



# NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 48, Number 03

January 20, 2017

## WHA Calendar:

Legislative Reception Little America	2/9
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## Other Events:

Legislature Begins	1/10
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AHA Annual Meeting Washington DC	5/7-5/10
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## Improving Prescription Access for the Uninsured

The Wyoming Department of Health encourages clinics and hospitals to utilize the Medication Donation Program to help improve prescription access and health outcomes for their low-income, un/underinsured patients.

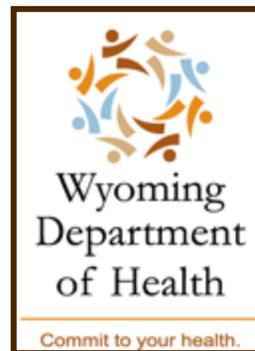
The Wyoming Medication Donation Program (WMDP) serves as a comprehensive drug donation, re-dispensing, and disposal program providing a safe and secure method for the public and health care organizations to donate unused medications.

Through the Wyoming Drug Donation Program Act W.S. 35-7-1601, passed in 2005, the program is able to re-dispense in-date medications in sealed packages to Wyoming residents who cannot afford their prescriptions. The program also provides an environmentally sound prescription disposal service for the state.

Low-Income Wyoming residents, up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, without prescription insurance may be eligible to receive help with their medications.

The eligibility application can be found online at [www.wyomedicationdonation.org](http://www.wyomedicationdonation.org).

Case Managers and other medical staff are encouraged to refer clients in need. The program's donated inventory is available online and is updated daily to assist with making referrals.



"Matching unused medication with patients who can't afford them makes sense. By working closely with the clinics and hospitals as they develop care plans for their patients, we can find the patients in need and help them with their medications." states Natasha Gallizzi, program manager.

After a patient is determined to be eligible for assistance, the WMDP which is a licensed Wyoming pharmacy, will fill the patient's prescription and mail it free of charge.

The program is able to mail state-wide but cannot assist with refrigerated medications or controlled substances. The process can take up to a week for the first shipment.

The WMDP aims to:

- Improve prescription access, through increasing referrals
- Improve health outcomes by providing access to prescription medications
- Increase volume of donations in order to support increased access

The Department of Health also encourages clinics and hospitals to work closely with their physician network and local health care facilities to secure donations of unused samples and unused unit dose medications.

There are nearly 30 donation locations throughout the state. If your city does not have one, the WMDP would be happy to work with you to set one up. An interactive map of the donation locations can be found on our webpage.

For more information or to set up a training, contact the WMDP at toll free at 1-855-257-5041, via e-mail at: [WDHRxDonationInfo@wyo.gov](mailto:WDHRxDonationInfo@wyo.gov), or visit online at: [www.wyomedicationdonation.org](http://www.wyomedicationdonation.org)



*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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## Iverson Hospital Starts Junior Volunteer Program

The Iverson Memorial Hospital (IMH) Junior Volunteers is a recently designed program for students 16 and older.

The program offers students an opportunity for service to the community after school and during the summer.

Volunteers are trained and supervised by the volunteer coordinator and will perform some of the

same duties as adult volunteers.

Junior volunteers, or JVs, can learn about health care by assisting staff, visitors and patients with non-medical tasks. JVs must be able to follow directions, accept supervision and work independently.

Students must make a dependable commitment for one four-hour shift per week for the summer or the entire

school year are ideal.

JVs can work in the gift shop and might act as guides for guest and visitors. They will be assigned to deliver flowers and cards, walk people to patient rooms, outpatient services and visiting physician offices.

Call 307-755-4513 for more information about the Junior Volunteer program.

## West Park Hospital to Host Horty Springer Conference

West Park Hospital, WPH, hosted a leadership conference two years ago in the Baker Community Education Center with Dan Mulholland, Horty Springer Attorney.

Horty Springer is one the leading legal firms in country providing hospital and medical staff legal counsel and education.

Due to the positive feedback received by attendees two years ago, WPH is hosting a Peer

Review & Professional Conduct Conference at West Park Hospital, Cody, Wyoming April 20-21, 2017.

LeeAnne Mitchell, Attorney and Rachel Remaley will be the presenters.

The conference is intended for hospital CEO, Senior Leaders, Trustees, Physicians, Physician Officers, Chief Medical Officers, Hospital Legal Counsel, Medical Staff Coordinators, and Risk Managers.

Early Bird Registration deadline is March 1, 2017. Cost is \$600 / Individual, \$500 /per participant for teams of 3-5, \$400/ per participant for teams of 5+. Please contact Kim Jacobs at [kjacobs@wphcody.org](mailto:kjacobs@wphcody.org) to register or address questions. A Block of rooms has been reserved at The Cody Hotel, 307-587-5915. Conference includes a social for participants on April 19th, and all meals on 20th –21st.

## Radon Testing for Wyoming Homes

Wyoming families should consider testing the radon levels found in their homes to see if a potential health risk exists, as recommended by the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH).

Radon is an invisible, odorless, tasteless and dangerous gas found in homes, especially older structures. Radon naturally occurs as a radioactive

gas released from the element radium and is found in rocks, soil and water.

“As radon naturally degrades, it can seep up into your home, get trapped inside, and build in intensity,” said Julie Tarbuck, Wyoming Integrated Cancer Services Program outreach and education supervisor. “All homes have radon; however, with certain levels of radon, health concerns exist.”

The Wyoming Integrated Cancer Services Program has low-cost radon test kits available for individuals and families to purchase, as well as resources for contractors, real estate agents and home buyers. For more information or to obtain a radon test kit, please visit [www.health.wyo.gov/publichealth/prevention/cancer/radon](http://www.health.wyo.gov/publichealth/prevention/cancer/radon) online or call 307-777-3480.