



Wyoming Hospital Association

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NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 52, Number 01

January 8, 2021

Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM) Initiative

The State of Wyoming has received permission to use CARES Act funding awarded to the state for Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM) Initiative.

The initiative's primary goal is to reduce hospitalizations and emergency department visits by using technology to allow providers to monitor patients' overall health status, educate patients, engage patients in their overall plan of care, involve physicians and necessary support personnel, intervene when necessary, and guide patients through the healthcare arena while caring for them in the comfort of their own homes.

Achieving this goal will aid in mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The initiative involves providing telehealth equipment to patients who are screened by their providers and who fit the inclusion/exclusion criteria described in this letter. Patients do not need to be enrolled as Wyoming Medicaid clients.

Patients will be monitored daily with state-of-the-art RPM equipment that will capture their weight, blood pressure, heart rate, pulse-oximetry, temperature and if warranted, their glucose readings. There will be a strong educational component as patients will be asked questions and given customized reminders.

Wyoming has purchased 755 RPM devices, including 500 RPM hubs and 255 tablets with integrated video. Peripheral devices are also available, including 755 digital scales, 755 digi-

tal pulse oximeters, 755 digital blood pressure monitors, 755 digital thermometers and 507 digital glucometers with 12 months of strips and lancets.

The project funding also includes 12 months of communication fees, clinical software and licenses. All readings obtained via the RPM equipment will be transmitted back to providers, so clinicians can triage this information and provide expert clinical oversight.

Based on physician-approved protocols, patients will be contacted when necessary, educated, and guided through the necessary interventions and escalation back to the provider. This also allows for transitional care.

Connect America will provide training, individual program and workflow development, policies and procedures. For providers interested in having the Connect America RN call center monitor patients, there is an option to separately pay a \$50 per patient per month fee.

Inclusion criteria for patients:

- Patients with one or more of the following diagnoses: CHF (Stage III or IV), COPD, uncontrolled hypertension, diabetes (With an A1C greater than or equal to 8, and/or hypoglycemia), and/or COVID 19
- Patients with greater than or equal to six emergency department visits per year; and/or patients with greater than or equal to two hospitalizations per year

- Patients must be physically and cognitively able and willing to perform the tasks necessary for the program and/or there is a willing and available caregiver

- Exclusion criteria for patients: Dialysis patients (these patients are already monitored at dialysis)

- Non-compliance
- Patient refuses to participate

If your organization would like to be considered for participation in the State of Wyoming Remote Patient Monitoring Initiative, you will need to complete a provider request form.

When making requests, please keep in mind:

- There have a limited supply.
- It is intended to provide balanced geographic distribution.
- At least 50 percent of the requested monitors must be installed on patients within 60 days.
- If at least 50 of the requested monitors are not installed on patients within 60 days, the remainder of unused monitors will need to be returned, so they may be reissued to others.

Applications should be received by **January 15, 2021**, which is when the screening process will begin. You may direct any questions or concerns to: James Bush, MD, MACP James.bush@wyo.gov State Medicaid Medical Officer, Tel 307-777-7245 Fax 307-777-6964

WHA Calendar

WHA Golf Tournament Casper	9/7 2021
Annual Meeting & Convention Casper	9/8-9/9 2021

MHCC Receives Mobile Clinic

Memorial Hospital of Carbon County formally presented the Mobile Clinic to the community on December 21st, 2020 with a ribbon cutting event.

Resembling a RV, the 40' vehicle consists of two exam rooms, patient intake and waiting area, lab and restroom. Two entry points provide patient access, including a wheel chair lift leading directly into one of the exam rooms. A gray and white interior creates a contemporary atmosphere while the exterior wrap, featuring a photo of High Savery

Reservoir by Stacey Jarrett Photography, completes the design.

The MHCC logo, phone and website make the unit easily identifiable and a true symbol for healthcare progression in Carbon County. The addition of a mobile healthcare clinic provides yet another avenue for MHCC to care for Carbon County.

"We continue to look for ways to overcome the chal-

lenges of providing healthcare in rural areas; this unit provides an innovative solution for both our providers and our patients," stated Ken Harman, Memorial Hospital of Carbon County CEO.



Member Spotlight



WHRN Announces New Director

to say goodbye to so many wonderful Wyoming folks delivering healthcare in Wyoming. It has been my privilege to provide service to our outstanding network of hospitals and clinics throughout the state."

Karissa Viergets, FASPR, has been appointed the Director of the Wyoming Health Resources Network (WHRN), replacing Eileen.

Karissa moved to Wyoming in 2010 from the Denver area. She then became the Physician and Professional Services Recruiter in 2011 for Campbell County Health.

She has 5 children and says "I love being a mom!"

For the last 3 years she has volunteered for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate), as

she loves children – not just her own. In her free time, she likes to explore and enjoy all types of outdoor recreation (which is why she loves WY).

Karissa states, "I am extremely excited to start my new role as the Executive Director for WHRN, but know I have some pretty big shoes to fill. I have had the pleasure of working with Eileen since I started in healthcare. She will remain a legend even as she transitions in to retirement."



WHRN

We are at once happy and sad to announce the retirement of Eileen Dinneen, Director of Wyoming Health Resources Network (WHRN).

We recognize Eileen for her unconditional dedication, grace, and congeniality. She will be deeply missed but we can only feel happy for her after many years of service.

Eileen told us, "I am happy to announce my retirement, but sad

Project Firstline

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is launching Project Firstline, a comprehensive infection control program designed to help prevent the spread of infectious diseases in health care settings. In partnership with Wyoming Department of Health, Mountain-Pacific Quality Health is proud to be a part of Project Firstline, a collaborative made up of health care, public health and academic part-

ners. Project Firstline's training and engagement opportunities will include short, accessible training videos, virtual interactive events and telementoring to ensure every worker in every health care setting—from clinicians to environmental services workers—is empowered with the science and reasoning behind essential infection control practices and can confidently apply those

practices to protect themselves, their facility, their family and their community.

Mountain-Pacific will be tasked with carrying out the training (virtually) throughout Wyoming.

For more information, including how to participate in Project Firstline, contact Crystal Morse, cmorse@mpqhf.org or Jill Hult, jhult@mpqhf.org with Mountain-Pacific Quality Health.

Project Firstline