

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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December 12, 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:

Leading Age Wyoming	1/21-1/23
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President's Corner

With my first month under my belt, here at the Wyoming Hospital Association, I'm happy to report

to you the things we have accomplished this month and to give you an idea of the things we will be working on as we prepare to enter the legislative session in January.

This has been a very exciting month. After years of research and at the direction of the WHA board, we launched our Wyoming Checkpoint product and have received some excellent coverage from the newspapers and the TV channels.

I never imagined that after only a week on the job I would be interviewed for the local TV news report.

I encourage you to explore the website and to promote the website to the end users. The information is updated every three months and it provides information that is timely and relevant.

I also attended a meeting of hospital executives in Washington DC where we discussed many topics including Medicaid expansion, the future of the ACA, payment reform and redefining what the H stands for in our communities.

The general consensus is

that not much will change as far as the ACA is concerned, even with the results of the recent election; although we are waiting to see what the courts decide on the states offering subsidies for the exchange premiums.

An interesting conversation was held in DC and I think it is important for all of us to look at what the H (or hospitals) will look like in years to come.

In many states there are many acquisitions and mergers going on. Small hospitals are being consumed or affiliated with larger systems and many of the small hospitals are changing or eliminating the services they provide and referring those services to larger facilities.

While I'm not convinced we will see the degree of larger systems entering our market here in Wyoming, I do think it is a good exercise for us to look at our own individual organizations and project what our organizations will look like in the years to come.

On the legislative front, we were excited to have Governor Mead and the Department of Health come out with a plan for Medicaid expansion in our state.

That plan immediately met with resistance and criticism by members of the leg-

islature and specifically from the Joint Labor, Health and Social Services committee. It is obvious that we still have our work cut out for us to get expansion in our state but it is easy to see the progress that has been made under the guidance of Dan Perdue and the other members of the Medicaid Expansion Coalition.

We have received many calls from different organizations within the last month and there seems to be continual added support in getting expansion through.

December 15 and 16 is the next meeting of the JLC and we have issued a call for action to you in contacting your legislators and helping us get this thing through.

I am grateful for this opportunity to serve and represent the hospitals in the state and want you to know that I am here for you. Please let me know what we can do to help you.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the staff here at the WHA. They are dedicated and do a great job. I also want to take one last opportunity to thank Dan Perdue for his dedication and service to the WHA. He has done a great job and will be missed. Our organization and the healthcare in the state are better because of him.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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



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Save The Date - Symposium Coming to Sheridan

Sheridan Memorial Hospital and the Sheridan VA Medical Center, are pleased to announce the dates for the upcoming 2015 Northeast Wyoming Skin & Wound Care Symposium.

The dates for the Symposium are Wednesday-Friday June 3-5, 2015 at Sheridan's Wesleyan Church.

A new partner for this year's symposium is the Campbell County Memorial

Hospital. The members are excited, as a region, to offer this symposium to our organizations and the state of Wyoming.

Watch for brochures coming in the new year for this popular, interactive learning symposium.

Skin and wound care experts from the region and the country will be part of 2015's faculty.

Preconference workshops, keynote speakers and hands-on breakout sessions will all be part of the program.

Information about submitting abstracts for poster presentation will also be coming in early 2015

For questions, please contact Marta Ostler at 307-672-1161 or Nancy Hooge at 307-672-1021

Nurse Volunteers Needed for Legislative Session

The Wyoming Hospital Association is seeking nurses for the WHA's Nurse-For-A-Day program during the upcoming Wyoming Legislative Session, and we hope your nurses will volunteer.

The session convenes on January 13, 2015 and is scheduled to end March 6, 2015.

For more than 30 years, the Nurse-For-A-Day program has provided basic medical care – such as taking blood pressures and treating complaints of cold

and flu, headaches, and upset stomachs – to Wyoming's lawmakers at the State Capitol.

In addition to delivering that care, the program has enhanced the image of hospitals and caregivers, and it has provided a terrific opportunity for nurses to spend time with legislators from their home counties.

Nurses who would like to volunteer can simply write their name and facility on the enclosed calendar and fax it to (307) 632-9347, or

email rose@wyohospitals.com, or call 307-632-9344.

Staff of the WHA or the Wyoming Medical Society will meet the volunteers, provide a brief orientation, and escort them to the Senate and House chambers so they may be introduced.

We appreciate your ongoing support of this important program, and we look forward to meeting your nurses.

New Video Helps Explain ICD-10 Basics

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has released a video detailing the characteristics and unique features of the ICD-10-CM coding system, as well as similarities and differences between ICD-9-CM and ICD-10-CM.

On the video, Nelly Leon-Chisen, director of coding and classification at the AHA, and Sue Bowman, senior director of coding policy and compli-

ance at the American Health Information Management Association, discuss the ICD-10-CM coding structure and explain how to assign diagnosis codes using ICD-10.

In addition, the video highlights free resources that coders can use as they prepare for the transition to ICD-10.

Health care providers and other entities covered by the Health Insurance Portability

and Accountability Act must begin using ICD-10 diagnosis and procedure codes on Medicare and other health care claims on Oct. 1, 2015.

The AHA's ICD-10 webpage has resources, including an updated ICD-10 Executive Action Guide, that member hospital and health system leaders can use to help with their transition to ICD-10.