



NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 46, Number 38

September 25, 2015

WHA Calendar:

HFMA Meeting Laramie	11/18-11/19
WHA Board Meeting Lander	11/23

Other Events:

Labor, Health & Social Services Committee Buffalo	10/19-10/20
LeadingAge Wyoming Board Meeting	11/10

HITM Program Offered

The Laramie County Community College (LCCC) Health Information Technology and Management (HITM) Program has just begun their third cohort of students. In 2013, the program launched as the first, completely online program at LCCC. When the program launched the developers felt it was necessary to provide a process that allowed the non-traditional student the opportunity to further their education. This process, stacked certifications, allows students to develop industry-oriented skills for the HITM career field.

The Medical Office Essentials Credit Diploma provides skills needed to perform in entry-level, administrative positions in the health care field. A student will understand legal and ethical issues, HIPAA, customer service, increase their Microsoft office skills, and deepen their level of professionalism. Students can finish in one semester, full time, or two semesters on a part time plan. Students are employable as medical secretaries or patient access specialists. Most students continue on to the second, stacked certificate, the Medical Claims Coding Associate Credit Certificate.

The second, mid-level certificate teaches students advanced techniques in medical

insurance, reimbursement methodologies, basic health information management and coding. This certificate prepares students to test for the national coding exams available through the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) or the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC). Most of the current students will complete at least this certificate, as they understand the need for billers or coders who truly understand the mechanics of bringing in revenue to their current employer, or future employer.

The final tier is the Associate of Applied Science degree in Health Information Technology. As with the other two certificates, this tier builds upon the first certificates and adds further coding in health care with health information management. The student receives management classes to prepare them to analyze and report on data, administer health information management systems and provide the skills needed to support the administrative functions of a healthcare clinic or facility department. Due to the high number of students who have prior credits, many students work to complete their Associates of Applied Science.

HITM is an ideal program for the nontraditional student

who is already working, would like the flexibility to carry a full or part time credit load, and would like the benefit of an online program. Some students are worried about returning to school while still in the workforce. All of the HITM students work with a career coach from the application period through graduation and employment if they desire. The coach can assist them if they need help with scheduling of school and personal life, be a representative to those who do not live in the LCCC geographic region, and provide support to stay the college course.

If you know of, or would like to support, an employee who is interested in medical secretary or billing and coding I encourage you to refer them to the HITM program. Supporting employees in their current position and future upward movement in your facility will strengthen your business and create long-term stability for you and your employee. Moreover, as ICD-10 becomes reality, every facility will need a trained, qualified biller and coder!

For further information, please contact Anne Siebert, Career Coach, at 207.432.1605 or hitm@lccc.wy.edu. Further information is also available on the LCCC website, www.lccc.wy.edu.



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



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CRMC Gets Platinum Recognition for Heart Attack

Heart attacks are no fun, to say the least, but according to the American College of Cardiology, Cheyenne's as good a place as any to have one based on treatment procedures at Cheyenne Regional Medical Center.

The hospital announced that it was one of only 319 hospitals nationwide to earn the college's Platinum Performance Achievement award for its care and treatment of heart attack patients.

The platinum award is

the highest honor bestowed by the college, which also issues gold and silver recognition.

"To receive the award, CRMC consistently followed the treatment guidelines ... for eight consecutive quarters and met a performance standard of 90 percent for specific quality performance measures," the hospital said in a release.

Muhammad Khan, MD, a cardiologist and the medical director of cardiovascular

care at the hospital, said the award recognizes commitment and success in "a higher standard of care" the hospital's implemented for its heart attack patients.

"It signifies that Cheyenne Regional Medical Center has reached an aggressive goal of treating these patients to standard levels of care as outlined by the registry's guidelines and recommendations," he said in the release.

Blue Envelope Donates 100 Infant CPR Kits

Wyoming Medical Center received support from the Blue Envelope Health Fund to support of the smallest and most vulnerable babies.

Blue Envelope donated \$3,850 toward the purchase of 100 Infant CPR Anytime Kits used to teach lifesaving skills to the parents of premature babies – those born prior to 37 weeks gestation.

"Part of my responsibility as clinical coordinator for the Family, Mother and Baby Center at Wyoming Medical Center is to ensure that

parents of our smallest babies are prepared to take them home," said Cheryl Graff, clinical coordinator of Women's Services. "Being comfortable with infant CPR is a major component of that.

"Our parents are ecstatic to receive these kits, and we are very grateful to Blue Envelope for their support of our hospital and our community."

The kits are used in many hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Units around the coun-

ty. They allow parents to learn and practice CPR skills while their babies are still in the hospital.

Parents then take the kits home so the resources are always available after their babies are discharged. Kits include a mini baby CPR training manikin, a spare lung, bilingual directions and instructional DVD, a bilingual infant CPR Anytime Reminder card and manikin wipes.

ASHE, Joint Commission Launch new Resource

The AHA's American Society for Healthcare Engineering, in collaboration with The Joint Commission, has released the first in a new series of resources to help health care facilities comply with the most challenging life safety and environment-of-care accreditation standards.

Additional resources will be released regularly through 2016.

For more on the Focus on Compliance initiative and to access the first resource, on managing risk associated with utility systems, visit www.ashe.org/compliance.

