



NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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August 31, 2012

WHA Calendar:

- WHA PAC Golf Tournament
Cheyenne 9/25
- Annual Meeting & Convention
Little America Cheyenne 9/26-9/27

Other Events:

- Mid America Summit
Des Moines, IA 9/5-9/7
- Joint Labor Health and Social Services Committee
Lovell, WY 9/5-9/7
- Wyoming Nursing Summit
Laramie, WY 9/13-9/15

Joint Health Committee to Hear Medicaid Options Report

State health officials will present the second of three reports from the Medicaid Options Study during a meeting of the Joint Labor, Health, and Social Services Committee this week in Lovell.

The study, which was mandated by the Legislature, is intended to identify ways to control spending in the Medicaid program, while continuing to provide high quality healthcare services to the state's neediest populations.

The first phase of the study identified cost drivers

in Medicaid. Following a summer of stakeholder and public meetings to gather input, the second phase will outline options for improving the program. Department of Health officials will present these options during the Sept. 5 – 7 meeting.

The final phase, due later this year, will provide the committee with recommendations for modifying Medicaid.

Wyoming's critical access hospitals will be represented on the committee agenda, discussing with the committee the relationship between

the hospitals and their attached nursing facilities.

Due to a number of factors, including inadequate Medicaid reimbursements, it can be difficult for nursing facilities in small communities to remain viable. Many rely on the hospitals they are attached to for much-needed financial support.

Rick Schroeder, CEO of North Big Horn Hospital in Lovell, Bill Patten, CEO of Powell Valley Health Care, and Jackie Claudson, CEO of South Big Horn Hospital in Basin, will present to the committee.

Convention Sessions to Strengthen Volunteer Efforts

Two sessions scheduled for the Wyoming Hospital Association Annual Meeting and Convention will help hospital volunteers increase gift shop sales and more effectively recruit additional volunteers to their hospitals.

The convention is scheduled for September 26 and 27 at the Little America Hotel in Cheyenne.

During the first of two sessions, panelists Jeanne Bellamy of Cheyenne Regional Medical Center, Brenda Paige of Ivinson Memorial Hospital, and Mindy Carter of Wyoming Medical

Center will answer the question: "If I just marked it up, why am I supposed to mark it down now?"

The panelists will explore product, price, place, and promotion in relation to merchandising needs at hospital gift shops. They will discuss a number of ideas to enhance market trips, product selection, and promotional ideas to increase sales.

Following the panel, several gift shops will offer products for sale.

Additionally, ServeWyoming will present Hot Topics in Volunteer Management

and Recruitment, a session focused on recruiting volunteers to a hospital, emergency preparedness/family planning, current trends in volunteerism, and how to motivate, recognize, and market to volunteers.

The Wyoming Healthcare Volunteers Organization will also conduct its annual business meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 26, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information on the Convention or to register online, visit www.wyohospitals.com or call 307.632.9344.



New WMC Tower Will Keep Hospital Competitive

Wyoming Medical Center officials hope construction of the \$42.5 million west tower addition, which is set to begin soon, will help the Casper hospital compete against other facilities in the region.

The 98,000 square-foot addition will house a new maternity ward, orthopedic and spine surgical unit, rehabilitation gym and cafeteria.

The additional space will also allow the hospital to do away with double rooms.

Wyoming Medical Center is already one of the

state's largest hospitals. But officials have expressed concern that even larger out-of-state providers will lure away patients.

Upgrading facilities and adding services, however, should make WMC more competitive, said CEO Vickie Diamond.

"We have to be competitive with pricing and services and quality," she said at the project's groundbreaking ceremony. "And that's what we are going to do. We are determined to do that."

The addition will also

help WMC address community needs, Diamond said.

With the increased focus on preventative care, administrators want to build a wellness center on the tower's first floor.

The tower represents the largest expansion project at WMC since the mid-1960s. Demolition work for the project began this spring.

Construction will likely start next month. Officials hope to complete the project in December 2013.

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



Job Fair to Connect Employers, Military Members

A special free job fair scheduled for Sept. 26 in Casper will connect active duty members and veterans of the military with employers who are looking to hire.

Hiring Our Heroes is set for the Best Western Ramkota Hotel from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is intended for veteran job seekers, active duty military members,

Guard and Reserve members, and military spouses.

The event is sponsored by Hero2Hired and the Call of Duty Endowment, and is conducted in conjunction with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Casper Chamber of Commerce, the Wyoming Chamber Partnership, the Wyoming Veterans Commission, and many others.

Job seekers and employers who plan to attend the job fair must register for free at www.HOH.GreatJob.net. Walk-ins are welcome, but space is limited.

With registration questions, contact hiringourheroes@uschamber.com, or call (202) 463-3110.

Wyoming Hospital Association

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ICD-10 Compliance Date Delayed One Year

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has issued a final rule delaying the deadline for implementing ICD-10 diagnosis and procedure codes to Oct. 1, 2014, as recommended by the AHA.

The rule also implements other administrative simplification provisions under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. AHA members will receive a future Regulatory Advisory

with further details on the final rule, which will be published in the Sept. 5 Federal Register.

In its recommendation, the AHA wrote that it supported the proposed one-year delay and urged the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to finalize its proposal soon. The AHA strongly recommended that CMS move forward with both coding systems (CM and PCS) at

the same time, and that the extra time be used to conduct extensive testing.

"The AHA is pleased with the revised compliance date for ICD-10," said AHA President and CEO Rich Umbdenstock. "The delay will be especially beneficial to smaller hospitals as they modify their information systems and helpful to larger facilities to conduct additional testing with health plans."