



Wyoming Hospital Association

NEWSBRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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Save The Date

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

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Annual Goal—\$8400
Achieved -\$7925

Medicare Part D Opioid Drug Mapping Tool

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has released an updated version of the Medicare opioid prescribing mapping tool.

This tool is an interactive, web-based resource that visually presents geographic comparisons of Medicare Part D opioid prescribing rates.

The tool includes the addition of extended-release opioid prescribing rates and county-level hot spots and outliers, which may identify areas that warrant attention.

The mapping tool offers local communities greater transparency into opioid prescribing in the Medicare Part D program.

Communities can use this resource to understand how this critical issue affects their area, examine regional variation, and make informed decisions about how to allocate resources.

The underlying data that feeds this tool is also used by CMS to monitor and manage high risk use of opioids in the Part D program.

“Addressing the opioid epidemic and its impact on every state, county and municipality is a priority of the Trump Administration,” said CMS Administrator Seema Verma.

“This updated mapping tool gives providers, local health officials, and others

data about their community’s Medicare opioid prescription rate and information to help target resources and develop solutions for this problem plaguing our nation’s neighborhoods.”

Prescription opioids can be prescribed by doctors to treat moderate to severe pain. However, they also can have serious risks including addiction and overdose.

The majority of drug overdose deaths involve opioids, and since 1999, the number of overdose deaths involving prescription opioids has quadrupled. In 2015, more than 15,000 people died from overdoses involving prescription opioids.

The data used in this mapping tool are from Medicare Part D prescription drugs prescribed by healthcare providers. In 2015, Medicare Part D spending on drugs was \$137 billion, which reflects about 40% of U.S. retail prescription drug spending.

In total, for Medicare Part D, there were approximately 80 million opioid claims for 111 distinct opioid products in 2015, accounting for \$3.5 billion in spending.

It is important to note that the information presented in the tool does not indicate the quality or appropriateness of opioid prescribing for an individual physician or in a given

geographic region.

The updated version of the mapping tool presents Medicare Part D opioid prescribing rates for 2015 as well as the change in opioid prescribing rates from 2013 to 2015.

New for this release is additional information on extended-release opioid prescribing rates. Extended-release opioids are formulated to release the active ingredient slower, over a longer period of time, and require less frequent administration.

However, because extended-release drugs contain a large amount of the opioid, they have been associated with misuse, including both addiction and overdose deaths.

In addition, this release includes county-level hot spots and outliers, which may identify areas that warrant attention.

The Medicare Part D Opioid Drug Mapping Tool can be found here: <https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/Medicare-Provider-Charge-Data/OpioidMap.html>

| WHA Calendar | |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| WHA Trustee Education Session Lander | 5/17 |

New Sleep Lab at NBHH

North Big Horn Hospital (NBHH) in Lovell has opened their new sleep lab.

On provider referral, the lab provides sleep studies for patients who exhibit signs of sleep apnea.

The test, which requires an overnight stay at the hospital, has two parts. The first part is diagnostic, and monitors the patient's breathing. A technician monitors the patient's

sleep from an adjacent room and is able to record the frequency of episodes where the patient literally stops breathing in his or her sleep.

Once the patient is determined to have apnea, the study enters a titration phase, where the patient is fitted with a special CPAP mask.

A doctor specializing in sleep apnea reviews the study and provides a report to the patient's provider.

If a CPAP machine is required, the machines are pro-

vided through the hospital's respiratory department, where trained professionals can work one-on-one with the patient to determine the ideal setting to help the patient get a good night's sleep.



Team Helps Employers Lower WC Premiums

The Wyoming Department of Workforce Services' (DWS) Workers' Compensation Risk Management Team can help employers lower their Experience Modification Rating (EMR).

An employer's EMR is a direct representation of the number of injuries, including frequency and severity, a company sees each year.

When employers request assistance from the

Risk Management team, a risk management analysis will be conducted focusing on where a company is experiencing injuries and how those injuries will impact the company financially. The Risk Management Specialist will visit the employer's site, and present the findings to management and employees.

Following the analysis, the team will make recommendations on a number of potential cost savers, including eligibility for certain safety discount

programs. This service is free of charge.

"A strong safety culture equals fewer injuries, which means fewer Workers' Compensation claims, which ultimately means a lower EMR" Risk Management Program Manager Nichole Brommer said.

Employers can learn how to lower their EMR by calling the Risk Management team at (307) 777-6763 or at (307) 777-8901.

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

Tobacco Sales Report Comments Invited

The Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) is welcoming public comment on a report describing youth access to tobacco in the state.

"Wyoming is required to conduct random, unannounced inspections of tobacco outlets youth can legally visit such as convenience stores," said Ra-

chel Nuss, prevention block grant coordinator with WDH. "These inspections help us check whether tobacco retailers are following state law, which says tobacco products may not be sold to minors."

All states must enact and enforce laws prohibiting the sale or distribution of tobacco products to individuals under the age of 18.

A draft of the 2018 Annual Synar Report for Wyoming is available for review and comment online at <https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/prevention/substanceabuseandsuicide/publications-and-reports/synar/>.