

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 42, Number 05

February 3, 2012

WHA Calendar:

WHA Board Meeting
Casper, WY **3/16**

Other Events:

Wyoming Legislature
Convenes **2/13**

HFMA Spring Meeting
Casper, WY **3/21 - 3/23**

Wyoming Hospitals to Participate in WHA HRET Program

WHA has recently extended an invitation to all member hospitals an opportunity to participate in a nationwide patient safety and quality program.

As was summarized in the January 6, 2012 edition of 'Newsbriefs' – The Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET), an affiliate of the AHA, has been awarded a contract by CMS to support their "Partnership for Patients" campaign through the establishment of Hospital Engagement Networks (HEN) across the country.

CMS launched the partnership effort in April 2011 as a priority project designed to enhance patient safety and support quality improvement efforts in the hospital setting.

WHA is committed to this program via linkage to the HRET contract together with 33 other state hospital associations.

Each state association will work with their respective member hospitals to define the areas of focus, with flexibility to establish a core set of quality measures and make additional commitments as desired over the course of the 2-year project.

CMS has identified 10 areas of particular interest for which content will be developed and upon which learning activities are to focus.

Based upon the guidance provided by CMS to date, participating hospitals will have an opportunity to take part in a variety of learning activities organized by HRET.

Hospital staff will be able to utilize updated training and educational materials that are research-based and proven to be effective in positive patient centered results.



Ongoing data collection, detailed analysis and counsel with hospital representatives will refine planned strategies over the course of the project.

Through these efforts, hospitals nationwide will have new resources and support in practices that reduce preventable injuries and readmissions, avoidable complications, and lower the incidence of hospital acquired infections.

Recognizing that excellent work is already taking place in many of these areas, WHA will be working together with the staff of Mountain Pacific Quality Health for a practical implementation plan.

As the state's QIO, Mountain Pacific has multiple points of reference already established for data collection and analysis of best practices that will clearly assist in efficient management of this initiative.

At this time, several Wyoming hospitals have already made the commitment to participate in this WHA/HRET based program.

As the timeframe for initial baseline work and development of an agreeable workplan nears, all hospitals are encouraged to give this consideration – as the benefits will be multiplied for all with engaged statewide participation.

Any questions regarding this program can be directed to Neil Hilton at the Wyoming Hospital Association 307-632-9344 or neil@wyohospitals.com.

Content areas per CMS:

- Adverse drug events
- Pressure ulcers
- Surgical site infections
- Obstetrical adverse events
- CAUTI infections
- CLABSI infections
- Venous thromboembolism
- Ventilator associated pneumonia
- Preventable readmissions

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



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



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Sheridan VA Holds Open House for Medical Unit

The Sheridan VA Medical Center recently hosted an open house of its newly renovated Medical Unit. The ward spans the top floors of two buildings—one that was built in 1932 and another that was built in 1991.

The unit also features a state-of-the-art safe patient handling system, negative air flows for isolation, two bariatric rooms, a two-bed sleep study lab, an infusion clinic for chemotherapy,

hospice beds and a state-of-the-art safe medication administration system.

The Sheridan VA is a 205 bed hospital with eight outpatient clinics throughout the state. The Sheridan VA covers 70,000 square miles of the state of Wyoming, or three-fourths of the state, and provides services to over 13,000 Wyoming veterans.

According to Debra Hirschman, center director

of the Sheridan VA, "We do a lot of care through telehealth and in the clinics that we have in rural areas."

The Center is also the mental health referral site for a four-state Rocky Mountain region.

In the Sheridan hospital, 135 beds are for the mental health program. The VA also has a 50-bed community living center.

Hospital Groups Urge Congress Not to Cut Funding

The AHA and eight other national hospital groups urged members of Congress to oppose cuts to Medicare funding for hospital services as part of any agreement to extend past February a tax and unemployment package that includes an extension of the Medicare physician payment fix.

"America's hospitals strongly support fixing Medicare's flawed physician payment system but not by further cutting re-

sources for the hospital services upon which America's seniors depend," the groups wrote.

"We remain extremely concerned that cuts in Medicare and Medicaid payments for hospital services are again on the table as part of the upcoming House-Senate conference committee on H.R. 3630."

The House-passed H.R. 3630 includes a two-year Medicare physician payment fix.

To help offset the cost of

the payment fix, the bill would cut payments for hospital outpatient evaluation and management services by \$6.8 billion; reduce Medicare "bad debt" payments that help hospitals care for low-income seniors; rebase Medicaid disproportionate share hospitals in future years; and extend the annual therapy cap to the hospital outpatient department.

The bill also does not include several important rural Medicare "extenders."

ICD-10 Calls Available on CMS YouTube Channel

Is your organization preparing for a smooth transition to ICD-10 on Tuesday, Oct 1, 2013?

ICD-10 National Provider Calls, hosted by the CMS Provider Communications Group, can help you prepare for the US healthcare industry's change from ICD-9 to ICD-10 for diagnosis and inpatient procedure coding.

Video slideshow presentations from the following

National Provider Calls are available on the CMS YouTube Channel.

- ICD-10 Implementation Strategies and Planning – Thu Nov 17, 2011
- ICD-10 Implementation Strategies for Physicians – Wed Aug 3, 2011
- CMS ICD-10 Conversion Activities – Wed May 18, 2011

Podcasts, complete audio files, and complete written transcripts for these ICD-10 National Provider Calls are also available on the CMS ICD-10 webpage at <http://www.CMS.gov/ICD10/Tel10/list.asp>.

Available 24/7, YouTube video presentations and podcasts make learning about the ICD-10 transition easy and convenient. Check them out today.