



# NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 47, Number 28

August 12, 2016

## WHA Calendar:

<b>WHA PAC Golf Tournament</b>	9/6
<b>WHA/LAW Annual Meeting &amp; Convention Cheyenne</b>	9/7- 9/8

## Other Events:

<b>EMS Conference Cheyenne</b>	8/18- 8/21
<b>Joint Labor Health and Social Services Committee</b>	8/25- 8/26

## WHA Resources Announces Affiliation with Vizient GPO

WHA Resources is pleased to have conducted recent evaluation of an opportunity to bring great value and benefit to Wyoming hospitals in the form of an affiliation agreement with the newly created Vizient group purchasing organization.

As a large conglomerate GPO, Vizient has the capacity to address supply, clinical and operational improvements to deliver billions in savings to hospitals and health systems nationwide. By connecting member hospitals to knowledge, solutions and expertise in the areas of clinical, operational and supply chain performance, Vizient empowers its hospitals to deliver exceptional, cost-effective care in the communities they serve.

Vizient is positioned to serve thousands of hospitals and health care organizations across the nation with a broad portfolio of solutions and a significant network of healthcare experts driving innovation in our industry.

WHA member will now have access to utilize Vizient's contract portfolio to achieve savings in pharmacy, laboratory, medical/surgical supplies, dietary, radiology, environmental, capital equipment and purchased services.

Additionally, beyond the contract portfolio, Vizient also offers customized purchasing solutions including Data and Analytics, Contract Implementation, Management Tools, Savings Programs plus Business Reviews and Reports.

The formation of Vizient has involved a merger of multiple existing GPOs, as a combination of VHA, University Health System Consortium, Novation, MedAssets SCM and Sg2. WHA Resources believes the combined strengths of these organizations will eclipse the rest of the industry in terms of value that can be delivered to our WHA members.

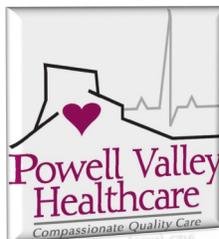
As part of a tri-state Vizient GPO affiliation partnership in collaboration with the

Montana and Idaho Hospital Associations, the value and benefit that WHA's engagement carries significant weight. This arrangement will bring together the purchasing power of hospitals in all three states – which will bring to the table the best contract pricing and purchasing terms that otherwise would not have been available to hospitals in our respective states.

The WHA Annual Meeting & Conference is set to be held September 6-8 in Cheyenne, at which time, further details of this affiliation relationship will be reviewed with the membership.

To learn more about this Vizient affiliation announcement or other initiatives of WHA Resources, please contact Neil Hilton at WHA, 307 632-9244 or [neil@wyohospitals.com](mailto:neil@wyohospitals.com) – for additional direct information regarding Vizient, please visit their website [www.vizientinc.com](http://www.vizientinc.com)





**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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## PVHC Going Paperless for Surveys

“To continue our work of fulfilling our mission at PVHC to improve quality of life through excellent healthcare, Powell Valley Healthcare has joined forces with HealthStream to use telephone surveys, emails, and text messages instead of the traditional paper survey sent via mail,” said Sara Welling, RN, Director of Quality Improvement.

“The paper surveys were long and sometimes confus-

ing,” said Welling. “PVHC hopes to get a better sense of what we are doing well and what we can improve upon from these new survey methods.

Research shows these new survey methods collect a better representation of patient experience.” The new methods will also improve the timeliness of receiving patients’ opinions.

“Sometimes the information was up to six months

old when we received it from the previous company,” said Welling. “It is very difficult to address issues when they are that old.”

PVHC will begin the new surveys and will contact a random sampling of both inpatient and outpatient customers beginning in July.

HealthStream Research will be contacting patients on the hospital’s behalf and compiling the data.

## Bring Your Checkbooks for the Auction

The 1st Annual WHA/PAC Silent Auction is off to a fabulous start thanks to our members. So far, the following items have been donated for the auction:

- Lodging and fishing at Monster Lake Ranch donated by West Park Hospital
- A full day fly fishing on the North Platte for two donated by Wyoming Medical Center
- 4 Cheyenne Frontier Day Sponsor Badges for a CFD rodeo donated by Cheyenne Regional Medical Center
- A \$750 gift card to use towards a “get away weekend” at The Montage Resort in Deer Valley, UT donated by Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County
- A five - six hour side by side tour of the Big Horn and/or Prior Mountains to see the wild mustangs in the area with a night’s lodg-

ing and the next day will be a ½ day boat trip up Big Horn Canyon, donated by North Big Horn Hospital

- A two piece original watercolor by Wyoming Artist Marvie Tipsword donated by Platte County Memorial Hospital

Hope to see you all at the Annual Meeting & Convention on September 7-8 in Cheyenne.

## HHS’ Transgender Anti-Bias Rules

Starting July 18, transgender people can enter bathrooms or hospital wards consistent with their gender identity. The rule does not explicitly require insurers to cover gender transition treatments such as surgery. But insurers could face questions if they deny medically necessary services related to gender transition.

The policy, which carries out anti-bias provisions

in the Affordable Care Act, affects any provider or program that accepts federal dollars. Yet in the days leading up to implementation of the rule, there were few signs that providers were ready.

In March, the Human Rights Campaign found that only 21% of U.S. hospitals have specific policies outlining procedures and practices to eliminate bias and insen-

sitivity toward transgender patients.

The rule empowers HHS to suspend or terminate federal funding to any organization that does not address noncompliance. HHS may also contact the U.S. Justice Department to determine a criminal offense.

Modern Healthcare  
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