

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 47, Number 21

June 24 2016

WHA Calendar:

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

Other Events:

Joint Labor Health and Social Services Committee	8/25- 8/26
Title 25 Joint Task Force Cheyenne	7/7

President's Message

As you are all aware, the Joint Appropriations Committee met this week to look at additional cuts to the state budget. Of particular interest to the WHA, LAW and our members were the proposed cuts to the Department of Health Budget. In a time when those of us that are supported by shrinking tax revenues and with uncompensated care continuing to rise, I am very concerned with proposed cuts to us as providers.

We have created a very strong working relationship with the Department of Health and Director Forslund, Governor Mead and the DOH staff. They understand the tremendous pressures our facilities are facing. After the Director gave his recommendations to the JAC I asked for clarification on the proposed cuts and you will find a description of the cuts below as I received them from the DOH.

“For NFs -- the approach is to adjust the policy regarding Medicaid payment of reserve bed days (stop paying) and to change the way Medicaid pays for crossover claims. At this time, no additional adjustments to the standard rates are planned. This could always change. The total impact of these two changes to the overall NF reimbursement is:

- Stop payment of reserve bed days - estimated impact of \$612,500 per year (total GF and FF). This does require a state plan amendment. We are targeting Oct. 1 for implementation.

- Adjust methodology for payment of Medicare cross over claims - estimated impact of \$1,014,498 per year (total GF and FF) based on an analysis of client payer mix for dates of services July 1 through March 31. This change requires extensive system work and is currently scheduled for implementation between Nov. 2016 and Jan. 2017.

For these two changes, I will have the estimated impact by provider available early next week and would be happy to share that information with you for your members.

For hospitals - We are currently waiting for the impact analysis showing how the change in the Medicare crossover methodology will impact the hospitals (facility payments). Based on those results, we will evaluate any need for additional rate reductions. We expect to have this information in the next few weeks. If necessary, additional reductions would be communicated via bulletin at least 30 days prior to implementation.

We are targeting Aug./Sept. for implementation of any additional reductions needed.

For physician services (delivered in hospitals) - We do anticipate a decrease in reimbursement for services paid under the current RBRVS methodology (physician services billed via the 1500 professional claim forms). We are modeling options and impacts now, but are also waiting for the impact analysis showing how the change in Medicare crossover processing will impact physician reimbursement. We expect to have this information in the next few weeks. If necessary, additional reductions would be communicated via bulletin at least 30 days prior to implementation. We are targeting Aug./Sept. for implementation of any additional reductions needed.

We are very diligently looking at all opportunities to achieve the required reduction through adjusting policies (i.e. reserve bed days, Medicare crossover processing), enhancing program integrity and identifying areas where additional federal match or rebate dollars are available as an alternative to across the board cuts. However, we feel there will still be some reductions required.

Story continued on Page 2



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

President's Message Continued from Page 1

We are being diligent about estimating the impacts to all provider types and taxonomies so as not to apply any more of a rate reduction than absolutely necessary to meet the required savings."

In addition to these cuts, LT101s will be conducted annually as opposed to semi-annually. ASC will receive reductions in payments of \$1

million. There will also be reductions in the reimbursement to out of state hospitals that accept Wyoming Medicaid patients, particularly the children's hospitals.

I believe the DOH has tried to do all they can to minimize the effect of the current budget on our facilities while still meeting the Governor's directive to make necessary cuts.

We are the safety net facilities in the state and need to remain solvent. Each hospital and nursing home should have received a letter from the Department of Health talking about the budget reductions.

We will keep a close eye on this and make you all aware of further details

MHCC Patient Satisfaction Rankings Top Other Hospitals

The number one priority at Memorial Hospital of Converse County (MHCC) is patients and providing them with quality patient care. That focus is evident in the most recent patient satisfaction surveys from Medicare.gov.

According to that survey, 85 percent of patients gave the hospital nines or tens on the patient satisfaction survey.

While the national average is only 71 percent, MHCC's high satisfaction numbers put the facility higher than most hospitals in the state with only one at the same percentage rate, and

another at just two percentage points higher.

With MHCC out ranking so many other facilities across the state and country, CEO Ryan Smith said it's important to note that those patient satisfaction numbers didn't occur overnight.

The hospital leadership has been on a more than five year mission to improve not only patient satisfaction numbers, but also employee satisfaction statistics as well.

When Smith first came to the hospital in 2011, he was excited about the many strengths the hospital and community offered. A well-equipped facility with strong

community support, MHCC had a solid backbone that provided a unique opportunity to make it even more robust. Smith and his leadership team began by taking a close look at the internal culture of the hospital.

A value leadership team was soon created to identify the core values of the hospital and the behaviors that would support them.

Ultimately, that team identified seven core values – competency, compassion, ownership, joy, respect, integrity and patient-centered.



The article on the front page of last week's Newsbriefs was written by the Wyoming Medical Society

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In Memoriam—Jackie Claudson

Jackie D. Claudson, 59, of Basin passed away June 17 in Loveland, Colo.

Jackie was the Chief Executive Officer of South Big Horn County Hospital District in Basin since 2001.

All of us at WHA will remember Jackie for her kindness and willingness to help with any project or task asked of her.

She will truly be missed by all of us.

