



# NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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## WHA Calendar:

Wyoming Medical Society Meeting  
Cheyenne 6/6-6/8

WHA Annual Meeting & Convention  
Cheyenne 9/24-9/25

## Other Events:

Western Regional Trustee Symposium  
Henderson, NV 6/11-6/13



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## Wyoming's Medical Neighborhoods

Results from the first 18 months of Wyoming's Medical Neighborhoods Transform Rural Care Delivery Initiative show that the statewide effort is successfully extending a perimeter of health around Wyoming communities as hospitals and providers collectively focus on keeping patients healthy and ensuring that they are treated in appropriate care settings.

Funded by a three year, \$14.2 million Health Care Innovation Award from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) to the Wyoming Institute of Population Health, health care professionals across the state are working together to address the challenges of a reforming health care environment.

The Wyoming Department of Health has also provided funding (\$250,000) to support the development of patient-centered Primary Care Medical Homes (PCMH)s in the medical neighborhood.

Projected to save Wyoming an estimated \$33 million in healthcare costs over three years, the initiative's five component strategies have been designed to ensure that patients achieve the greatest possible care experience and benefit from well-

coordinated, effectively communicated care and seamless transitions between care providers and facilities.

Five Key Components of a Medical Neighborhood are:

1. Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH)

At the core of the medical neighborhood model is the Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH). A PCMH is a powerful primary care model that focuses on superior access to care; wellness and disease prevention; chronic disease management; and care coordination across sites of care.

2. Wyoming Rural Care Transition Program

To address gaps in care coordination, the Wyoming Rural Care Transition Program has trained and placed 28 registered nurses who are now working in 14 hospitals to provide coaching resources to patients for up to ninety days as they transition between acute sites of care and learn important self-care techniques to help them deal with chronic illness.

3. Telehealth Physician Desktop Solution

As a strategy to bridge geographic distances between patients, doctors, and specialists, the Medical Neighborhoods initiative is promoting the use of the Telehealth Physician Desktop Solution,

which deploys state-of-the-art videoconferencing technology in hospitals and doctors' offices.

4. Virtual Pharmacy program

Nine pharmacists and seven pharmacies have joined the Virtual Pharmacy program to provide a medication therapy management link between patients and the PCMHs in Casper, Cheyenne, and Jackson.

5. Wyoming Medication Donation Program

Additional support for medication adherence comes from the statewide expansion of the Wyoming Medication Donation Program, which accepts donated sealed, in-date medications and provides them to eligible uninsured and underinsured low-income patients.

Phyllis Simpson Sherard, the Wyoming Institute of Population Health's Principal Investigator, said, "Although we're only halfway through the grant period, the Healthcare Innovation Award is already contributing to measurable improvements in the way healthcare is delivered in Wyoming. We're optimistic about what the next year and a half holds as the participants continue to gain momentum."



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



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## Iverson Completes Phase I of Construction Project

Iverson Memorial Hospital (IMH) has announced the completion of Phase I of the construction project...one of the largest capital projects in the history of Iverson.

IMH is celebrating the opening of its new Patient Tower.

The Grand Opening at Iverson will be scheduled in November when all phases of construction are completed.

This new facility will help IMH continue its long tradition of bringing modern medical care to Laramie by

increasing ease of access for patients to many of its outpatient services.

The new patient towers are paid for...the money had been saved...none of the expenses will be charged to patients or the community.

Phase I areas are: Newly renovated lobby featuring a grand staircase; Four new conference rooms; and A new Dialysis unit all designed for a modern healing environment designed to accommodate patient's needs.

"The patient experience

will definitely be enhanced," said Doug Faus President/CEO. "Our patients will benefit from patient rooms designed to be conducive to relaxation and healing. The rooms face the west with a panoramic view of the mountains."

The newly designed Dialysis unit will help department staff improve efficiency. Beyond the streamlined layout, the area also includes ergonomically designed work stations and a nursing assessment and observation areas.

## UW-Casper to Start Medical Laboratory BA Program

The University of Wyoming at Casper is responding to a growing need for medical laboratory scientists in Wyoming by launching a bachelors' degree program.

The program, which will build on an existing associate's degree, is expected to enroll its first medical laboratory science students in spring 2015.

Medical laboratory scientists test body samples

like blood, urine or tissues to detect diseases or conditions.

According to a 2011 study of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, there is a shortage of these medical professional in Wyoming.

The study projected about 53 annual openings in the clinical laboratory field in Wyoming between 2010 and 2020.

The study also showed that UW did not graduate a single medical laboratory technician in 2009, the year reviewed by the report.

The program hopes to serve about 20 students per year.

UW-Casper is seeking accreditation for the program and a donor has contributed to a \$100,000 endowment, which will offer about \$4,000 a year in scholarships.

## Wyoming Ranked No. 7 for Nurses

A website seeking to help small business owners and consumers save money ranked Wyoming No. 7 best state for nurses.

The study looked at 15 metrics to identify places where new nurses will find the most fertile ground for their services, and Wyoming with its aging populace was firmly within the top 10.

According to [www.wallethub.com](http://www.wallethub.com), the site that conducted the study, the nursing profession is expected to grow faster than most occupations through 2022 as the population ages and otherwise becomes more unhealthy.

Wyoming will have the third highest percentage of population over age 65 by 2030, according

to Wallet Hub, surpassed only by Florida and Maine.

Overall, Wyoming ranked No. 2 for competition, which took into account job openings per capita, number of nurses per capita, projected number of nurses per capita and the general unemployment rate.