



NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 46, Number 17

May 1, 2015

WHA Calendar:

WHA Board Meeting Riverton	5/20
WHA Trustee Education Riverton	5/21
WHA/Leading Age Annual Meeting & Convention Casper	9/2-9/3

Other Events:

National Nurses Week	5/6-5/12
National Rural EMS Conference	5/5-5/6
National Hospital Week Where Miracles Happen Every Day	5/10-5/16

President's Message

There are a lot of moving parts and things going on right now and I feel it is my responsibility to try and keep you as informed as possible.

What you do with the information is up to you but I hope it helps and that it can help us all be prepared as we continue moving forward and adapting to the continuous changes.

I am truly concerned about our hospitals preparation for ICD-10. I am pretty confident in saying that there will not be another delay in ICD-10 implementation. The AHA is watching this issue very closely and they are advising that we need to be prepared.

With that said, it is recommended that each of our facilities will need around 200 days cash on hand in the event that payments will be delayed because of problems with claims processing.

Last week, at my quarterly meeting with Medical Advisory Group (MAG), the Medicaid office presented their preparations for ICD-10 and indicated that they think they are ready.

They also said how disappointed they were that only one hospital in the whole state had taken them up on submitting test claims and making sure the hospitals

billing system would communicate with the Medicaid system.

I want to encourage all of our members to take this opportunity and send test claims to ensure you are at least ready to submit clean claims to Medicaid. None of us can afford to be unprepared. You can find a link at the WHA website.

Noridian had a similar program that I forwarded out to each CEO in the state, but I believe it is too late to submit to them. I met with Noridian this week and they are going to provide a list of the Wyoming facilities that participated. They are claiming they are ready for ICD-10s and had great success with claim submission if the claims were submitted clean. You may want to check the Noridian website to see if you can still sign up.

I also want to make you aware or at least remind each of you that under the ACA, each of our hospitals and each provider is required to recertify with Medicaid every 5 years or payment will be withheld.

There is a similar requirement for each of us to recertify with Medicare and to my knowledge that process started last fall.

Web re-enrollment starts

May 1 and must be completed by December 31, 2015.

You should have all received several emails from the Department of Health and you can find a link at the WHA website or you can go the Wyoming Medicaid website.

I want your membership in WHA to be of value. We are constantly meeting with the Department of Health, working with the Governor's office and the legislators, and representing you.

I would like to hit the road now that legislation is over and the weather is good and visit each facility in the state. I am willing to attend board meetings if you desire to have me there, but mainly I want you to feel comfortable using the WHA as a resource. We are willing to help you in any way we can. There is so much coming at us from every direction right now. I want to be efficient and provide timely information to keep you informed and to help you meet all the new requirements.

We are going to be updating our website and hope to have links posted to keep you in the loop and direct you where you need to go to access pertinent information.

Continued on back page

President's Message Continued from Front Page

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

Finally, I want to congratulate Cheyenne Regional Medical Center and Iverson Memorial Hospital on their professionalism and expertise as they handled the two recent major accidents on I-80.

I am hearing great things around the state in the treatment of the patients and the preparation that was evident as each facility dealt with

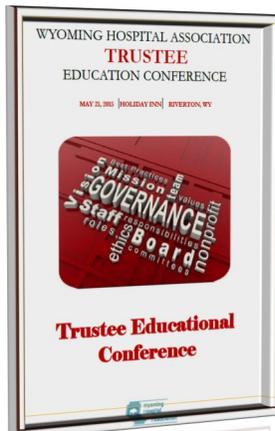
numerous patients.

These facilities exemplify what all of our member hospitals represent.

We are there in the times of need, to deal with the most difficult of situations and to take care of those that need our care. I'm honored to represent all of the hospitals in this state.

I look forward to meeting with you and your boards in

Riverton on May 21 at the Trustee Education Conference and encourage you to get registered if you haven't already done so.



Good Luck Steve

As we are all aware, change is inevitable in our line of work.

Steve Bahmer has been an integral part of the WHA and healthcare in our state for close to a decade.

He has accepted the position as President of Leading Age Florida and will start his new position on May 15th.

Steve has done an incredible job in his dogged advocacy for critical access hospitals and long term care

facilities in our state.

He has taken Leading Age Wyoming to a new level. His enthusiasm and drive will be missed but will also propel him in his new adventure in Florida.

A get together to wish Steve good luck and to thank him will be held at the WHA board room on May 7 from 11:00-1:00.

THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, STEVE! GOOD LUCK. YOU WILL BE MISSED.



2015 Western Region Flex Conference

The 13th Annual Western Region Flex Conference is scheduled for June 10-12, 2015 at Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain Resort & Spa, which recently received the World's Best Award for #1 Hotel in Arizona.

The purpose of the 2015 Western Region Flex Conference is to provide a venue for Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) and Flex programs in the western region of the United States

to share information, ideas and success stories.

The room block expires May 8th so reserve your hotel soon.

It looks like a great opportunity to network and to get up to the date information that will help you and your critical access hospitals as we move into the future.

For more information, visit medicine.nevada.edu/cme/flex2015.

Through the Wyoming Office of Rural Health, there is FLEX funding available if you are interested in attending this conference.

For questions regarding FLEX funding, please contact Michelle Hoffman, Flex Grant Coordinator, Office of Rural Health, Wyoming Department of Health, 6101 Yellowstone Rd., Ste. 420, Cheyenne, WY 82002 or call 307.777.8902.

Wyoming Hospital Association

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