

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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November 7, 2014

WHA Calendar:

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 Business Alliance Forum Cheyenne	11/13-11/14

‘CMS Final Payment Rules for the Medicare Program

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has released final rules outlining how Medicare will pay major health care providers and suppliers in 2015.

Important provisions of the Affordable Care Act that reward higher quality, patient-centered care at a lower cost are being implemented by these rules.

The final rules include Medicare payments to physicians and non-physician practitioners, hospital outpatient departments, ambulatory surgical centers, home health agencies and dialysis facilities that treat patients with end-stage renal disease.

“Health care systems across the country are shifting their focus from volume of services to better health outcomes for patients, coordinating care, and spending dollars more wisely,” said CMS Administrator Marilyn Tavenner. “These rules are a part of the broader strategy driving greater value in health care. By collaborating and building on best practices across the health care system, we can deliver the results of higher quality care and lower costs that consumers, providers, purchasers, and businesses deserve.”

The rules reflect a broader Administration-wide strategy to move our health care

system to one that values quality over quantity and spends taxpayer dollars more wisely by finding better ways to deliver care, pay providers, and distribute information.

Paying providers for quality, not quantity of care.

- In 2015 Medicare is continuing to phase in the Value-based Payment Modifier, which adjusts traditional Medicare payments to physicians and other eligible professionals based on the quality and cost of care they furnish to beneficiaries. Those adjustments translate into payment increases for providers who deliver higher quality care at a better value, while providers who underperform may be subject to a payment reduction.

Providing incentives to hospital outpatient departments and facilities to deliver efficient, high-quality care.

- The Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System/Ambulatory Surgical Center (OPPS) rule includes provisions that promote greater packaging of payments for items and services rather than making separate payments for each individual service. For ex-

ample, a new comprehensive Ambulatory Payment Classifications payment policy is being implemented in CY 2015 to make a single payment for all related hospital items and services provided to a patient receiving certain device-dependent procedures, such as insertion of a pacemaker, rather than separate payments for each supportive service, such as routine tests and diagnostic procedures.

Expand and add new measures to the Physician Compare website.

- The Physician Compare website allows consumers to search for reliable information about physicians and other health care professionals who provide Medicare services so they can make informed decisions about who delivers their care. CMS has finalized policies to significantly expand the quality measures available on this website

By making all of these measures available for public reporting, CMS can work to include a diversity of quality measures on the website.



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



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NBHH Medical Records Available Online

Patients served by the North Big Horn Hospital District can obtain their medical records using a new patient portal available at the Hospital's website www.nbhh.com.

The password protected service allows patients to electronically access their own electronic medical records. The new site allows patients to "meaningfully

use" their electronic medical records through access. The idea is to help patients manage their own health care by making their information conveniently available through their medical providers.

The patient record contains information including diagnosis, visit summaries and provider notes, radiology and lab test results, up-

coming appointments, a list of medications and discharge instructions following a visit.

Patients are also able to request a new appointment, renew a prescription or communicate with clinic staff through a secure message process.

To register for the portal, patients must do so in person at the Hospital.

Board of Nursing Vacancies

The Wyoming State Board of Nursing has the following vacancies for which the Governor's office is accepting applications.

Members of the board shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years.

RN Education member:

Applicant shall have had at least two (2) years of experience in an administrative or teaching position in a nursing education program, be a resident of Wyoming, licensed in good standing, currently engaged in the practice of nursing as a RN and shall

have had no less than five (5) years of experience as a RN with at least three (3) years immediately preceding appointment.

APRN member:

Applicant shall have had at least two (2) years of experience as an APRN, be a resident of Wyoming, licensed in good standing, currently engaged in the practice of nursing as a RN and shall have had no less than five (5) years of experience as a RN with at least three (3) years immediately preceding appointment.

LPN member:

Applicant shall be a resident of Wyoming, licensed in good standing, currently engaged in the practice of nursing as a LPN, and shall have had no less than five (5) years of experience as a LPN with at least three (3) years immediately preceding appointment.

To apply, please visit the Governor's website at: <http://governor.wy.gov/resources/Pages/BoardsandCommissions.aspx>.

Online Courses Educate Hospital Personnel on PPE

The Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology and Johns Hopkins Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality Friday released a free online training program on personal protective equipment use for hospital personnel caring for patients with Ebola.

The modules were developed with a multidisci-

plinary team of experts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, academic institutions and professional associations to help organizations develop in-person training to promote adherence to the recent CDC guidance on PPE for Ebola.

The University of Nebraska Medical Center and Nebraska Medicine released a free online course to help

educate the general public about Ebola, much of which is also available in Spanish.

Topics include signs and symptoms of Ebola and how it is spread, coping with stress and talking with children during infectious disease outbreaks. The site is <http://www.unmc.edu/publichealth/news/ebola-community.html>