



Wyoming Hospital Association

NEWSBRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Save The Date

**WHA Annual Meeting & Convention
September 5-6, 2018
Laramie, WY**

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Panel Will Study Rewrite of Stark Law for the Age of Value-Based Pay

Virgil Dickson—Modern Healthcare Magazine

Hospitals are hopeful that a new interagency effort at HHS will make it easier for them to participate in value-based payment models without violating anti-kickback laws.

During a webinar hosted by the American Hospital Association last week, CMS Administrator Seema Verma announced plans to launch the interagency group, which will include her agency, HHS' Office of Inspector General, HHS' general counsel and the Justice Department.

HHS has been hearing provider complaints for years about the Stark law, which Congress passed in 1989. "I think the Stark law was developed a long time ago, and given where we're going in terms of modernizing (Medicare) and the payment systems we are operating under now, we need to bring along some of those regulations," Verma said.

"We look forward to the opportunity to interact with the new group to discuss how best to modernize the Stark and similar laws-which were created in a different era for a different purpose -to support more coordinated and effective care for patients," said Rick Pollack, the AHA's CEO.

Hospitals are hopeful the group will take a look at the Justice Department's use of the False Claims Act when pursuing alleged violations of the strict liability provisions of the Starklaw.

The Justice Department's use of the False Claims Act has imposed excessive and disproportionate penalties on hospitals, often leaving them no option but to settle or close their doors, according to America's Essential Hospitals.

"Not only does this antiquated law create unnecessary barriers to clinical integration and care coordination, it also carries costly compliance burdens that hit essential hospitals especially hard," a spokesman for the trade group said.

Over the last few years, HHS has repeatedly issued waivers of the fraud and abuse laws specific to certain pay models in an effort to reduce barriers to participation.

This new universal waiver should apply to gain-sharing and other similar financial arrangements between hospitals and other providers under a CMS led bundled payment program, he said.

Others shared the same hope. "CMS has legal au-

thority to develop regulatory exceptions to the Stark law, so there are opportunities for CMS to provide greater flexibility for value-based payment arrangements," said Jeff Micklos, executive director of the Health Care Transformation Task Force, which represents both hospitals and insurance companies.

The Stark law prevents hospitals from paying providers more when they meet certain quality measures, such as reducing hospital-acquired infections, while paying less to those who miss the goals. Hospitals have said the Stark law makes it difficult for physicians to enter innovative payment arrangements because they are not susceptible to fair-market value assessment, a Stark requirement.

Stark also prohibits doctors from referring Medicare patients to hospitals, labs and colleagues with whom they have financial relationships unless they fall under certain exceptions.

Physicians and hospitals can be found liable even if they didn't intend to violate the Stark law, and offenses can carry significant financial penalties.

WHA Calendar

WHA Trustee Education Session	5/17
HortySpringer Conference West Park Hospital, Cody	5/3-5/4

PAC CONTRIBUTORS 2018

**Irene Richardson
Heidi Baskfield
Barry Burkart
Wyo Behavioral Institute**

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

Thanks to Senator Barrasso and Senator Enzi for signing on to the dear colleague letter to help with the saline shortage.



Cody Wound Care Center Marks One Year

Cody Regional Health says its wound Care Center un Cody had a successful first year.

The Wound Care Center had 1,801 patient visits in the last year with a rate of 98.23 percent success and an average heal time within 23 days of treatment started, center officials said in a news release.

The clinic provides specialized treatment for chronic or non-healing wounds that have not significantly improved from conventional treatments. Available treatment includes debridement, dressing selections and patient education.

Center leaders say they've reduced suffering for many and prevented disability not only from the common causes of wounds, but also from

unusual cases such as frostbite and long term complication of radiation therapy.

"The clinic focuses on chronic and non-healing wounds related to diabetes, poor circulation, poorly functioning veins and immobility," said Dr. Gary hart, a wound care specialist. The center has two physicians, five nurses and a hyperbaric chamber technician.

HRET HIIN Falls Practices

The HRET HIIN Falls team is proud to announce a new resource to help raise awareness about common fall practices that are contributing to patient harm and have proven to be ineffective in preventing fall related injuries.

It is time we face the facts about falls and STOP ineffective practices and replace them with patient centered, evidence based strategies.

Access to the STOP to START Improving Fall Injuries tool can be found

at: <http://www.hret-hiin.org/resources/display/stop-to-start-improving-fall-injuries>

The tool is short and sweet and includes all of this content in five pages:

- Nine myths about falls are busted
- Six practices we must STOP doing are listed with replacement interventions and strategies to START doing
- Links are provided to the articles with evidence to support the STOPS and STARTS.
- Links are also provided

to tools and resources to support evidence based, patient centered fall injury prevention practices and strategies

Many organizations are choosing new strategies to move away from forced immobility as the primary means to prevent falls. Falls and mobility champions that have started to transform your falls program to be more patient centered, please share your experience.

Sheridan Hospital Shares Their 1 in 8 Video

1 in 8 Women...

Wyoming is one of the lowest states in the nation for women being screened for breast cancer. Together we can change that.

Did you know? 1 in 8 women in the US will develop breast cancer in her lifetime.

25% of women who die from breast cancer are diagnosed in their forties.

If breast cancer is detected before it has spread, the chance for cure is nearly 100%

3D Mammography is now available in Sheridan. Please visit sheridanhospital.org to

watch a short, powerful video featuring women in the community. Share this important video with your friends and family to encourage early detection through screening!

The video is also available on the Wyoming Hospital Association website at www.wyohospitals.com

