



NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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The AHA Center for Health Innovation Awards Wyoming Hospital Association for Achievements in Quality Care and Value

Shining a spotlight on quality care and value, The American Hospital Association Center for Health Innovation has named Wyoming Hospital Association as a recipient of the 2019 AHA Performance Improvement Award for overall quality improvement in the AHA/HRET Hospital Improvement Innovation Network, part of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' Partnership for Patients program.

This distinguished honor in performance improvement was announced by Marie Cleary-Fishman, Vice President of the AHA Center for Health Innovation's Performance Improvement, at a special reception on July 24th at the AHA Leadership Summit in San Diego. Selected organizations were celebrated for creating a culture of patient safety, delivering value, and executing evidence-based practices as part of day-to-day operations.

"As expectations on health care performance and growth are rising dramatically, Wyoming Hospital Association is making great strides to help hospitals and health systems reach a new level of quality care, patient safety and value," said Cleary-Fishman. "They have found effective ways to foster operational excellence, communication, and engagement with desirable outcomes."

Other leading Allied Associations awarded for their work in-

clude: Delaware Hospital Association, Indiana Hospital Association, Kentucky Hospital Association, and Maine Hospital Association

"It is an honor for our hospitals to be recognized in this way," said Josh Hannes, Vice President of the Wyoming Hospital Association. "The focus on excellence and improvement demonstrated by our members is making a real difference in the lives of patients, and we are so proud to be able to support their efforts."

To learn more about the AHA Center for Health Innovation's performance improvement initiatives, visit www.aha.org/center/performance-improvement.

About the Wyoming Hospital Association

The Wyoming Hospital Association (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 represen-

tation and advocacy for Wyoming Hospitals, WHA provides data services, educational programs, and a variety of other membership services.

About the AHA Center for Health Innovation

The AHA Center for Health Innovation, created by the American Hospital Association, enhances hospital and health system transformation and accelerates innovation at scale. The Center was formed in September 2018 from the merger of AHA's Health Forum, Health Research & Educational Trust, Data Center and The Value Initiative. The Center serves as a key partner to AHA members, supporting their innovation and transformation journey with new tools, data products and analytics, learning collaboratives, conferences and virtual expeditions, market intelligence and advisory services. For more information, visit the website at www.aha.org/center.



WHA Calendar	
WHA Golf Tournament Cheyenne	9/3
WHA Annual Meeting & Convention Little America, Cheyenne	9/4-9/5

- 2019 PAC Contributions**
- Barry Burkart
 - Bren Lowe
 - Margie Molitor
 - Doug Faus
 - Andy Fitzgerald
 - Maureen Cadwell
 - Dr. Carol Solie

MEMBER
SPOTLIGHT**Auxiliary \$250,000 for Cancer Treatment Equipment**

St. John's Medical Center Auxiliary has announced the fulfillment of its pledge for cancer treatment equipment at St. John's Medical Center.

A group of Auxiliary members presented a check for \$250,000 to the hospital Board of Trustees at their meeting on July 18, 2019.

The funds were dedicated to the purchase of a brachytherapy microselection afterloader. Brachytherapy is a targeted radiation treatment for specific

cancers that can reduce the length of treatment time and side effects associated with traditional radiation therapy. It may be used to treat prostate, breast, skin and some gynecological malignancies.

"The Auxiliary is proud and pleased to have met our pledge in a relatively short period of time and to support this important new treatment option at St. John's," said Connie Hansen, Auxiliary President. "We are happy to support the hospital's expand-

ing local program affiliated with the renowned Huntsman Cancer Institute. The Auxiliary is committed to supporting the provision of the best care available, close to home."

Since its inception, the Auxiliary has raised over \$2.25 million for St. John's Medical Center. With the pledge to the brachytherapy program completed, the Auxiliary has committed to a pledge of \$250,000 to support a new CT scanner.

**Public Input on WY Air Ambulance Medicaid Waiver**

Residents are invited by the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) to offer their thoughts, ideas and perspectives on a proposed Medicaid waiver plan for Wyoming air ambulance service during two upcoming public meetings or online.

Public meetings are planned in Cheyenne on August 5 from 5-7 p.m. at the Laramie County Library Willow Room and in Riverton on August 8 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Central Wyoming College in Health Sciences Room 214.

The waiver would expand Wyoming Medicaid to all state residents for the specific purpose of air ambulance transportation. Waiver goals include:

- Eliminate the surprise billing of patients
- Reduce the average cost of air ambulance flights while ensuring a set level of access and quality
- Increase price transparency for patients and employer groups

Under the plan, WDH would competitively bid for a selected network of air ambulance providers, make periodic flat payments (similar to a gym membership) to these contracted providers and then recoup the revenue needed to fund the system from the insurance plans and individuals already paying for transports.

A detailed plan presentation will be available beginning August 1 at airambulancewaiver.wyo.gov. Online comments may also be submitted using the same site.

**Little America
Reservation Deadline
August 8, 2019
Phone : 800-235-6396
\$100/night**

HHS Releases Plan to Import Certain Prescription Drugs

Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar released a plan outlining two pathways the administration intends to explore to safely import certain drugs originally intended for foreign markets. The plan calls for HHS and the Food and Drug Administration to issue a pro-

posed rule authorizing demonstration projects to import drugs from Canada safely at lower cost.

States, wholesalers and pharmacists could submit demonstration proposals for review. It also calls for FDA to issue guidance for manufacturers seeking to import

FDA-approved drug products that they sell in foreign countries to potentially offer them at a lower price than their current distribution contracts require.

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