverton, Worland and Gillette.

"Culture is a reflection of the repeated performance of personnel, and how they

work together to achieve a common goal," explained Lisa Gee, a member of the NAAMTA auditing team. "Guardian Flight personnel, including their management, pilots, medical crews, and mechanics, consistently demonstrate both on paper and in person, a commitment to safety and well-being of patients, and to each other."