



Wyoming Hospital Association

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NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

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President Takes Executive Actions Aimed at Expanding Health Care Coverage

President Biden signed an executive order (EO) aimed at increasing enrollment in comprehensive health care coverage. The order specifically focuses on improving the quality of coverage and removing barriers to enrollment in Medicaid and the Health Insurance Marketplaces.

In general, the EO directs the Secretaries of the Treasury, Labor, and Health and Human Services (HHS), as well as the heads of all other executive departments and agencies with authorities and responsibilities related to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to evaluate and propose changes to existing policies that may thwart enrollment in coverage.

However, in one concrete action, the President directed HHS to consider opening a new special enrollment period (SEP) for the Health Insurance Marketplaces, specifically to assist uninsured individuals and families to access coverage as part of the nation's response to the public health crisis.

In a statement, AHA President and CEO Rick Pollack said, "Every American deserves access to health coverage, yet millions remain uninsured. We simply need to do better in addressing this basic human need, particularly during a global pandemic. By reopening enrollment in the Health Insurance Marketplaces, the Biden administration is helping more Americans get and stay covered."

Health Insurance Marketplace Special Enrollment Period. This EO directs HHS to consider establishing a SEP in states that rely on the federally facilitated marketplaces, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. This SEP will be open to "uninsured and under-insured individuals" to gain coverage. Separate SEPs are still available for individuals who have other qualifying life events, such as losing health insurance coverage or moving. In separate communications, the White House has indicated that it expects HHS to open this SEP from Feb. 15, 2021 through May 15, 2021. More than 30 million individuals are currently uninsured and could gain access to coverage during this SEP, including nearly 9 million eligible for free or subsidized coverage.¹

Medicaid.

This EO directs HHS to evaluate all existing regulations, policies and guidance to ensure current policies do not thwart the intent of the Medicaid program to enroll all eligible individuals and families. Specifically, HHS must review and consider demonstrations and waivers that may present unnecessary barriers to individuals and families attempting to access Medicaid. The White House fact sheet accompanying the EO specially referenced a review of Medicaid work requirement demonstrations. HHS also is instructed to review enrollment policies that may reduce coverage or other-

wise undermine the Medicaid program. HHS is directed to conduct this review and act on any rescissions or propose any policy or regulatory changes as soon as practicable.

Private Market Coverage Standards

This EO directs the agencies and departments to reconsider policies that may have resulted in the degradation of private insurance coverage. Specifically, the EO requires the agencies to review and consider whether to suspend, revise, or rescind policies or practices that:

- Undermine protections for people with pre-existing conditions;
- Undermine the health insurance marketplaces or the individual, small group, or large group health insurance markets;
- Present barriers to individuals or families accessing coverage; or
- Reduce the affordability of coverage or financial assistance.

Policies put forth by the prior Administration that may be implicated in this review include expanded access to certain forms of coverage that were not required to offer comprehensive benefits or cost-sharing protections, such as health sharing ministries and short-term limited duration coverage products, and lack of support for outreach and enrollment efforts.

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



2021 Contributions

Barry Burkart
Tim Thornell

Star Valley Health 4-Star Rating

Star Valley Health has earned a 4-Star rating for Overall Hospital Quality from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Star Valley Health is the only Critical Access Hospital in the region to be rated 4 stars.

Star Valley Health has improved from a 3-star to a 4-star Medicare Critical Access Hospital. It has also moved from a 2-star to a 4-star Medicare Critical Access Hospital for Patient Satisfaction. This has happened due to major efforts and improvement on the hospital side concerning patient satisfaction and patient-focused care.

The CMS Star Rating System is designed to help consumers compare hospitals in an easy, understandable way.

“Achieving a 4-star rating validates the efforts of our entire healthcare team who focus on continually improving the quality of care we provide for our patients,” said Daniel Ordyna, Chief Executive Officer. “This transparent assessment from CMS is a signal to our community that we are a high-quality healthcare system with a dedication to excellent patient care and safety.”

Patients gave the hospital a rating of 9 or 10 on a scale from 0-10. This is ten percent higher than

the Wyoming average and 8 percent higher than the national average.

Patients who reported they would definitely recommend the hospital was 10 percent higher than the Wyoming average and 8 percent higher than the national average.



**STAR VALLEY
HEALTH**

Member Spotlight



**Wyoming
Department
of Health**

COVID 19 At-Home Testing

nology for a high level of effectiveness. The sample collection process is performed under the supervision of a Vault healthcare provider through an online, video-based telehealth visit.

For testing, follow the instructions on the Vault Health site to order. You may see cost information displayed, but once you enter your address and reach the payment page the cost is waived for Wyoming residents.

This at-home saliva test is offered at no cost from the State of Wyoming. You should not be asked for your credit card information. If the system does ask for payment in error, please close your browser and try again.

The kit will be shipped directly to your residence, where you can collect a sample during your telehealth visit. You must have an Internet connection to complete this part of the process. During your telehealth visit, you will be asked to show a photo ID so the test supervisor can confirm the patient they are observing is the same person who ordered the test.

You will then send your sample to the Vault laboratory for testing. Results are expected from the laboratory within 48 hours from when samples are received.

COVID 19 Testing

Wyoming offers free at-home COVID-19 testing through a company called Vault Health. These tests are available to Wyoming residents at no cost; insurance is not necessary.

This saliva-based test does not require a nasal swab. The test uses high-quality laboratory tech-

FDA Updates Guidance on Ventilator Splitters

FDA updates guidance on using ventilator splitters. The Food and Drug Administration today issued updated guidance on using ventilator splitters to support more than one patient when other options are unavailable.

FDA recommends health care providers limit ventilation sharing to two patients and 48 hours du-

ration; try to match patients based on similar ventilatory requirements; reserve at least one single-patient ventilator for emergencies; and consider updated ventilator sharing protocols to minimize risk.

FDA last March authorized emergency use of certain ventilators and ventilator accessories for

treating patients during the COVID-19 pandemic to address observed and anticipated shortages of ventilators and ventilator accessories.

Ventilator Splitters