

About WMS



The Wyoming Medical Society was founded in 1903 to provide representation, advocacy and service to Wyoming physicians. We strive to be an efficient, member-driven, responsive organization, capable of anticipating and responding swiftly to the changing health care environment. WMS serves our membership, and their patients, and works to improve the health of Wyoming's citizens.

**The Wyoming Medical Society is, and always will be, a staunch advocate for physicians.
*This is our core. All of our other activities revolve around this core.***

WMS ADVOCACY AGENDA

The Wyoming Medical Society pursues representation, funding and legislation to support the following industry priorities, as identified by its physician-members.

Access to Care for Wyoming Patients: The shortage of doctors is of highest concern for WMS. We support a broad package of legislation, each of which plays an important part in the effort to maintain and enhance our rural healthcare system.

Medical Liability Reform: WMS is a strong advocate for measures that will make our system more fair, predictable and timely for all involved, and ensure that patients can get the care they need in their local communities. Reasonable legal reforms supported by WMS include:

- Unlimited compensation for economic damages
- Limits on non-economic damage compensation
- Strong medical review panel
- Expert witness qualifications
- State funding support for liability premiums
- Special health courts

Future Wyoming Physicians: WMS strongly supports funding to maintain and expand the WWAMI medical education and UW Family Medicine Residency programs. Both of these programs provide excellent opportunities to “grow our own” physicians and market the state to future physicians looking for a place to build their homes and practices.

Physician Reimbursement: WMS believes that periodic funding increases for physician Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement are imperative to ensure

MISSION STATEMENT

Advocating for Wyoming doctors and their patients.

STRATEGIC GOALS

Goal #1 – Voice of Medicine: Utilize the powerful, effective & unified voice of WMS to improve the physician practice environment and quality of healthcare for Wyoming patients through advocacy.

Goal #2 – Member Experience: Grow membership and increase provider participation and involvement to ensure the future health of the organization.

Goal #3 – Medical Community and Public Awareness: Enhance the public image of WMS members and strengthen the medical community statewide.

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that all Wyoming's citizens will continue to have access to care. Reasonable reimbursement increases will help physicians cover the costs of providing care to Medicaid and Medicare patients and lessen the impacts of cost-shifting to the private sector.

Scope of Practice: WMS supports team-based care, and transparency of provider credentials within a system that recognizes physicians as leaders of the healthcare team. We oppose expanding the scope of practice for allied health professionals through legislation rather than additional education and training because it jeopardizes patient safety.

Patient Safety: WMS believes physicians are critical players in the development of patient safety practices and standard setting for clinical safety. WMS founded the statewide annual Patient Safety Summit in 2012 and is dedicated to continuing the journey of integrating all aspects of healthcare and healthcare providers to create the safest environment possible for Wyoming patients.

State Regulatory Affairs: In addition to the work that WMS does on behalf of members at the Capitol in Cheyenne, we are active in the regulatory side of government, providing oversight to promulgation of rules and regulations within agencies such as the Wyoming Department of Health, Wyoming Boards of Medicine and Pharmacy, to name just a few.

State ACA Implementation Oversight: WMS is actively engaged in ensuring that aspects of the ACA that Wyoming state officials choose to implement are done so with attention focused on physician perspectives, needs and concerns.

Public Health: WMS continues proactive efforts to address the prescription drug abuse epidemic, encourage seat belt use and actively pursue tobacco cessation, including advocating to increase tobacco taxes.

Medicaid Reform: WMS remains actively engaged in discussions within state government to reform Wyoming's Medicaid program. WMS believes physicians are some of the most valuable resources as the state considers various methods of coordinated care or waivers.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President:

Kristopher Schamber, MD (IM)
Sheridan

Vice President:

Spencer Weston, MD (FM)
Evanston

Past President:

JJ Chen, MD (PS)
Cheyenne

Sec./Treasurer:

Kristina Behringer, MD (FM)
Cheyenne

Open Trustee:

Matt Mitchell, MD (OS)
Casper

AMA Delegate:

Stephen Brown, MD (PS)
Casper

AMA Alternate:

Paul Johnson, MD (OT)
Cheyenne

Executive Director/CEO:

Sheila Bush
Cheyenne



WMS Membership Benefits



The Wyoming Medical Society provides members with valuable membership services, discounts, legislative advocacy, public health promotion, and a strong voice of representation across a wide mix of state and federal programs.

- Effective leadership
- Strong, successful legislative advocacy
- Medical liability reform efforts
- Discounts with WMS Preferred Vendors, including 5% off medical malpractice insurance with The Doctors Company (TDC)
- CME opportunities

RELEVANT & TIMELY COMMUNICATION

- WMS newsletters & issue updates provide accurate and up to the minute information on critical health care issues.
- Website provides a wealth of up to date information and interactive communication.
- Tailored information sent to members to meet specific communication needs.
- Quarterly reports updating members on the activity of the Board of Trustees
- Wyoming Medicine magazine published bi-annually to inform members of important issues, educate the public about important medical topics and improve the image of medicine in Wyoming.
- Annual meeting offering CME opportunities, discussion about relevant health care topics, and networking with like-minded professionals

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Wyoming Primary Care Association (WPCA)

UW Family Medicine Residency Programs

Wyoming Association of Physician Assistants (WAPA)

Wyoming Health Resources Network (WHRN)

Wyoming Hospital Association (WHA)

Wyoming WWAMI Medical Education Program

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BENEFITS of WMS MEMBERSHIP

FAMILY OF MEDICINE



Join your Wyoming medicine colleagues representing all specialties, ages and practice types - take your seat at the table.

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH



Cultivate your career, improve your skillset and network by connecting with your peers and gaining access to best-in-class leadership development and wellness programs.

PHYSICIAN ADVOCACY



WMS fights for you and your patients at the Capitol, along-side state agencies and health plans with the goal of making Wyoming the healthiest state and best place to practice medicine.

COMMUNITY IMPACT



Make a difference in your community through WMS public health advocacy and physician volunteer programs.

INSTANT EXPERTISE



From experienced policy analysis to technical resources and CME, WMS connects you to the answers you need and the expertise in Wyoming to make sure you're covered.

INFORMATION UPDATES



Members receive regular updates, including the award-winning magazine Wyoming Medicine as well as weekly advocacy updates during Legislative Session.

PHYSICIAN ENGAGEMENT



WMS is committed to every member voice being elevated and heard. Recent updates in association technology and the launch of **The WIRE** make it easier than ever to engage and be heard.

MEMBER MARKETPLACE



Access expert guidance and exclusive savings to help with managing your practice and expanding patient care offerings. Check out the WMS Member's Only Marketplace today!



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WMS TRACK RECORD

In just the last few years, WMS has been instrumental in:

- Working diligently to reform insurance regulations in Wyoming;
- Developing a policy discussion tool called The Wire, for members to transparently propose and openly discuss policy and other topics, and vote your recommendation;
- Responding to COVID-19 with regular provider connect calls, a daily updated resource website, and advisory roles within state government;
- Partnering with the state, hospitals, and other organizations and individuals to improve testing capacity across Wyoming;
- Investing in patient education resources to help people when it comes to choosing their healthcare provider by creating and promoting www.wyomingdoctors.org;
- Advocating fiercely to protect the authority of Wyoming's Health Officer in emergencies, which was being challenged in unprecedented ways;
- Protecting WY WWAMI from inappropriate and unnecessary state government over-reach;
- Passing statutory language allowing physicians to practice Direct Primary Care without potentially running into future conflicts with the state insurance commissioner;
- Protecting local control and preventing unnecessary state government regulations from overreaching into communities to mandate medical staff issues within our hospitals;
- Removing onerous requirements around controlled substance prescribing allowing best practices developed by medicine, not lawmakers, to guide prescribing behavior;
- Overseeing rule promulgation inside state agencies that affect the practice of medicine;
- Striving to support establishing and improving utilization of a statewide health information exchange (HIE);
- Building relationships with the Wyoming Board of Medicine to maintain positive working relationships and best practice policies;
- Enabling Wyoming to be an initiating state in the federal physician licensure compact;
- Establishing the Wyoming Provider Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) to aid in end-of-life care;
- Fighting hard in various scope battles from midwife licensure and dangerous optometric scope expansion to chiropractors' self-definition as physicians for billing purposes;
- Advocating for fair and adequate reimbursement within Medicaid, and protecting against unfair private insurance policies.



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