



NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 46, Number 28

July 24, 2015

WHA Calendar:

WHA PAC Golf Tournament	9/1
WHA/Leading Age Annual Meeting & Convention Casper	9/2-9/3

Other Events:

Wyoming Quality Conference Casper	8/19-8/20

Increased Quality, Safety, and Savings Comes to WYhealth

Chief medical officers (CMOs) and health executives from hospitals, large and small group practices and patient centered medical homes continue to express interest in seeing hospitals, doctors, lawmakers, and other healthcare professionals work together to achieve improved healthcare outcomes with more emphasis on the overall patient experience. This collaboration across the continuum of care will ensure effective and appropriate patient care while keeping administrative costs down.

WYhealth, Wyoming Medicaid’s total population health and utilization management vendor is partnering with HealthHelp to offer utilization management services, which support the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) triple aim initiative.

HealthHelp has defined and led innovations in collaborative care management for over 15 years. HealthHelp is administering a new consultative authorization program for radiology, radiation therapy, and cardiology services in coordination with and in support of WYhealth’s utilization management program for the Wyoming Medicaid population.

HealthHelp is a specialty benefits management company that uses evidence-based guidelines to advise and educate physicians on the most

appropriate care considering the patient’s indications and health history.

WYhealth’s goal through HealthHelp, which covers 30.2 million lives in all 50 states, is to reduce variation in care while simultaneously reducing costs for patients and payers, and educating providers.

HealthHelp’s proven model is grounded in the belief that evidence-based guidelines provide the most appropriate test or treatment for each patient’s condition. These guidelines are developed from collaborative efforts between practicing physicians and renowned academic medical centers throughout the United States, including Thomas Jefferson University, the University of Washington, Cedars-Sinai, and the University of Southern California.

The goal is to encourage physician use and adoption of evidence-based medicine guidelines, creating ongoing value by educating physicians on ordering the most appropriate treatments for patients, resulting in improved savings, credibility, and safety.

The HealthHelp Consult authorization process involves collecting relevant clinical information from the ordering physician’s office and reviewing the information alongside current evidence-based guidelines.

The program follows URAC guidelines for utilization management and does not issue denials for services requested. If the requested service does not meet guidelines, a board-certified HealthHelp radiologist, radiation oncologist, cardiologist, or other specialist will have a physician-to-physician consultation with the requesting provider for education on treatment appropriateness and client safety, as well as to consider alternatives.

HealthHelp’s educative and collaborative process has improved long-term outcomes and reduced waste in the healthcare industry. By promoting health and safety standards for patients, improving the quality and outcomes of care delivered, increasing efficiency and satisfaction for providers, and delivering overall cost savings to payers, HealthHelp successfully demonstrates how collaboration across the continuum of care is beneficial to all the stakeholders.

Together, HealthHelp and WYhealth are looking forward to ensuring high quality healthcare for its clients.

More information about HealthHelp and its programs can be found at www.wyhealth.net/Cardiology_Radiology.html or www.healthhelp.com.



Star Valley Hospital Rated Best of the Best for 2015

For the past five years, iVantage Health Analytics has been compiling an annual list of the top 100 critical access hospitals in America.

Just 16 facilities have made it onto the list every year of the survey.

Star Valley Hospital in Afton, Wyoming has made that list.

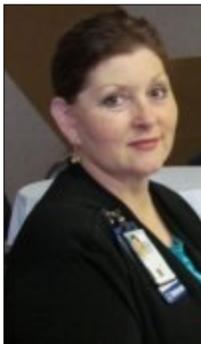
By outperforming their

peers in quality of care, cost efficiency, health outcomes, patient satisfaction and population health management, these small, rural hospitals are "can serve as a blueprint for other rural providers working actively to navigate the transition to value-based healthcare models," according to iVantage.

iVantage's recent "Rural

Relevance Study: Vulnerability to Value" evaluated more than 1,300 critical access hospitals using public information such as Medicare cost reports, Medicare Provider Analysis and Review data and other data from CMS to arrive at best CAHs for 2015.

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



Dr. Kathy Berger

Sheridan VA Health Care System Names New Director

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced the appointment of Dr. Kathy W. Berger as the new director of the Sheridan Health Care System.

Berger will oversee delivery of health care to nearly 13,000 veterans and an operating budget of \$100 million.

"We are excited to bring Dr. Kathy W. Berger on board as the new director of the Sheridan HCS," said Ralph Gigliotti, Veterans Integrated Service Network 19 Director. "Her sound

leadership qualities and proven experience will be valuable assets for the facility, the employees and volunteers, and most importantly, for the Veterans we are honored to serve.

Berger currently serves as associate director of Patient Support Services/Nurse Executive at the Sheridan HCS.

Berger is responsible for approximately 300 employees and numerous programs and patient care units. She completely reorganized nursing within her first year

to more efficiently and effectively deliver nursing in a more integrated method, while focusing on high quality, safe patient care.

Prior to her current appointment, Berger served as chief of quality, performance and patient safety at the Lexington, Kentucky, VAMC from 2010 to 2013.

She began her VA career in 2007 as a nurse manager, immediately after separation from service in the U.S. Air Force.

Poison Control Services Continue With New Vendor

Services for state residents who have critical questions about potential poisoning incidents are continuing without interruption as a new vendor takes over services for Wyoming, according to the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH).

"If you or someone else you are with may have been poisoned, you can continue to call 800-222-1222 and should do so immediately," said Andy

Gienapp, Office of Emergency Medical Services manager with WDH. All calls are free and private and services are available 24 hour a day, every day.

Gienapp said almost anything can be poisonous if used the wrong way, in the wrong amount, or by the wrong person or pet.

"Poison control center hotlines offer expert advice quickly on medicines, household products and chemicals, foods and beverages,

cosmetics and personal care items, bites and stings, mushrooms and plants, and fumes and gases," he said.

The Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center began providing poison control hotline services for Wyoming under a contract with WDH on July 1.

For several years previously, poison control had been provided by the Nebraska Regional Poison Center.

Wyoming Hospital Association

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