

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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WHA Calendar:

Healthcare Leadership Training **12/6**

Other Events:

Healthcare Effective Communication Webinar **12/11**



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President's Corner

On my way home from last week's WHA/WMS Patient Safety Summit held in Casper, I couldn't help but reflect on the tremendous strides that our hospitals have made in patient safety and quality issues, especially in the last decade.

Eighteen of our hospitals are now participating in the Hospital Engagement Network, part of CMS's Partnership for Patients. The goal is to help make hospitals safer, more reliable, and less costly by making care safer and improving care transitions.

Our hospitals' work with the state's Quality Improvement Organization, Mountain-Pacific Quality Health, has rendered remarkable results in improving individual patient care by reducing hospital-associated infections. And many hospitals have embarked upon numerous internal initiatives designed to improve their individual patient safety culture.

Earlier in the week, I found myself researching the good work of the Wyoming

Health Care Commission (WHCC), so that I could make some constructive remarks at the Summit regarding the recommendations made by the WHCC's Patient Safety Committee.

As some may recall, the WHCC was created by the Wyoming Legislature in 2003 and was charged with a wide range of healthcare issues designed to improve access to, and quality of, healthcare in Wyoming.

Before they were allowed to sunset in April of 2009, the Commission recommended the creation of a Patient Safety Organization that, among other things, would provide a safe haven for the discussion of medical errors and implementation of corrective measures.

The recommendation also suggested that the PSO could re-focus state efforts from merely counting patient safety events to providing resources to understand why they happen and how to correct systems that lead to errors.

We were part of an effort that examined our options and ultimately decided to accept the invitation to join the recently-formed Rocky Mountain Patient Safety Organization. The WHA board voted to encourage our hospitals to join the RMPSO, but

those efforts were thwarted when that organization was shelved in 2010.

Over seventy people attended last week's Summit. They heard topics that included engaging patients as partners, the role of electronic records in patient safety and applying lessons learned from aviation safety to healthcare.

Coming full circle, the final segment of last week's conference dealt with resurrecting the notion of creating a PSO or adopting an already-approved PSO. The participants learned of the value of aggregating large-scale data to help identify the underlying causes of the risks and hazards of patient care and to share lessons learned.

A provision in the Affordable Care Act requires that qualified health plans participating in a Health Insurance Exchange may only contract with hospitals that utilize a patient safety evaluation system.

While this currently pertains only to PPS hospitals and calls for an implementation date of January of 2015, the federal guidance has yet to be released.

For this and a host of other compelling reasons, we need to pursue our opportunities for PSO development.



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

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Douglas Hospital Performs Single Site Surgery

Memorial Hospital of Converse County made surgical history by completing the first single-site gallbladder surgery in Wyoming.

Robotics Surgeon, Jonathan Grosdidier used the da Vinci Si Surgical System to remove the diseased organ.

“The da Vinci Si allowed me to complete the surgery by using one small incision in the patient’s belly button,” said Dr. Grosdidier.

“The incision is concealed within the belly button, resulting in a virtually scar free surgery.”

Memorial Hospital has been using the state’s only da Vinci Si since June for minimally invasive multi-port surgery.

Memorial Hospital has three Robotics Surgeons who draw patients from across the state for GYN and general surgeries.



Dr. Jonathan Grosdidier works to position the da Vinci Si prior to the state’s first single-site gallbladder surgery.

Wyoming Hospitals Continue Their Efforts in HRET

WHA is very pleased that 18 member hospitals continue in their participation with the Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET) Hospital Engagement Network quality improvement program. As an affiliate of the American Hospital Association, HRET encompasses 33 states across the county in engaging this effort via the local state hospital association.

CMS initiated this opportunity at the beginning of 2012, as a priority project designed to enhance patient safety and support quality

improvement efforts in the hospital setting. From the outset, 13 Wyoming hospitals declared initially with commitment to enter into this project work and since that time, five additional hospitals have also joined – the most recent being Hot Springs County Memorial in Thermopolis.

In 2013, year-two of the project, additional content analysis has been added to this roster – reducing hospital readmission rates and early elective deliveries.

Most recently, representatives from HRET and Cy-

nosure accompanied WHA’s Neil Hilton in making personal site visits to three Wyoming hospitals – West Park Hospital in Cody, Powell Valley Healthcare, and North Big Horn Hospital in Lovell.

In each location, the nursing, quality, and infection prevention staff members were very engaged in reviewing quality improvement results to date and worked effectively in mapping strategy towards furthering quality care and patient safety in practical means.

AHA Launches Health IT Survey

The American Hospital Association encourages all hospitals to complete the sixth annual Information Technology Supplement to the AHA Annual Survey.

Recipients should forward the survey to their Chief Information Officer to complete on paper or online by December 6, 2013.

“Even if your hospital has not adopted any or all of the specific technologies in the survey, your answers are extremely important,” AHA President and CEO Rich Umbdenstock said in the survey cover letter.

“This is particularly true at a time when we are carefully monitoring the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid

Services’ implementation of incentive programs on meaningful use of electronic health records, which will be followed by penalties in 2015 and later.”

For more information, contact AHA survey support at 800.530.9092 or surveysupport@healthforum.com.