



NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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WHA Calendar:

WHA Board of Directors Meeting
Lander 5/17

Wyoming Critical Access Hospital Network Membership Meeting
Lander 5/17

WHA Trustee Educational Program
Lander 5/18

Other Events:

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

New Health Care Law Provisions Meant to Cut Red Tape

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced last week a proposed rule that would establish a unique health plan identifier under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).

The proposed rule would implement several administrative simplification provisions of the Affordable Care Act.

The proposed changes are estimated to save health care providers and health plans up to \$4.6 billion over the next 10 years, according to estimates released by the HHS.

The estimates were included in a proposed rule intended to cut red tape and simplify administrative processes for doctors, hospitals and health insurance plans.

"The new health care law is cutting red tape, making our health care system more efficient and saving money," Secretary Sebelius said.

"These important simplifications will mean doctors can spend less time filling out forms and more time seeing patients."

Currently, when health plans and entities like third party administrators bill providers, they are

identified using a wide range of different identifiers that do not have a standard length or format.

As a result, health care providers run into a number of time-consuming problems, such as misrouting of transactions, rejection of transactions due to insurance identification errors, and difficulty determining patient eligibility.

The rule simplifies the administrative process for providers by proposing that health plans have a unique identifier of a standard length and format to facilitate routine use in computer systems.

This will allow provider offices to automate and simplify their processes, particularly when processing bills and other transactions.

The proposed rule also delays required compliance by one year— from Oct. 1, 2013, to Oct. 1, 2014— for new codes used to classify diseases and health problems.

These codes, known as the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition diagnosis and procedure codes, or ICD-10, will in-

clude new procedures and diagnoses and improve the quality of information available for quality improvement and payment purposes.

Many provider groups have expressed serious concerns about their ability to meet the Oct. 1, 2013, compliance date.

The proposed change in the compliance date for ICD-10 would give providers and other covered entities more time to prepare and fully test their systems to ensure a smooth and coordinated transition to these new code sets.

The proposed rule is the third in a series of administrative simplification rules in the new health care law. HHS released the first in July of 2011 and the second in January of 2012, and plans to announce more in the coming months.

More information on the proposed rule is available on fact sheets (4/9/12) at http://www.cms.gov/apps/media/fact_sheets.asp.

The proposed rule may be viewed at www.ofr.gov/inspection.aspx. Comments are due 30 days after publication in the Federal Register.

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

HHS.gov



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



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Patient Lavender - An IMH Human Interaction initiative

Patient Lavender is an Iverson Memorial Hospital human interaction initiative.

The history of lavender as a calming flower can be traced back to the ancient Greeks. They discovered that crushed lavender, when burned, released a relaxing fume. Lavender has been used to lift the spirits and for calming.

Patient Lavender is a relatively new initiative at Iverson Memorial Hospital. The purpose is to promote a kind and healing atmos-

phere.

20% of healing is from technology and equipment, 80% is from your spirit, soul and sacred healing encounters. Dr. Cosgrove- Chief Executive Officer and President, Cleveland Clinic.

IMH implemented Patient Lavender on May 15, 2010. Patient Lavender is utilized for patients, family members and fellow team members when a serious situation has developed.

When you hear a Patient Lavender called overhead,

you may notice that IMH staff will pause to send healing thoughts and/or prayers.

A Patient Lavender may be called by any IMH team member in a time of need for a patient, family member or fellow team member



Infection Prevention Conference Targets Zero HAIs

The second annual Wyoming Infection Prevention Conference is scheduled for May 2 – 3 at the Ramada Plaza Riverside in Casper.

Under the theme, “Targeting Zero HAIs!”, the two-day event offers a number of general and breakout sessions aimed at helping healthcare facilities reduce healthcare acquired infections.

Key conference objectives include:

- Learning how to pre-

pare for a disaster from the perspective of an infection preventionist

- Learning how facilities have implemented mandatory healthcare worker immunizations and how they handled an influenza A outbreak
- Learning how peers are implementing hand hygiene monitoring, patient/resident empowerment, and providing education
- Learning how to implement CAUTI best prac-

tices

- Learning how to implement surveillance, monitoring and best practice interventions in an ambulatory surgery setting

The conference is sponsored, in part, by the Wyoming Hospital Association. Registration fees are \$40 per day, which includes breakfast and lunch.

Attendees may register online at www.uwyo.edu/geriatrics.

The registration deadline is April 25.

WSHE Announces Spring Conference, Vendor Show

The Wyoming Society of Healthcare Engineering has announced its Spring Meeting, Education and Product Show.

The meeting is set for May 9 – 11 at the Parkway Plaza in Casper. The meeting is free to all current members of the WSHE.

Attendees will learn from experts in the field about key topics and get the latest on up-to-date code changes.

The spring meeting also includes healthcare specialty vendors, an opportunity to interact with professional peers, and CEUs for certificate renewal.

Membership applications and renewal forms are available online at www.wshe.us.

The WSHE is an organization dedicated to presenting educational opportunities to promote safety and compliance for healthcare facilities.