



NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 46, Number 43

October 30, 2015

WHA Calendar:

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

Other Events:

LeadingAge Wyoming Board Meeting	11/10

HITM Online Program for Employees

Feeling like you are behind ICD-10? Are any of your billing and coding staff worried about the switch and wondering how they will ever learn the new codes?

Laramie County Community College's (LCCC) Health Information Technology and Management (HITM) program may have a great, long-term solution for your employees.

If your hospital has identified ICD-10 as a current, or potential gap, we encourage you to refer your existing employees to the HITM program.

The online, for-credit program allows employees to earn a certificate or A.A.S. degree without having to relocate.

As mentioned in the September 25, 2015 WHA newsletter, the completely online HITM program is in its third year of serving and preparing students to enter billing and coding positions in medical settings. LCCC created the program with the non-traditional student in mind thus allowing students to complete the tiered certificates on a part- or full-time basis.

Many of the students are currently employed in some healthcare career and wish to either further their knowledge or adjust their career path to be employed in a healthcare facil-

ity as a medical secretary, biller, coder, or office manager. They understand the need to learn the methodology and background of the career. Students understand pass-through billing will no longer be enough to cover expenses.

Coursework allows them to code correctly by following the published guidelines, evaluate revenue cycle issues, work in electronic health records, identify quality improvement areas and work as a collaborative team to improve healthcare overall.

LCCC geographic region, and provide support to stay the college course.

LCCC is currently working with a Department of Labor (H1B) grant to support students who wish to enter careers with bright outlooks.

The HITM program is one of the programs supported. Currently, students can apply for the funding regardless of income status and receive grant funding for HITM-specific courses.

This opportunity will be available for the Spring 2016 semester and potentially the Fall 2016 semester.



HITM is an ideal program for the nontraditional student who is already working, would like the flexibility to carry a full or part time credit load, and would like the benefit of an online program.

Some students are worried about returning to school while still in the workforce. All of the HITM students work with a career coach from the application period through graduation and employment if they desire.

The coach can assist them if they need help with scheduling of school and personal life, be a representative to those who do not live in the

More and more applicants are realizing the need to become experts in their field. We encourage you to talk with your HIM, Billing and Coding departments, and your medical secretaries about the HITM program. It will benefit their professional growth as well as your bottom line!

For further information, please contact Anne Siebert, Career Coach, at 307.432.1605 or hitm@lccc.wy.edu.

Further information is also available on the LCCC website, www.lccc.wy.edu



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



IMH Dialysis Unit Awarded 5 Star Rating

Iverson Memorial Hospital is proud to announce their best treatment practices rating 5 out of 5 stars from Medicare.gov Dialysis Facility Compare organization.

The IMH Dialysis Unit has been awarded based on the services that dialysis facilities provide that can help patients avoid hospitalization and death.

"I could not be prouder of the employees' work ethic providing the best

healthcare possible to patients," said Leslie Comly, IMH Dialysis Director.

The 5 out of 5 star rating is available to the public on the Medicare.gov website. Patients can access this rating when choosing their healthcare facility.

The Iverson Dialysis Department serves the needs of individuals with end stage renal disease. Dialysis at IMH is small enough so each patient receives spe-

cialized, tailored attention, but large enough to house innovative, advanced technology and treatment offerings.

Opened in 1999, the Dialysis Department conveniently provides outpatient hemodialysis services for local residents and visiting patients. The department is lead by a certified nephrology nurse and a medical director that is board certified in nephrology.

Nord Recognized for Lifetime of Healthcare Leadership

The Wyoming Chapter of Healthcare Executives is pleased to have recently been notified that Thomas Nord has been selected to be recognized with the lifetime leadership in service award.

The news of this award is quite appropriate, as Tom has clearly spent the entirety of his life and career illustrating excellence and leadership at every turn – within the healthcare industry and otherwise.

Iverson Memorial Hospital in Laramie was fortunate to land Tom as their new

CEO in 1984, as he proceeded to lead Iverson in significant growth, program development and outstanding operational and financial performance. Tom held the CEO position at Iverson Memorial for a 12-year tenure, retiring with distinction in 1996.

Tom served two separate terms on the Board of the Wyoming Hospital Association, and advanced through the officer chairs in the late 1980's. In addition, Tom provided leadership in a wide variety of capacities

throughout his career, including Delegate to the AHA Regional Policy Board, served on the Board of the Healthcare Forum, the executive committee for the Mountain States division of VHA, and was a faculty member with the University of Minnesota Executive MHA program.

Throughout his career, Tom has been an active ACHE member dating back to his initial application for membership in August of 1975 – with 40-years of continuous membership.

Hospital Leadership Training 2015

Wyoming Medical Center partnered with Capstone Leadership Solutions to offer training workshops for existing and up-and-coming leaders.

Capstone Leadership Solutions serves healthcare organizations and leaders in ways which bring value to their patients, employees, physicians and

communities. Sue and Jane, the company's co-founders, are registered nurses from Michigan.

They coined the strategy: CASE Method (Copy And Share Everything; but make it yours and make it better).

They discovered that the practices and tactics that were working to improve results were used in busi-

nesses all over the world, not just in healthcare.

They live out their vision to inspire positive change – one leader at a time.

Learn more about Capstone at www.capstoneleadership.net.

For more information about this training opportunity, please call Amy Young at (307) 577-2171.

Wyoming Hospital Association

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