

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 47, Number 15

April 29, 2016

WHA Calendar:

WHA Board of Directors Meeting
Cody, WY

5/18

WHA CEO/Trustee Educational Program
Cody, WY

5/19

Other Events:

LeadingAge Wyoming Spring Meeting
Cody, WY

5/17-5/18

Open Payments Program Increases Transparency in Health Care By Dr. Mark Levine, Chief Medical Officer, CMS Denver Regional Office

Since 2013, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) Open Payments program (also known as the Sunshine Act) has collected data from drug and device manufacturers and group purchasing organizations (GPOs) about payments they make to physicians and teaching hospitals.

The program also collects information about ownership and investment interests of physicians and their immediate family members in drug and device manufacturers and GPOs.

CMS publishes this data on its website -- <https://openpaymentsdata.cms.gov/> -- so it is important for physicians and teaching hospitals to check and confirm the accuracy of the financial transactions reported about them.

Last June, CMS published payments and ownership records for more than 607,000 physicians and 1,122 teaching hospitals valued at \$6.45 billion for 2014.

Payments were attributed to medical research, conference travel and lodging, gifts and consulting. CMS has collected data for all of Calendar Year 2015 and will publish it on its website on June 30, 2016.

To review any payments attributed to them, physicians—including doctors of medicine or osteopathy, dentists, chiropractors, optometrists and podiatrists—and teaching hospitals need to register on the Open Payments website, <https://openpaymentsdata.cms.gov/>.

CMS encourages physicians to review data reported about them so applicable manufacturers and GPOs can resolve any disputes before the data is published.

There are instructions and quick reference guides located on the Resources Page to help.

The review period for the June 30, 2016 publication opened on April 1, 2016, and will end May 15, 2016.

CMS has had over 6.3 million unique searches of Open Payments data, which shows the continuing engagement of stakeholders with this important transparency initiative.

Open Payments data gives patients a tool to become more involved and informed health care consumers by empowering them to discuss financial relationships between industry and physicians with their current doctor and others they may seek for health care services and guidance.

To Learn more about the Open Payments program or send questions to openpayments@cms.hhs.gov.

This information is provided by the United States Department of Health and Human Services .



OpenPaymentsData.CMS.gov

Find Your Doctor's Payments

First Name Last Name Search [Explore Open Payments Data](#)

Looking for a teaching hospital or company making payments?

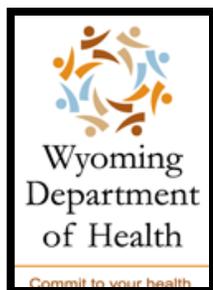
The Facts on Open Payments

	2013 Totals	2014 Totals	Totals All Program Years
Total US Dollar Value		6.45 BILLION	
Total Records Published		11.37 MILLION	

[See All Summary Data](#)



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



Wyoming Hospital Association

**2005 Warren Ave.
Cheyenne, WY
82001**

www.wyohospitals.com

307.632.9344

CRMC Offers Appointments with Psychiatric Nurses

The Behavioral Health Outpatient Clinic at the Cheyenne Regional Medical Center has started a new service to help patients.

Since December, patients at the clinic can make appointments with skilled psychiatric nurses. This is the first time such appointments have occurred.

These patients may want help to manage their medications, get more education about their illnesses or have someone review their symptoms.

Ann Treadway and Dawn Salyards, two registered

nurses at the clinic, developed the idea for the appointments with skilled psychiatric nurses.

Since December, they have worked and assessed 123 patients. Treadway and Salyards have 39 years of psychiatric nursing experience between them.

The lack of immediate access to providers due to a high demand for services is a challenge, she added.

Treadway and Salyards developed the idea of offering patients appointments with psychiatric nurses in face-to-face sessions.

In the past, patients who did not have emergency-level needs could call a telephone number at the clinic to talk to a nurse. A nurse would get back with them as quickly as possible, Pendlebury said. But it could take some time to make contact.

Behavioral Health Services staff reconfigured some schedules and job duties so psychiatric nurses can meet with patients.

The new process is extremely successful because it helps meet patient needs quickly, Pendlebury said.

Program Puts Unused Medications to Use

A Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) program helps struggling residents get the medications they need to stay healthy and recover from major health events by collecting and redistributing unused, donated prescription drugs.

The Wyoming Medication Donation Program helps low-income Wyoming residents who lack prescription insurance and also the safety-net clinics that serve those clients.

"Millions of dollars' worth of medications go unused each year in Wyoming," said Natasha Gallizzi, Medication Donation Program manager and pharmacist with WDH. "Our program brought in \$3.2 million worth of usable donated medications in 2015, but we know there are more potential donations out there."

Gallizzi encourages patients, physician offices and medical facilities to donate unused medications. "We

see especially high demand for medications used to treat hypertension, diabetes, cholesterol, acid reflux, thyroid, and mental health, as well as inhalers and blood thinners," she said.

Donated medications can be re-dispensed to low-income residents who don't have the prescription coverage they may need. For more information or to find a local donation site, visit wyomedicationdonation.org online or call 1-855-257-5041.

Funding "Scam" for Emergency Trauma Fund

It appears that the "Emergency Trauma Fund" have reared their heads again and are sending letters and BAAs out to hospitals. The letters are signed by Charles Perez and addressed from Sacramento, CA.

This is not a real "Trauma

Fund" although their marketing is pretty amazing and keeps me on my toes. Warnings regarding this company have gone across the State trauma listserv many times.

This company seems to be a 'collections' company, but it is hard to find anything out about it because it

is so sketchy! If any of you has more information, please pass it on to Kelli Perrotti, BSN, RN at 307-777-3470

There is no national trauma fund at all, anywhere. Many states do have system funding, but the grants/awards go through the state trauma programs.