

Wyoming Hospital Association

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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WYFI Continues to Be Successful in Wyoming

WYFI continues to successfully join communities across Wyoming. A warm welcome to the Banner Health System, Johnson County Healthcare Center, and Weston County Health Services who joined the WYFI community this month! A full list of live WYFI members is provided below.

- Cheyenne Regional Medical Center-Cheyenne
- Cody Regional Hospital-Cody
- Community Hospital-Torrington
- Johnson County Healthcare Center-Buffalo
- Platte County Memorial Hospital-Wheatland
- Star Valley Medical Center-Afton
- Washakie Medical Center-Worland
- Weston County Health Services-Newcastle

Dr. Dean Bartholomew has provided a brief report on the program. "The Health Information Exchange (HIE) has been, in some ways, a long time coming for this physician. Finally though, the Wyoming Frontier Information (WYFI) started making those crucial first connections in the last year. I wanted to jump in early and get my feet wet but like any new project or activity... it can take some time to reach critical mass. I am happy to report that I think we are reaching a critical mass for connectivity and having actual real-life, medical data at our fingertips!

In Powell, we have patients from different towns in the basin area use our clinic and likewise, have patients use different hospitals. A fair share

of my patients use West Park Hospital in Cody. Through the WYFI HIE, I am one click away from accessing my patient records from this unaffiliated hospital 20 miles away. I can now get on and download ER reports, labs, and radiology studies...very helpful for patients who may have used the ER overnight, etc. Likewise, I also had a patient move to our area from Cheyenne and I was able to, in one click, reach back in to the CRMC record and download his recent labs and notes right there during our visit.

So, true connectivity is finally here. If your local hospital or system is not yet connected...please encourage them to do so. Garbage in is garbage out...but good data in is great care out! Please email me if you have questions at drbart93@gmail.com"

WYFI is planning to host its first WYFI User Group in February 2020. The intent is to provide a regular platform for WYFI users to connect, discuss best practices, and identify ways to improve the value WYFI data provides users. This is an open invite, and everyone is encouraged to participate. For more information on this process, please reach out to Ruth Jo Friess at ruth.jo.friess@wyo.gov.

Why WYFI?

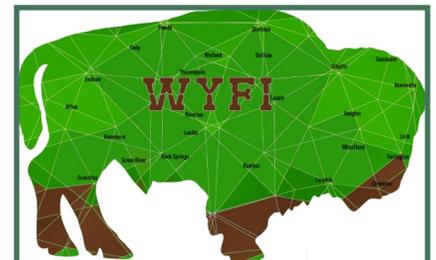
- Patient Tracking
- Get real-time alerts of your patients' admissions, discharges, and transfers
- Access transcriptions, labs, procedures, and radiology scans done outside your practice

- Send and receive referrals to support continuity of care for your patients
- View a longitudinal health record for your patients
- External Orders and Data Referrals Community Health Record
- Direct Messaging Safe, secure messaging between providers to exchange clinical data

In less than two weeks, you can be connected to WYFI. With competing priorities and scarce resources, another project can seem daunting. To help minimize the impact on providers, WDH is offering its Move In Model to reduce the implementation effort to connect to WYFI. For more information on this process, reach out to Ruth Jo Friess at ruth.jo.friess@wyo.gov.

For a limited time, WDH is reimbursing providers to help offset the costs of connecting your EHR to the WYFI. Contact WYFI for more information on how to receive funding assistance.

More information is available at www.health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/wyoming_frontier_information_wyfi/



Rural Hospital Leadership Award

The American Hospital Association (AHA) announced Cody Regional Health (CRH) as the 2019 recipient of the Rural Hospital Leadership Award.

The award recognizes small or rural hospital leaders who guide their hospital and community through transformational change on the road to health care reform. They display outstanding leadership, responsiveness to their community's health needs and demonstrate a collaborative community process that has led to measurable outcomes. The award will be presented at the AHA's 33rd Rural Health Care Leadership Conference, February 2-5, 2020 in Phoenix.

In Park County, where Cody Regional Health is located, heart disease was identified as the second highest cause of death, only second to cancer. CRH assessed data trends and partnered with Billings Clinic to build a conveniently located, high-quality cardiology center to reverse negative health outcomes affecting the community's cardiac health.

Over the past year, the cardiology program has grown through the successful recruitment of two full-time interventional cardiologists. To date, there have been over 130 cardiac catheterization procedures. CRH has not only addressed its

community health needs by expanding access to specialty services, they have eliminated distance and travel as barriers to receiving care.

This serves as an example of the many ways in which rural leaders are adapting to provide services most in need. Doug McMillan, who serves as CEO, leads the team.



WMC Announces Non-Binding Letter of Intent with Banner Health

The Wyoming Medical Center (WMC) Board of Directors announced the signing of a non-binding Letter of Intent (LOI) with Banner Health. This step will allow the necessary time for the organizations to conduct mutual due diligence and for the opportunity to fully determine the specific terms of a potential affiliation before any final decisions are made.

The news comes after the hospital announced it was exploring whether an affiliation with a like-minded organization made sense for the region when it unveiled its strategic plan aimed at securing the future of healthcare in Wyoming last spring.

"Wyoming Medical Center is a jewel, and it is vital to this com-

munity and state," said Michele Chulick, President and CEO of Wyoming Medical Center. "Given the challenges of our industry, the WMC Board has been engaged in ongoing work to strategically plan for the future and ensure our hospital continues to be well-positioned to care for our patients and communities into the future."

"Banner has strong roots in this state, and we are excited to explore the opportunity to expand our presence in Wyoming through a partnership with Wyoming Medical Center," said Scott Nordlund, Chief Strategy and Growth Officer of Banner Health.

"We believe that our shared strategies and values make the two organizations a natural fit."

The non-binding LOI does not commit WMC to an affiliation. Rather, it allows the organizations to spend time to research and learn more about each other and the opportunity to fully determine the specific terms of an affiliation that would advance healthcare in the area.



DOH Tracking Coronavirus Spread and Information

The Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) is closely monitoring the coronavirus situation and sharing recommendations with Wyoming healthcare providers.

"At this point, no reported or suspected cases have been identified in Wyoming," said Dr. Alex-

ia Harrist, state health officer and state epidemiologist with WDH. "We have communicated the latest information regarding patient care, infection control and testing procedures with healthcare providers across Wyoming and will continue to share updates as needed. This is clearly a quickly

growing and changing situation."

For more information about 2019 novel coronavirus and Wyoming, visit:

<https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/infectious-disease-epidemiology-unit/disease/novel-coronavirus/>.