

News Briefs

August 8, 2025

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Wyoming Hospital Association



2025 WHA Auction



Golf & Gala

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Healthcare Cyber Threat Landscape: Risk, Impact and Preparedness

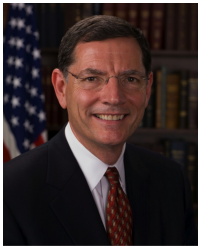
Scott Gee, Deputy National Advisor for Cybersecurity and Risk
American Hospital Association

Cyber-attacks against hospitals and health systems have increased dramatically over the last several years, with nation-state and criminal cyber adversaries targeting healthcare organizations with a

record number of hacks. These attacks involve the theft of massive amounts of patient data and medical research. Most concerning, high impact ransomware attacks have struck hospitals and health systems at an alarming rate, shutting down critical systems and causing significant disruption and delay of healthcare delivery, creating a risk to patient safety.

Join American Hospital Association's Scott Gee, Deputy National Advisor for Cybersecurity and Risk, veteran of the U.S. Secret Service as he provides his unique national and international perspectives on the latest cyber threats including those arising from geopolitical tensions, third-party providers, and supply chain disruptions. John will discuss how best to prepare for, respond to, and recover from these disruptive cyber-attacks on a local, regional, and national level also providing his insights on the latest cyber legislative and policy developments. John will also offer practical insights tailored to the unique challenges faced by rural hospitals. As he always says, "It's not a matter of if u experience a cyber incident, it's a matter of how well you are prepared to recover."

[Annual Meeting Information Can be Found Here](#)



Barrasso Bill Would Improve Access to Rural Mental Health Services

U.S. Sens. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., and Michael Bennet, D-Colo., recently introduced bipartisan legislation to increase access and coverage to behavioral, psychological and mental health services in rural areas. If passed into law, the Accelerating the Development of Advanced Psychology Trainees (ADAPT) Act would establish Medicare, Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage for advanced psychology trainees, allowing nearly 4,000 trainees to bill for services provided under the supervision of a licensed psychologist.

"This legislation will help rural areas across the country expand access to mental health services, improve recruitment of mental and behavioral health providers, and will help reduce burnout among our current mental health care workforce," a news release from Barrasso's office said. "Wyoming and other rural communities across the country often face the greatest shortage of mental health providers. Long distances and bad weather can make it hard for patients to receive the quality care they deserve," Barrasso said in the release. "As a doctor, I know firsthand how important it is to recruit and maintain quality mental health professionals. Our bill addresses these issues by giving Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP patients greater access to mental health services closer to home." This legislation is supported by the Wyoming Psychological Association and the American Psychological Association.

Love in Stitches

Sheridan Memorial Hospital's pediatric nursing team recently welcomed another generous delivery from Love in Stitches, a local nonprofit quilting group dedicated to bringing warmth and comfort to patients through their handcrafted creations.

Since 2013, Love in Stitches has sewn and donated well over 500 quilts throughout the community. Their latest delivery included colorful children's blankets, which for young patients visiting the hospital for a variety of reasons. A few cozy lap quilts were also included for patients in the Transitional Care Unit, where longer stays are common and an extra touch of comfort can make all the difference.

Over the years, this heartwarming collaboration has brought smiles to countless children and now adults. "The personal touch these quilts provide adds a sense of home and comfort during a hospital

stay,” said Ada Kirven, foundation. “The blankets are genuinely loved and appreciated by our patients and staff alike.”

The Quilters delivered the latest batch and shared how meaningful the project continues to be. “We hope all enjoy them and that the soft, cuddly quilts bring comfort to little ones who need it,” they said. Penny added, “When Cynthia and I looked back, we realized we’ve donated more than 331 quilts to the hospital since 2016. We were surprised by the number, it’s been such a rewarding partnership. We love sewing, and knowing our work helps brighten someone’s day keeps us going.”



HHS Announces new 340B Rebate Model Pilot Program

The Department of Health and Human Services today issued a [notice](#) announcing a 340B Rebate Model Pilot Program as a voluntary mechanism for qualifying drug manufacturers to effectuate the 340B ceiling price on select drugs to all 340B-covered entities.

The notice said HHS’ Health Resources and Services Administration’s Office of Pharmacy Affairs, which currently oversees the 340B Drug Pricing Program, is inviting certain drug manufacturers to apply for participation in the pilot program for a minimum of one year. HRSA said the pilot program will be limited to the NDC-11s included on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ [Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Selected Drug List](#) regardless of payer.

HRSA said manufacturers must submit applications to participate in the pilot program by Sept. 15, and approvals will be made by Oct. 15 for a Jan. 1, 2026, effective date.

In a [statement shared with the media](#) following release of the notice, AHA Vice President of Advocacy and Grassroots Aimee Kuhlman said, “The AHA looks forward to reviewing HRSA’s 340B rebate guidance in more detail and working with the agency on this issue. However, we are concerned that this guidance authorizes a significant departure from how the 340B program has successfully operated for decades and sets a dangerous precedent for possible harmful expansions in the future. This pilot program is a response to a nonexistent program integrity problem that the drug manufacturers have manufactured in the public discourse.

“Nevertheless, we appreciate HRSA’s efforts to impose strict guardrails on its limited pilot program. Going forward, it will be essential that HRSA makes certain that the drug companies bear all the costs of implementing these rebate models and that those companies provide discounts expeditiously. Anything else will pose serious financial risks to patients, communities and the hospitals that care for them.”

The agency is soliciting comments on the structure and application process of the 340B Rebate

Model Pilot Program. Those comments are due Aug. 31. AHA 340B members will receive a Regulatory Advisory with more details on the notice.

The rebate issue is the subject of multiple ongoing court cases in which drug companies have sued HHS for denying their requests to impose rebate models rather than following the longstanding upfront discount model that HHS has allowed since the outset of the program. The AHA has filed several amicus briefs in these cases, and it intends to file another brief in the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit next week.

In addition, the AHA May 9 sent a [letter to HHS](#) urging the agency to deny drug companies' requests to approve their "unlawful rebate models," as they would "come at the expense of America's most vulnerable patients and communities."



**Wyoming Hospital
Association/LeadingAge Wyoming
Annual Meeting
September 3-4, 2025**

[Register Here for Annual Meeting](#)

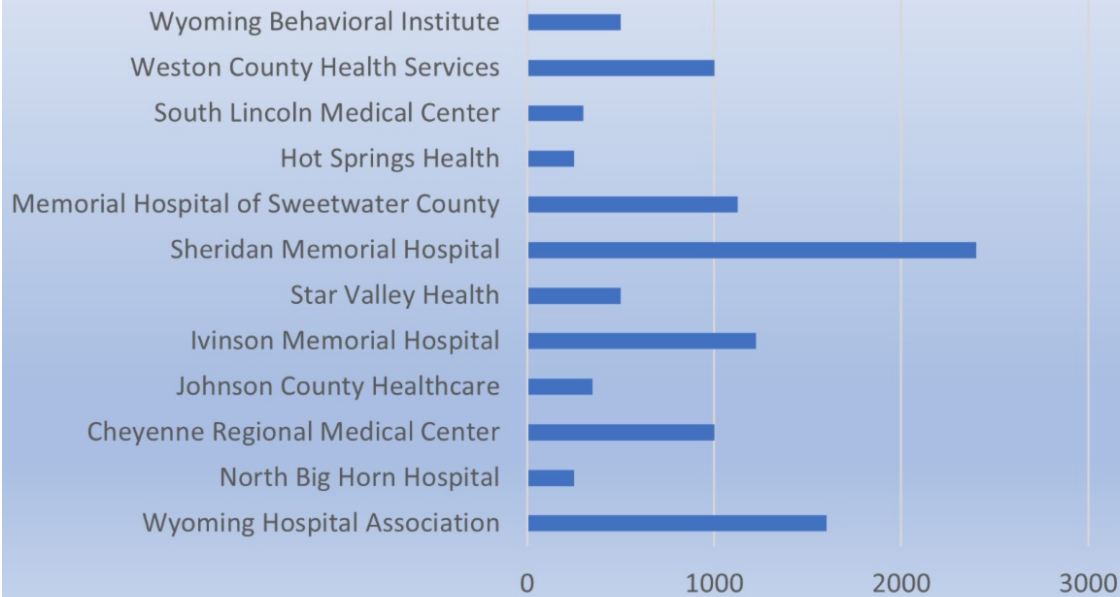


**September 2, 2025
WHA Golf Tournament - Jacoby Golf
Course, Laramie**

**September 3-4, 2025
WHA/LAW Annual Meeting -
Laramie, Wyoming**

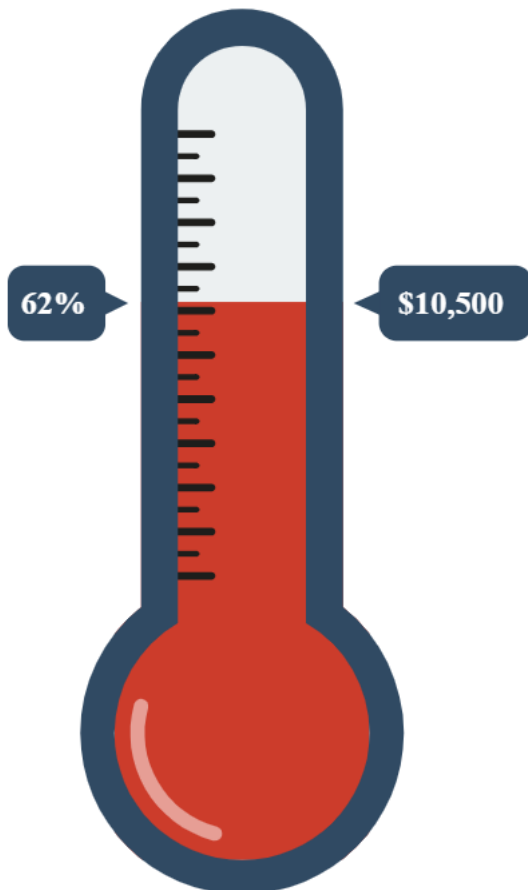
**WHA PAC Goal for 2025
Contributors**

PAC CONTRIBUTIONS



WHA PAC

GOAL: \$17,000



Barry Burkart
Eric Boley
Eric Connell
Tim Thornell
Shelli Shelton
Doug Faus
Mike Hunsaker
Ron Mischke
Darcy Robertson
Barbara Sowada
Scott Alwin
Luke Senden
Dave Ryerse
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Wyoming Hospital Association | 2005 Warren Ave | Cheyenne, WY 82001-3725 US

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