



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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WHA Calendar

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

HHS Releases a New Resource for Health Information

The US Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) has released the ONC Guide to Getting and Using your Health Records, a new online resource for individuals, patients, and caregivers.

This new resource supports both the 21st Century Cures Act goal of empowering patients and improving patients' access to their electronic health information and the recently announced MyHealthEData initiative.

The new initiative, led by the White House Office of American Innovation and supported by ONC, empowers patients by giving them control of their healthcare information. Other participants in the effort include the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, National Institutes of Health, and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Individuals' ability to access and use their health information electronically is a measure of interoperability and a cornerstone of ONC's efforts to increase patient engagement, improve health outcomes, and advance person-centered health.

In fact, a new ONC data brief shows that in 2017, half of Americans reported they were offered access to an online medical record by a provider or insurer. This is up from 42 percent in 2014.

Over half of individuals who were offered online access viewed their record with the past year. Eight in 10 of the individuals who viewed their information rated their online medical records as both easy to understand and useful for monitoring their health. These positive perceptions may be attributed to individuals' varied use of online medical records, including viewing test results; managing their health needs with greater convenience; communicating with their health care provider; self-management and treatment decision-making; and contributing information to and correcting errors in their medical record.

However, challenges remain. Almost half of Americans in 2017 who were offered access to an online medical record did not access their record, frequently citing a perceived lack of need as one of the reasons for not accessing their record. Con-

sumers may not understand their right (under the HIPAA Privacy Rule) to access their health information nor realize the benefits of accessing their health information. ONC outlined the challenges patients face in accessing their health information electronically in a report released in June 2017.

"The ONC Guide to Getting and Using your Health Records" informs patients and consumers about the value of health information, and provides individuals with clear, actionable advice on how to:

- Get their health record, including offering tips through the process of accessing their records electronically,
- Check their health record to make sure it is complete, correct, and up-to-date, and
- Use their electronic health records, such as sharing their records to better coordinate their care and using apps and other digital technologies to better manage and improve their health.

To view the ONC Guide to Getting, Checking, and Using your Health Records, visit: HealthIT.gov.

PAC CONTRIBUTORS 2018

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**Annual Goal
\$8500**

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National Program Scores MHSC Quality Measures

Adhering to strict quality measures will mean higher reimbursements on Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County's Medicare claims.

MSHC recently submitted its Medicare Incentive Payment System (MIPS) data for 2017 with a score of 98 out of 100.

"Our awesome physicians, PAs and clinic staff have accomplished something remarkable," said CEO Irene Richardson.

MIPS is the new Quality Payment Program that was established by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

It was included in national legislation in 2015 and went into effect in 2017.

The majority of the data is collected in Sweetwater Memorial's clinics, with additional data coming from MHSC hospitalists and anesthesiologists. The data submitted for 2017 will affect its Medicare payment adjustments for 2019. The submitted data includes:

- Quality measures such as influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations, high blood pressure controls, cancer screenings, etc.
- Improvement activities such as antibiotic stewardship. It also includes a CMS program

that rewards hospitals for efforts in reducing all-cause inpatient harm by 20 percent and readmissions by 12 percent in the coming year.

• Patient information, including how the hospital uses its e-prescriptions and patient portal access; works with referrals; and makes certain that medication information remains accurate among all physicians and services.

In addition, the score of 98 out of 100 means that for the hospital's 2019 Medicare claims, it will receive up to a 4 percent increase in reimbursement.



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

2018 Cancer Conference

Registration is now open for the Wyoming Cancer Conference.

The conference will be held May 30 at the Ramkota Hotel in Casper.

There will be presentations on

- Project ECHO
- Cancer Screening
- Survivorship programs

- Colorectal Cancer
- Utilizing social media
- Evaluation and measuring success of programs
- LGBTQ Cultural Competency
- Increasing HPV Vaccination

Questions can be directed to Allie Bain, at 3-7-777-8609.

Check out the flyer for more information and details on registration. to register visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2018-wyoming-cancer-conference-registration-42799802361>



SingFit at Lusk Hospital

They're playing songs at Niobrara Community Hospital in Lusk.

The hospital has a program of music therapy called SingFit.

It's a singalong, with trivia questions, information about the songwriter, and more. SingFit was devel-

oped to target improvement in mood, behavior, cognitive function, and engagement.

There is also evidence that it can reduce the use of medications prescribed to treat conditions such as anxiety, depression, and PTSD

