

# News Briefs

December 12, 2025

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## Wyoming Hospital Association

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## AHA Report Finds Hospitals Continue to Improve Performance on Key Patient Safety Measures, Outcomes

The American Hospital Association (AHA) released a **report** that found patient safety in hospitals and health systems across the nation continues to improve. The report, which uses data analyzed by Vizient, examined key safety and quality metrics from the fourth quarter of 2019 to the second quarter of 2025. It found that despite caring for a sicker patient population, hospitals' focus on safety led to improved patient outcomes and reduced infections.

"Keeping patients safe is the top priority of America's hospitals and health systems," **said** AHA Chief Physician Executive and Senior Vice President Chris DeRienzo, M.D. "The latest findings show that hospital teams continue to innovate and develop programs and strategies that are improving care and outcomes for the patients and communities they serve."

The report also found:

- Hospitalized patients in the second quarter of 2025 were on average nearly 30% more likely to survive than expected given the severity of their illnesses compared to the fourth quarter of 2019.
- Hospitals' efforts to improve safety led to more than 300,000 Americans hospitalized from April 2024 through March 2025 surviving episodes of care they would not have in 2019.
- Hospitals cared for more patients in the second quarter of 2025 compared to the fourth quarter of 2019, with increases in volume by 4% and case mix index by 5% during this period. Patients in 2025 also had more complex and severe conditions.
- Hospitals' central line-associated bloodstream infections and catheter-associated urinary tract infections in the second quarter of 2025 were at lower rates than the fourth quarter of 2019.
- Key screenings for breast and colorectal cancer increased 95% from the fourth quarter of 2019 to the second quarter of 2025.
- 

The AHA's **Patient Safety Initiative** provides tools and data to help hospitals advance patient safety and serves as a platform to share stories of improvement with peers. It also highlights examples of applicable innovation that support, spread and sustain safety improvement.

## Forbes Top Hospitals 2026

Forbes **launched** an inaugural quality ranking of U.S. general acute care hospitals Dec. 4, which analyzes data on outcomes, best practices, value and patient experience.

The media company **said** its list, “Forbes Top Hospitals 2026,” differs from other hospital rankings and ratings in three key ways. First, the primary quality measures derive from CMS’ Provider Data Catalog; second, the methodology places the most weight on clinical outcomes, including mortality and readmission rates; and third, clinical outcomes are statistically adjusted for social drivers of health.

Forbes assigned a star rating, from one to five, across four categories to calculate a hospital’s overall score. The outcome category included 25 publicly reported measures, such as “surgical site infection after colon surgery” and “30-day readmission after discharge,” according to Forbes. Best practices had 10 measures, value had seven and patient experience had 14.

Outcomes carried a 55% weight in the overall calculation, followed by best practices (20%), value (15%) and patient experience (10%). Based on this criteria, Forbes recognized 253 hospitals with an overall five-star rating.

Wyoming - Two Hospitals were named

- **Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County (Rock Springs)**
- **St. John’s Health (Jackson)**



## Register for Dec. 17 Webinar on Price Transparency Requirements in CY 2026 OPPS Final Rule

American Hospital Association policy staff will host a webinar on Dec. 17 at 3 p.m. ET to discuss updates to price transparency policies in the Medicare hospital outpatient prospective payment system final rule for calendar year 2026. Terri Postma, principal at Health Policy Alternatives, will be a guest speaker during the event.

[Register Here for Price Transparency Webinar](#)

## AHA Supports Bill Expanding Veteran Access to CAHs, Rural Health Clinics

The American Hospital Association **expressed support** for the Critical Access for Veterans Care Act (**S. 1868**), legislation that would expand veteran access to critical access hospitals and rural health clinics. The bill would also reimburse CAHs for treating veterans at the same rates as other

patients, mimicking Medicare's cost-based reimbursement. In addition, the bill would remove prior authorization requirements and allow referrals from CAHs and rural health clinics to other local providers.

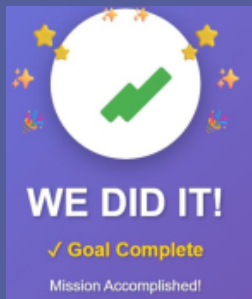
## Letter of Support



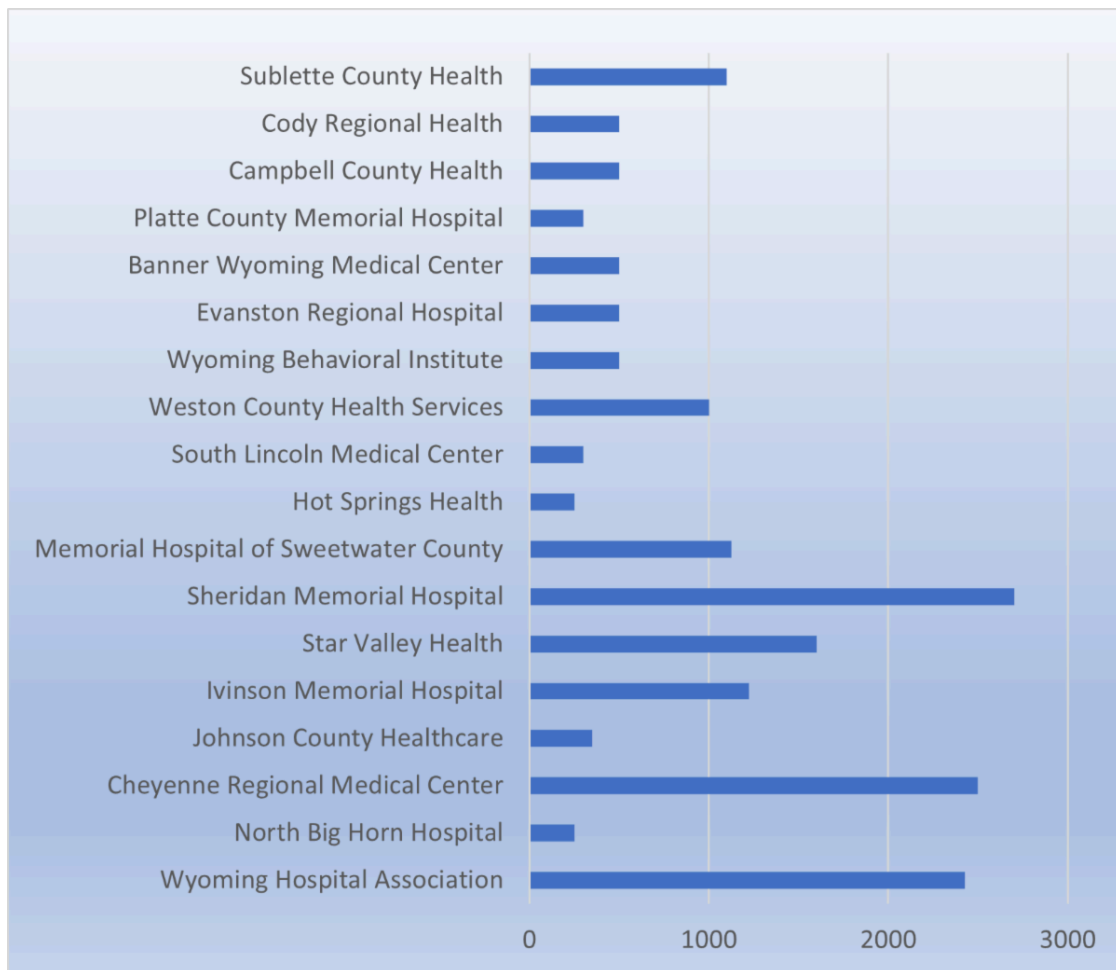
**2026 Wyoming Budget Session**  
**February 9, 2026**

**WHA Trustee/CEO Spring Meeting**  
**May 19, 2026**

**WHA Annual Meeting**  
**September 9-10, 2026**  
**Little America, Cheyenne**

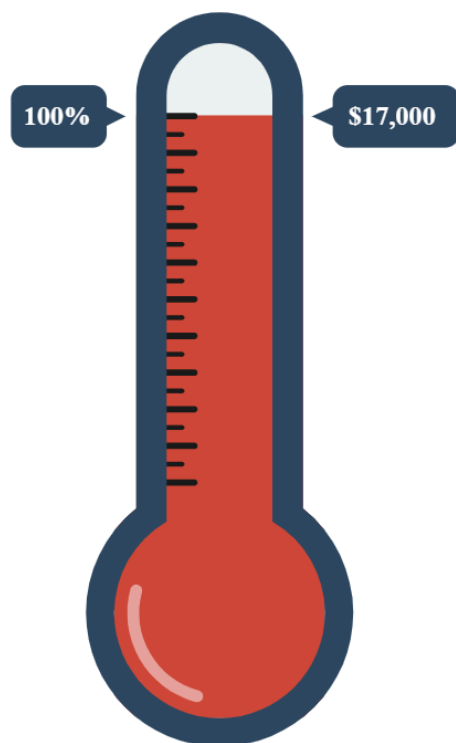


**WHA PAC Goal for 2025**  
**Contributors**



#### WHA PAC

**GOAL: \$17,000**



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