



# NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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## WHA Calendar:

Wyoming Critical Access Hospital Network—  
Planning Meeting **3/29**

## Other Events:

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

American Hospital Association Annual Meeting  
Washington, DC **5/6-5/9**

## Wyoming e-Health Partnership to Offer Robust Exchange

While Wyoming e-Health Partnership, Inc. is making Phase I services like Direct secure messaging available to hospitals, labs and other providers, planning is underway to bring Phase II of health information exchange to Wyoming.

Phase II will provide “Robust Exchange” capability across the state. Robust exchange allows participating health care professionals to view patient specific health information from multiple sources within one screen, as well as push and pull data into and out of the exchange.

By typing in a patient name, birth date or other identifying information, the participating professional can see a patient’s hospital records, lab results, electronic prescriptions and other available health records in one viewer.

The system will be HIPAA compliant, adhering to accepted industry privacy and security standards. The robust exchange will monitor the actions of participants to determine the identity of the requestors and the information accessed.

Each facility contributing records to the exchange will store its records on a dedicated server located in the ro-

bust exchange framework. There is no central records repository to aggregate the data. Instead, the robust exchange gathers the patient’s available data from the facility dedicated servers and consolidates it into a temporary screen for the requester to view.

Participants with interfaces will be able to push data into the exchange and pull the data into their own health records if they so choose.

Additional plans include connecting the robust exchange to the Wyoming Department of Health giving users seamless access to the Immunization Registry, Syndromic Surveillance and other reporting areas of Public Health.

Patients will have the ability to keep their records out of the robust exchange through an “opt-out” policy.

Once patients remove their names from the exchange, healthcare participants will see their patient information on their own electronic health record, but will not be able to access health information from other exchange participants.

Funding available to the Wyoming e-Health Partnership from the federal cooperative agreement will be used to help hospitals with the

costs of connecting to the phase II robust exchange. Facilities will be asked to pay annual membership fees in return for the services they receive, and fees will likely be based on a facility’s number of beds.

The communication tools offered by the robust exchange are crucial to the changing healthcare delivery system. The ability to see test results and coordinate care using health information exchange will save money, increase efficiency and improve patient outcomes.

The Wyoming e-Health Partnership looks forward to working with facilities to identify hospital-specific timelines for connecting to the exchange.

Participation agreements will be sent out soon to allow ample time for legal review. The technical availability of the robust exchange is expected later this year.

For more information, contact Heather Roe Day at [hroeday@ehealthwyo.org](mailto:hroeday@ehealthwyo.org).

Funding for Wyoming Health Information Exchange is provided by a cooperative agreement of \$4.873 million received from the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the National Coordinator and awarded to the State of Wyoming. To date, approximately 14% of expended funds or \$46,000 comes from non-governmental sources.



### Wyoming Medical Center Announces West Tower Project

Wyoming Medical Center is planning a new, 48-bed tower that officials hope will eliminate the need for shared patient rooms.

When it opens in fall 2013, the tower will house a maternity ward, an orthopedic and neurosurgery unit, a cafeteria and a chapel.

The new building will allow Wyoming Medical Center to convert its shared rooms into private rooms.

“It allows the family to be with the patient during their stay,” said Chief Executive Officer Vickie Diamond. “We are going to have space for them. People heal because their families are close.”

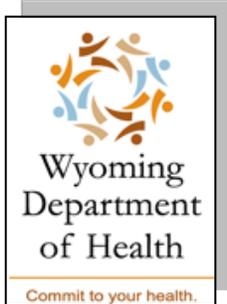
Administrators have been planning the West Tower project for two years. It’s expected to cost between \$38 million and \$40 million and will be paid for with

savings and a \$20 million revenue bond.

Physicians and nurses helped with the planning for the tower. The rooms were designed to help health care providers perform their jobs more efficiently, said Chief Operating Officer Julie Cann-Taylor.

Construction of the 90,000 square foot tower should begin in late June or early July.

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



### Prairie Eagle Exercise

The Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) and Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) will be conducting a Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) exercise taking place statewide May 11-15, with a break in activities for Mother’s Day.

While the exercise is primarily designed for the activation of the process for requesting supplies from SNS, it is not limited to this function.

Hospitals are encouraged to participate more fully, as it is the perfect opportunity to exercise various capabilities such as mass vaccinations, volunteer capacity and capabilities, medical surge capacity, decontamination capabilities, communication and information sharing, and ICS knowledge.

Prairie Eagle is an opportunity for Wyoming’s statewide preparedness and response community to practice and assess current

readiness status, and to identify gaps for improvement activities.

Hospitals are encouraged to work with local Public Health Response Coordinator in exercise planning. HPP is able to provide resources such as exercise controllers, simulators and evaluators, and moulage experts.

For more information contact Amy Skalicky at amy.skalicky@wyo.gov or (307) 777-8034.

### Electronic Health Record Incentive Program Off to Good Start

Encouraging the use of electronic health records by Wyoming healthcare providers is the goal of the Wyoming Department of Health’s Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program.

Since launching in December 2011, Wyoming has had 69 providers and nine hospitals register for the program through the state-level registry. The Wy-

oming Department of Health has approved federal payments of approximately \$4.5 million in incentive funding to nine hospitals and 29 other providers that have attested to adopting, implementing or upgrading an EHR.

Eligible medical professionals can receive up to \$63,750 over the six years they choose to participate in the program. To be eligible for the program providers

must have a 30 percent Medicaid patient volume in a 90-day reporting period or 20 percent for pediatricians.

Eligible providers may still participate in the program and receive incentive payments for the 2011 calendar year until March 30.

For more information on Wyoming’s EHR incentive program, please visit <http://www.wyomingincentive.com/> online.

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