



## Wyoming Hospital Association

# NEWSBRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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## Wyoming Hospitals to Begin Publicly Posting Charges January 1

Consumers of healthcare in Wyoming now have easier access to hospital pricing information. Beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 hospitals in Wyoming began posting on their websites a list of standard charges as reflected in their chargemasters.

The Wyoming Hospital Association (WHA) and its member hospitals view this move as a step toward improved price transparency and working with consumers, so they know what their financial responsibility will be before, during and after their healthcare visit.

It is important to note a patient's financial responsibility may vary significantly from the posted charges depending on the type of insurance coverage he/she has, whether a service is covered in the plan, whether the provider is in the plan's network, the plan's cost sharing requirements, and if the patient is under their deductible.

Uninsured patients will additionally see differences from the posted charges based on the hospital or provider's offered self-pay discounts and/or sliding fee scales. "Wyoming hospitals stand ready to assist patients in understanding what is being billed and their total out of pocket costs", stated WHA President, Eric Boley.

The WHA and its members remain committed to working with consumers, payers, and poli-

cy makers to continue moving the field of healthcare forward to include a system of transparency which is meaningful, consumer focused, and recognizes price is not the only factor in determining **value**. Stated charges for a procedure or service do not tell the full story as it relates to **HOW WELL** a particular hospital or provider performs. WHA members will continue their work to tell a story of total value of their services inclusive of cost to the patient.

The WHA is a member owned, private, nonprofit organization representing Wyoming hospitals. WHA serves as the voice of Wyoming hospitals before local, state, regional, and national legislative and regulatory bodies, the media and the general public.

While the Association's primary focus is representation and advocacy for Wyoming hospitals, WHA also provides data services, educational programs, and a variety of other membership services.

### CMS FAQ's

**Q. Are Critical Access Hospitals and Sole Community Hospitals required to make public a list of their standard charges via the Internet?**

A. Yes, this requirement applies to all hospitals operating within the United States.

**Q. Do the requirements apply to drugs and biologicals?**

A. Yes, the current requirements apply to all items and services provided by the hospital.

**Q. Is a hospital required to post its standard charges for drugs, biologicals, or other items and services that it provides if those standard charges are not reflected in its chargemaster?**

A. Yes, it is the responsibility of the hospital to establish (and update) and make public a list of the hospital's standard charges for all items and services provided by the hospital, including all drugs, biologicals, and all other items and services provided by the hospital. CMS encourages hospitals to undertake efforts to engage in consumer friendly communication of their charges, including for drugs and biologicals, to help patients understand what their potential financial liability might be for services they obtain at the hospital, and to enable patients to compare charges for similar services across hospitals. A hospital is not precluded from posting additional price transparency in addition to its current standard charges.

### PAC CONTRIBUTORS 2018

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Total to Date  
\$8,500

Annual Goal  
\$8,500

## Evanston Hospital Receives National Recognition



On National Rural Health Day, Evanston Regional Hospital announced it had been recognized for overall excellence in quality for a second year in a row and had been newly recognized in the category of patient perspective, reflecting top quartile performance among all rural hospitals in the nation.

“We are honored to be named among the leading rural hospitals with excellent quality, patient satisfaction and outcomes,” said Jeremy Davis, then-

CEO of Evanston Regional Hospital. “Nearly 59.5 million Americans live in rural areas of the country. Rural hospitals and health care providers are the economic pillars of the communities they serve. We are proud to serve Uinta County with the resources and compassionate care the community needs.”

The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) and the Chartis Center of Rural Health utilize the Performance Leadership Awards from iVantage Health Analyt-

ics’ annual HOSPITAL STRENGTH INDEX®. Leveraging data from public data sources, the INDEX aggregates data from 50 rural-relevant metrics across eight pillars to derive a single overall percentile rating for all Critical Access Hospitals and Rural & Community Hospitals. The Performance Leadership Awards spotlight top performance in the areas of Quality, Outcomes and Patient Perspective.

## Sundberg Earns FACHE Credentials



Karl E. Sundberg, Chief Executive Officer of South Lincoln Medical Center in Kemmerer, recently became a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, the nation’s leading professional society for healthcare leaders.

Sundberg took over as CEO of South Lincoln Medical Center in January.

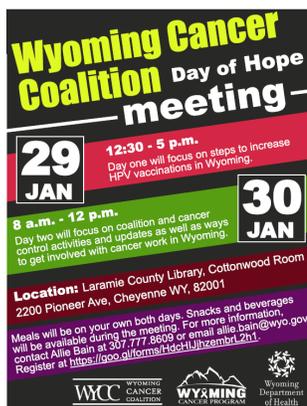
Since then, SLMC has opened an urgent care facility, updated its physical therapy rooms and hired two new physician assistants for the urgent care.

Fellow status represents achievement of the highest standard of professional development. In fact, only 9,100 healthcare executives hold this distinction. To obtain Fellow status, candidates must fulfill multiple requirements, including passing a comprehensive examination, meeting academic and experi-

ential criteria, earning continuing education credits and demonstrating professional/community involvement.

Fellows are also committed to ongoing professional development and undergo recertification every three years.

Sundberg is privileged to use the FACHE credential, which signifies board certification in healthcare management and ACHE Fellow status.



## Wyoming Cancer Coalition Meeting

The next Wyoming Cancer Coalition meeting will be held January 29-30th, 2019 in Cheyenne, WY at the Laramie County Library (Cottonwood room, 2200 Pioneer Ave).

Day one will focus on steps to increase HPV vac-

inations in Wyoming. Day two will focus on coalition and cancer control activities, updates, and ways to get involved with cancer work in Wyoming.

There is no registration fee. Please register at <https://goo.gl/forms/HdcHIJjh zembrL2h1>

HdcHIJjh zembrL2h1

For more information, contact Star Jones, Outreach and Education Coordinator Wyoming Cancer Program, Wyoming Department of Health, Phone: (307)777-7362 or [star.jones@wyo.gov](mailto:star.jones@wyo.gov)