



NEWSBRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 50, Number 03

January 25, 2019

AHA Releases Report on Hospital Drug Spending & Shortages

The American Hospital Association (AHA), the Federation of American Hospitals (FAH), and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) released a new report finding that continued rising drug prices, as well as shortages for many critical medications, are impacting patient care and putting strains on hospital budgets and operations. The report was prepared based on analysis conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago, an independent research institution.

This report updates and expands on a previous AHA/FAH report from 2016 on skyrocketing inpatient hospital drug cost increases by also analyzing outpatient drug costs and the impact of drug shortages. The report found that hospital budget pressures resulting from the continued dramatic increases in drug prices have negative impacts on patient care, with hospitals being forced to delay infrastructure investments, reduce staffing, and identify alternative therapies. Hospitals also struggle with drug shortages, which can disrupt typical work patterns and patient care, and often require significant staff time to address.

Specifically, the report showed that:

- Average total drug spending per hospital admission increased by 18.5% between FY2015 and FY2017.
- Outpatient drug spending per admission increased by 28.7% while inpatient drug spending per admission increased by 9.6% between FY2015 and FY2017. This 9.6% increase was on top of the 38% increase in inpatient drug spending between FY2013 and FY2015 included in the previous report.
- Very large percentage increases (over 80%) of unit price were seen across different classes of drugs, including those for anesthetics, parenteral solutions, and chemotherapy.

- Over 90% of surveyed hospitals reported having to identify alternative therapies to manage spending.
- One in four hospitals had to cut staff to mitigate budget pressures.

Almost 80% of hospitals found it extremely challenging to obtain drugs experiencing shortages, while almost 80% also said that drug shortages resulted in increased spending on drugs to a moderate or large extent.

More information can be found at the American Hospital Association website at www.aha.org.

WHA Calendar

Legislature Begins	1/8
Legislative Reception Cheyenne	1/31
WHA Board Meeting Cheyenne	1/31

Hospitals and patients take on the burden.

Rising drug costs have forced hospitals to find alternative ways to treat their patients and mitigate budget pressures by:



Continual and unjustified hikes in drug prices create **unsustainable** access challenges for patients and resource constraints for hospitals.

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

To further assist Wyoming Hospital Association member hospitals and systems with staffing shortages and increasing recruitment costs, WHA and HospitalCareers.com are offering a cost-effective recruitment solution to help combat workforce shortages, reduce third-party agencies, replace ineffective forms of advertising, and provide a direct link to quality healthcare professionals.

Hospital Careers.com

By utilizing HospitalCareers.com, hospitals can make the most of limited budgets while saving valuable time attracting candidates directly into their applicant tracking systems.

HospitalCareers.com is utilized as the healthcare industry's career destination site, helping thousands of healthcare professionals find jobs and career paths. With over 28,000 job postings from more than 3,700

healthcare facilities nationwide, this resource serves to guide professionals and hospitals to find the perfect match.

To participate or learn more, please contact Brian Bauer at Brian@hospitalcareers.com or 866-870-



WSBN Launches New Licensing System

The Wyoming State Board of Nursing will launch a NEW licensing management system on January 28, 2019. The new system is called ORBS, which stands for "Optimal Regulatory Board System."

ORBS is a confidential and secure, cloud-based system for digital processes, which provides modules for licensing, discipline and education program management.

ORBS will reduce operational processes and has seamless integration with other nursing regulatory systems like Nursys and NCLEX Administration.

After January 28, 2019, applicants and licensees/certificate holders will be required to create an online profile from which they can:

- manage their initial and renewal applications
- submit requests to Board Staff

- receive alerts/reminders from Board Staff, and
- check their licensure status.

OF SPECIAL NOTE: Paper applications will NOT be accepted after January 11, 2019, and credit/debit card payment will be the only form of payment accepted through the ORBS System.

If you have any questions regarding the new paperless system, call the WSBN licensing department at 307-777-7601.



Public Asked to Review Draft State Health Assessment

The Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) is asking interested residents to share their thoughts, ideas and perspectives on a draft State Health Assessment (SHA) produced by the department.

"The state health assessment is an important undertaking," said Stephanie Pyle, Public Health Division senior adminis-

trator with WDH. "The assessment will inform efforts to develop a state health improvement plan."

WDH has been working in partnership with staff and stakeholders to complete a comprehensive state health assessment to identify and understand Wyoming's health needs and priorities. The draft is now available for public comment.

"Public comment will allow us to identify any gaps that should be addressed before the final assessment is published," Pyle said.

The draft SHA and a feedback form are posted online at sha.wyo.gov.

The deadline for comment is February 5. The final SHA is expected later this spring.

 Find us on: **facebook**®