



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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A Message from Patricia Crowell—Director, Sheridan VA

Thank you, Wyoming Hospital Association, for giving the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) an opportunity to share what is happening within the agency.

Of course, all the hospitals in Wyoming serve America's Veterans. I've spoken to many of you regarding the difficulties of the bureaucracy associated with providing (and paying for) care provided to Veterans in the community.

VA has been working with Congress on streamlining the community care programs, and I'm happy to share some of the changes that were signed into law by President Trump last week. Please note that this is going to take a full year to implement and I'm happy to provide updates as this Act is implemented.

The VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks (MISSION) Act includes:

- Consolidating seven VA community care programs into one streamlined program
- Removes arbitrary 30-day/40-mile barriers to Veterans' care in the community
- Authorizes access to walk-in community clinics for enrolled Veterans who have previously used VA healthcare services in the past two years

- Authorizes local provider agreements to remove bureaucratic red tape and to meet Veterans' needs for care in the community
- Creates standards for timely payment to community care providers
- Keeps the cost of community care in line with the cost of VA health care to ensure a Veteran does not pay more for outside care
- Requires the VA to develop an education program to inform veterans and VA providers on treating Veterans
- Establishes a program to provide continuing medical education credits for community care providers on treating Veterans.
- Strengthens the process for VA and partnering health care providers who prescribe opioids to Veterans
- Provides \$5.2 billion for the Veterans Choice Fund which will sunset in one year, after the new community care program is implemented.

I also wanted to let you know that HealthNet Federal Services will not be the Third-Party Administrator for the Choice program after September 30, 2018. The VA did not renew the contract.

The VA will be scheduling appointments for veterans who are eligible for the Choice program when HealthNet is no longer the contractor. Additionally, Veteran Care Agreements (Previously known as Provider Agreements) will be the mechanism for hospitals and providers to join the VA network.

The VA will work directly with vendors to authorize, schedule, and pay for veterans' care in the community.

If you want to know more about Community Care Agreements/Provider Agreements please contact John Grote at Sheridan VA Business Office at 307-675-3611 or for Mr. Ken Bush at the Cheyenne VA Business Office at 307-778-7550, Ext 701

I look forward to meeting all of you at the Hospital Association meeting later this year.



WHA Calendar	
WHA CEO Regional Meeting Worland	6/28
WHA Golf Tournament Laramie	9/4
WHA Annual Meeting & Convention Laramie	9/5-9/6

PAC CONTRIBUTORS 2018

**Irene Richardson
Heidi Baskfield
Barry Burkart
Wyo Behavioral Institute
Eric Boley
Doug Faus
Shelby Olind
Doug McMillan
Andy Fitzgerald
Margie Molitor
Ryan Smith**

Annual Goal \$8500

MHCC Adds Clinic to Community



Less than a year ago, the Memorial Hospital of Carbon County Board of Trustees began preliminary talks regarding the possibility of adding a new clinic to the community, according to board president Henry Hewitt.

While there were numerous building site options available, said Hewitt, it was in February the board approved – after legal review – the pur-

chase of two locations within Rawlins city limits: the Bi-Rite property, a defunct gift shop and pharmacy, and a vacant lot owned by Elks Lodge No. 609.

According to hospital officials, cost estimates are currently unavailable; however, once architectural and contractual proceedings are finalized, figures will be made public.

Hewitt said the board selected the Bi-Rite location

due to its vicinity to downtown Rawlins and its high traffic levels.

According to hospital officials, the lot purchased from Elks will be used for additional parking.

“This is going to be one of the biggest things ever to hit this county,” said Waacklerlin. “In my opinion, Memorial Hospital of Carbon County is our most important entity.”

WYFI Monthly News



The excitement for the Wyoming Frontier Health Information (WYFI) is growing! WYFI is a health information exchange now available for providers and stakeholders within and surrounding the State of Wyoming. WYFI supports and is working toward the vision of creating community-based virtual medical records and other clinical applications to promote a healthier Wyoming through a statewide secure, connected, and

coordinated health IT system.

Participating in WYFI will not cost providers a fee to participate through the year 2021, and will provide access to patient clinical data immediately upon provider participation. WYFI will be initially funded by the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) in partnership with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

The WYFI solution offers a number of services to streamline patient care coordination and management.

Services include: Electronic Results Distribution; Direct Secure Messaging; Referrals Management; Community Health Record; Clinical Event Notifications; and Analytics/Population Health Reporting

The time to connect to WYFI is here and the WYFI team is currently conducting outreach across Wyoming. If your organization is interested in learning more, please contact andrea.bailey@wyo.gov.

CREATES Act Advances in Senate

The Senate Judiciary Committee has voted 16-5 to approve the Creating and Restoring Equal Access to Equivalent Samples Act (S. 974).

The AHA-supported bill would allow generic drug manufacturers facing certain anticompetitive delay tactics to bring an action in federal court for

injunctive relief.

More than 45 organizations, including the AHA, have urged the committee to support the legislation to "end the anticompetitive abuses utilized by some brand-name manufacturers, help restore the balance between innovation and affordability that Congress intended, and achieve the goal of more af-

fordable prescription drugs."

The Congressional Budget Office estimates the legislation will save \$3.8 billion over 10 years.



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