



Wyoming Hospital Association

# News briefs

## Emergency Regulation Requiring COVID-19 Vaccination for Health Care Workers

The Biden-Harris Administration is requiring COVID-19 vaccination of eligible staff at health care facilities that participate in the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

Facilities covered by this regulation must establish a policy ensuring all eligible staff have received the first dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine or a one-dose COVID-19 vaccine prior to providing any care, treatment, or other services by December 5, 2021. All eligible staff must have received the necessary shots to be fully vaccinated – either two doses of Pfizer or Moderna or one dose of Johnson & Johnson – by January 4, 2022. The regulation also provides for

exemptions based on recognized medical conditions or religious beliefs, observances, or practices. Facilities must develop a similar process or plan for permitting exemptions in alignment with federal law.

CMS will ensure compliance with these requirements through established survey and enforcement processes. If a provider or supplier does not meet the requirements, it will be cited by a surveyor as being non-compliant and have an opportunity to return to compliance before additional actions occur. CMS's goal is to bring health care providers into compliance. However, the Agency will not hesitate

to use its full enforcement authority to protect the health and safety of patients.

To view a list of frequently asked questions, visit: [www.cms.gov/files/document/cms-omnibus-staff-vax-requirements-2021.docx](http://www.cms.gov/files/document/cms-omnibus-staff-vax-requirements-2021.docx)

## Wyoming Special Session Concluded

At 8:00 p.m. Wednesday evening, the special session of the legislature concluded. HB1002 passed the Senate and the House, and will now go to the Governor. It is our expectation he will sign the bill.

We worked really hard the last two weeks and, although HB1002 passed, we feel the session was very successful. 1002 was amended heavily and is really a statement bill telling the federal government the state feels the mandates are unconstitutional, and authorizing funding to help the Governor fight the mandates with an appropriation. Public entities receiving Medi-

care and Medicaid funding are allowed to adhere to federal mandates up until all means have been exhausted to repeal the federal mandate, and the mandate is overturned. We will send out an engrossed copy of the enacted bill when it is available.

We are grateful to all of you for your grassroots efforts. Things looked pretty bleak a couple of weeks ago, but I feel the outcome of the session is good. We can expect more of the same during the regular budget session in February, but at least by then we should know what the federal mandate looks like so educated decisions can be made by our lawmakers.



2021  
Contributions

Goal: \$8,500

Contributions To Date:  
\$5,400

Barry Burkart  
Tim Thornell  
Robin Roling  
Carol Solie  
Irene Richardson  
Doug Faus  
Eric Boley  
Colleen Heeter  
Maureen Cadwell  
Mike Phillips  
Will Wagnon  
Doug McMillan  
Margie Molitor  
Terry Moss

Beginning Jan. 1, the Biden administration will increase the penalty for certain hospitals that are not in compliance with its hospital price transparency requirements.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced late Tuesday that it will set a minimum civil monetary penalty of \$300 per day for hospitals with 30 or fewer beds. For hospitals with more than 30 beds, they will be charged \$10 per bed per day, which will cap at \$5,500 daily.

CMS outlined the fees in its final Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) rule for 2022.

Based on the daily fees, the minimum amount for a year of noncompliance would be \$109,500 per hospital to a maximum of \$2,007,500 per hospital. The agency said it is committed to assisting hospitals in getting into compliance with the regulation. In a statement, Stacey Hughes, executive vice president for the American Hospital Association (AHA), said hospitals are equally committed to ensuring patients have access to the financial data they need. However, the group has concerns about the fee increases.

The final payment rule also extends cuts to the 340B drug discount program, which has drawn ire for several years in a row. In a statement, 340B Health CEO Maureen Testoni said the continued payment cuts make it harder for hospitals to provide care to people in need.

(Vizient Daily Newswire)

## Enhancing Clinical Practice Through Team Based Care with Pharmacists

During the pandemic many pharmacists saw firsthand how patient care was negatively impacted. These were things such as patients not being able to see their primary care provider due to COVID restrictions, timeliness of medical care due to health system overload and a lack of technology for patients to connect virtually with providers.

The Wyoming Center on Aging (WyCOA) believes that pharmacists play a vital role in patient care and want to assist in educating pharmacists, providers, and administrators on the importance of Collaborative Practice Agreements (CPA) in expanding the services available to Wyomingites. COVID related challenges have made exceedingly clear

how important the pharmacist's role is in patient care management.

The Wyoming Board of Pharmacy Rules allow for CPAs between pharmacists and physicians to assist in the management of chronic disease states. WyCOA and the University of Wyoming School of Pharmacy have resources on CPAs including an informational video that can be found here .

CPAs can include things such as annual wellness visits, lifestyle modification education, medication history and review, disease state education, and initiation and discontinuation of medication. There are three ways for potential billing and sustainability of these types of services. This can be done through incident to services,

emergency and management coding guidelines and chronic care management.

The Wyoming Center on Aging is available for consultation to assist pharmacists and providers as they navigate the next steps in applying for a collaborative practice agreement. Contact them at [healthierwyo@uwyo.edu](mailto:healthierwyo@uwyo.edu).

