

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 47, Number 20

June 17, 2016

WHA Calendar:

WHA PAC Golf Tournament	9/6
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WHA/LAW Annual Meeting & Convention Cheyenne	9/7- 9/8
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Other Events:

Joint Labor Health and Social Services Committee	8/25- 8/26
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Title 25 Joint Task Force Cheyenne	7/7
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Optum Takes over WYhealth Contract

Beginning July 1, the WYhealth care management program will be contracted by Optum.

Optum, a health services company under the umbrella of UnitedHealth Group has been awarded state contracts for utilization management and health management for WYhealth. The contract was previously held by Xerox.

WYhealth is a Medicaid program that provides care management to Medicaid clients.

Among its more successful and popular efforts are Due Date Plus, a mobile application for expected mothers which reminds them of doctors appointments, as well as look up symptoms and issues, and connect to health plan services like nurse support.

Optum has sent Mary Jane Beesor to Wyoming as the project manager for WYhealth as well as Missy Lerma, a provider relations director. They are in Cheyenne this month helping Optum hire and train provider relations staff.

“We are building out a team that will land at four to five people on the provider relations side,” said Lerma.

“We have one person who has started as of this week. We have two more coming on before July 1. On July 1 we will be staffed, be able to take

calls. “We will have a grouping of folks here in Cheyenne and Casper primarily, but everyone knows and expects that they will be spending some time on the road to meet with providers in other parts of the state.”

Lerma said the first hire on the provider relations side is Morris McGaugh, who formerly worked in provider relations with Xerox and has also spent time at Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Two other offers for provider relations were being extended while a provider relations director is still being sought. Lerma said all of those on the provider relations team have ties to, or already live in Wyoming.

She added that provider relations advocates will be reaching out to providers around the July 1 date.

The Optum contract with WYhealth comes in two pieces, utilization management and health management.

Beesor said providers won’t see much change in their utilization management efforts.

The same phone and fax numbers will be used as prior to July 1, as well as the same website. An email address of wyhealth@optum.com will be available as well for questions from providers.

Beesor did say as things ramp up, Optum will offer a portal functionality for providers to use in submitting pre-authorizations and supporting documentation. Status updates will also be available on those online for pre-authorization submissions.

“I appreciate Medicaid Providers,” Beesor said. “I have worked in the Medicaid arena for over 30 years. I know how much providers do for the members. We plan to make their lives easier and we welcome the collaboration with them. We want to make life better for their members, so they can provide the best care to their patients.”

Beesor said Optum will be working with the state to present its operations readiness plan before making another push to introduce itself to the state’s providers.

“WYhealth is a name providers recognize and there are a lot of benefits within the program,” Beesor said.

“We will be working closely with providers to help them understand the different benefits members have available to them.”



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



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Basin Hospital Names Adlesich as CEO

John Adlesich has been named the new CEO of South Big Horn County Hospital in Basin, WY.

He began on June 16, 2016.

John received his Bachelor of Science and also his Master of Public Health with a focus in Health Management and Policy from Oregon State University.

He began working in healthcare at age sixteen, gaining valuable experience

in many aspects of healthcare operations.

He has managed primary care clinics in Portland, OR. He presently is the Director of Quality and Risk Management and Corporate Compliance Officer at Blue Mountain Hospital District in John Day, OR, a county owned district providing LTC, primary care clinic, home care/hospice, ambulance and a critical access hospital.

His open, honest communication, familiarity with current healthcare policy, and positive presence will help lead SBHCHD into the future."



LCCC Offers New Healthcare Program

Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne will offer a new central sterile processing (CSP) program beginning this fall.

This program is the only one of its kind in Wyoming and offers students the chance at full-time employment after 16 weeks of coursework and training.

A CSP technician specializes in stocking, sterilizing, packaging and preparing the tools and equipment used in surgical procedures.

The technician may also be responsible for ensuring the cleanliness and safety of operating rooms, tables and equipment.

"Most of the coursework is done online so that students can work full-time and do their studying and coursework in the evenings and on weekends," said Connie Czarnecki, LCCC's surgical technology program director. Two weekends of hands-on clinical work at the college is required.

According to Czarnecki, the clinical training portion of the program is ideal for currently employed surgical technicians. They can use their normal work hours as clinical hours and be able to take the certification exam at the end of the semester. For students new to the career, clinical sites will be assigned.

For more information about the program, visit lccc.wy.edu or call 307-778-1155.

Proposed Rule Would Update Medicare, Medicaid CoPs

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services issued a proposed rule that would update and revise conditions of participation that hospitals and critical access hospitals must meet to participate in Medicare and Medicaid.

Among other provisions, the rule would require hospitals and CAHs to have hospital-wide infection prevention and control and antibi-

otic stewardship programs for the surveillance, prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections and other infectious diseases, and for the appropriate use of antibiotics.

CMS also proposes to require hospitals and CAHs to designate leaders of the infection prevention and control program and the antibiotic stewardship program, and to establish and

implement a policy prohibiting discrimination.

For more see the CMS factsheet at CMS.gov.

The proposed rule will be published in the June 16 Federal Register, and CMS will accept comments through Aug. 15.