



Wyoming Hospital Association

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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AHA Provides Comments on Rural Access

The American Hospital Association has submitted recommendations to the Health Resources and Services Administration in response to the agency's Rural Access to Health Care Services Request for Information.

Specifically, AHA recommended the agency reassess which services are deemed "core" or essential over time to account for changes in care delivery and other developments; consider community characteristics, needs and preferences when recommending services; allow for flexibility and promote community-driven solutions; and use a "rural lens" when developing regulatory actions.

The association also encouraged regulatory flexibility for providers to "co-locate" or share treatment space; a permanent enforcement moratorium on the 96-hour condition of payment for critical access hospitals; and finalization of the proposal to change the minimum supervision level for outpatient therapeutic services from "direct" to "general" supervision.

The RFI solicits comments on access to care in rural areas, including: identifying core services needed in rural communities; outlining approaches and considerations for delivering those services; and examining access and quality in the rural context.

Access to health care is an essential component of maintaining good health and well-being; in rural communities, individuals depend upon their hospital as an important – and often only – source of care. However, the recent trend of increased rural hospital closures threatens the availability of health care services across the country.

The AHA has long recognized the significant pressures on rural health care providers. In 2016, they issued a report identifying nine strategies to ensure access to essential services in vulnerable communities, and earlier this year, they released a report outlining the challenges facing rural hospitals as well as policy recommendations to address them.

Most recently, they have assembled a group of rural hospital leaders to identify sustainable payment and care delivery models for the future of rural health care.

As concern over rural health care access grows, interest in identifying the most crucial services for these communities also is increasing, and the AHA applauds the Administration's attention to advancing rural health.

As HRSA and the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Rural Health Task Force continue their efforts to support health care in rural America, AHA urges the agencies to consider the following:

- Reassessing the services considered to be "core" or essential over time is important in order to account for shifts in care delivery, advances in knowledge and practice, and other developments in the health care field;
- Community characteristics, needs and preferences should always be considered when recommending services to be made available;
- Any policy approaches to improve access to care in rural areas must allow for flexibility and promote community-driven solutions; and

- Federal agencies should use a "rural lens" when developing regulatory actions – not only when reviewing them after they have already been formed.

They also encourage HRSA and the HHS Rural Health Task Force to support much needed changes to current regulations that impede access to care, including:

- Offering regulatory flexibility to allow providers to "co-locate" or share treatment space as a means to fill gaps in patient access to care;
- Issuing a permanent enforcement moratorium on the 96-hour condition of payment for critical access hospitals;
- Finalizing the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' proposal to change the minimum level of supervision for outpatient therapeutic services from "direct" to "general" supervision; and
- Creating a "safe harbor" under the Anti-kickback Statute and reforming the Stark law to foster and protect arrangements that promote access and value-based.





Member Spotlight

MHCC First in Wyoming To Offer GE 3D Mammography

Memorial Hospital of Carbon County celebrated a new addition to the Radiology Department on September 25th, 2019 with a Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the GE 3D Pristina Mammography machine.

The Radiology Department was joined by a large crowd comprised of GE Specialists, Board of Trustees, hospital employees, and community businesses and citizens for the introduction of this specialized unit found only at MHCC. Attendees were given the opportunity to tour the Mammography Suite and hear first-hand from GE Specialists about the features of this cutting edge technology.

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths among women, exceeded only by lung cancer, according to the American Cancer Society. Detecting cancer at an earlier stage greatly impacts a woman's chance of

survival. 3D Mammography, also known as breast Tomosynthesis, is an advanced imaging tool approved by the FDA. This technology uses multiple angled images to capture clear, precise scans resulting in more accurate readings than traditional 2D mammography.

Using standard mammography, many women undergoing breast screenings are asked to return for additional testing because of a suspicious density that appears in their scans. The request for more testing can prove to be a scary and stressful experience as the patient's thoughts focus on the possibility that she has breast cancer. In addition to lowering patient anxiety, the GE 3D also offers the lowest dose of radiation available and a comfortable design which enables the patient to directly control the amount of pressure applied through a remote control device.

3D Mammography has become the new standard of care and Memorial Hospital of Carbon County continues to lead local healthcare by offering this exciting new technology combined with exceptional service from our caring and knowledgeable Radiology Department.



Memorial Hospital
of Carbon County

Wyoming hfma



2019 PAC Contributions

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The hfma Wyoming Chapter has a fall educational program and the Western Regional Symposium happening soon.

The 2019 Fall Conference will be held November 13-15 at the Wyoming State Fairgrounds, Ruthe James Williams Building in Douglas, WY. Registration and conference materials can be found at hfma.wy.org

For providers and are interested in attending the 2020 hfma Western Region Symposium there are Hosted and Discounted Provider Incentives.

The Symposium will be held January 12-15, 2020 at the Paris Las Vegas Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas.

More information on the Symposium can be found at hfma.westernsymposium.org.

For more information on the Wyoming hfma chapter, contact any of their officers listed below:

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