

# NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 45, Number 41

October 31, 2014

## WHA Calendar:

Wyoming Patient Safety Summit  
Laramie 11/7

Labor Health and Social Services Interim Committee  
Cheyenne 12/15-12/16

2015 General Session of the Wyoming Legislature  
Cheyenne 1/13

## Other Events:

HFMA Fall Meeting  
Laramie 11/19-11/21

2014 Wyoming Forum  
Cheyenne 11/13-11/14

## Wyoming CheckPoint Preparations Nearing Completion

As a new initiative of the Wyoming Hospital Association (WHA), and having been announced earlier this year, final preparations are nearing completion as we approach the release of the new Wyoming CheckPoint program.

Facilitated via a partnership between WHA and the Wisconsin Hospital Association, as the developer and strategic host of the program, CheckPoint will provide public access to a variety of quality, safety, and patient satisfaction measures for Wyoming hospitals.

The intent of this effort is clearly to showcase the quality improvement efforts of all hospitals statewide, while providing focus on raising the bar in continuing to advance the commitment to quality care and promoting genuine transparency.

Through this process, individual hospitals will not be expected to garner additional levels of data collection, as the sourcing will be composed of evidence-based measures that are already available to be gleaned from existing databases.

Mountain-Pacific Quality Health, serving as our state's QIO organization, is engaged in this process with WHA in supporting the necessary data

collection efforts.

There are a number of specific elements that have deemed the CheckPoint program to provide highly reliable data and resources to the forefront of the public's discretion.



The data points will be comparable across hospitals of similar size and scope, effectively benchmarked to recognized rates of expected patient outcomes. Information will be current, and will be consistently refreshed on a quarterly basis.

These parameters are all in keeping with the intentions to provide consumers with a source of confidence through the distribution of reliable and valid data directly via the Wyoming Hospital Association.

Through these efforts, it is expected that CheckPoint will play a new and leading role in minimizing the oftentimes conflicting or inconsistent quality information by maintaining a direct source of Wyoming-based data.

In addition, this speaks to the notion that employers, large and small alike – are

increasingly challenged to maintain their provision of employer based health plans.

Whether it be through a traditional insurance based plan or a self-funded model, the CheckPoint program is

certain to be of benefit as determinations are made by health care plans regarding pricing and quality.

The balance and equation of delivering increasing value to the health care consumer is ever-present.

WHA is very committed to serving and supporting our member hospitals with the necessary tools to assist in delivering upon the goals toward improved quality and enhancing value in health care to all of Wyoming.

We look forward to the CheckPoint program providing improved information that will benefit Wyoming hospitals, our functionality as an association, and ultimately the patients receiving care in our state.

A detailed press release will be issued to media outlets to highlight and describe the intent and functionality of CheckPoint when unveiled very soon.



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

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## Joint Commission Accredits Community Hospital

Community Hospital in Torrington has earned the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval for accreditation by demonstrating compliance with the organization's national standards for health care quality and safety in hospitals.

The accreditation award recognizes Community Hospital's dedication to continuous compliance with the

Joint Commission's state-of-the-art standards.

A team of Joint Commission expert surveyors evaluated the hospital for compliance with standards of care specific to the needs of patients, including infection prevention and control, leadership and medication management.

The Joint Commission's hospital standards address

important functions related to the care of patients and the management of hospitals.

"Accomplishing this accreditation is the result of much hard work, determination and preparation by many individuals in the organization and within Banner Health," said Chief Executive Officer Vince DiFranco.

## Wyoming Health Resources Network

WHRN serves as a state clearinghouse for information on primary healthcare services in the rural & frontier communities of Wyoming.

WHRN maintains an extensive and current database on Wyoming healthcare facilities and their need for professionals.

This database provides a vital tool for healthcare professionals looking for opportunities in our great state.

WHRN believes that physician recruitment and successful placements occur when doctors and organizations receive the informed

and personalized attention they deserve. They have streamlined the process of finding a new job in the Cowboy State.

The WHRN mission is to help improve and enhance rural health services and promote healthier individuals and communities in Wyoming with a goal to match healthcare professionals with hospitals, clinics and facilities that need to fill a professional healthcare position.

WHRN works at no cost to the physician to match them with the organization or community that offers the most benefit to all involved.

Since 1995, WHRN has successfully participated in the placement of dozens of physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners and allied health professionals, in all areas of Wyoming.



## AHA Launches SmartMarket

The American Hospital Association's latest innovation is SmartMarket.

This new, free electronic community was built to facilitate collaboration, strengthen peer-to-peer networking and provide confidence in your product and service selections.

AHA is inviting everyone to join AHA SmartMarket – to share your

voice, opinions and expertise in a network exclusive to health care.

The website is: [smartMarket.aha.org](http://smartMarket.aha.org).

The AHA and your peers need to hear from you — about the daily challenges you face, your strategic objectives, and how well existing products, services and vendors are meeting your unique needs.

More than 1,600 leaders in health care have already joined and started thoughtful discussions.

What's more, you can find more than 1,300 products and services from more than 1,000 different vendors. You can find solutions and best practices for all of your needs – answers that will help you limit risk, and strengthen your patient experiences.