

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

IN THIS ISSUE...

- From Clinic to Capitol - Vice President Tracey Haas, DO, MPH, FAAFP
- **Federal Updates**
 - White House Releases AI Action Plan
 - AAP Issues Evidence-Based Vaccine Schedule for Children
 - AMA Leads Opposition to Expanding Pharmacists' Scope of Practice
 - HHS Announces Access to Real-Time Drug Pricing, Changes to Prior Authorization
- **State Updates**
 - WY and the Rural Health Transformation Fund
 - Helmsley Charitable Trust Grants \$2M to State Virtual Crisis Care
- **WMS & WAPA Annual Conference Registration**

WMS OFFICER'S MINUTE - VP HAAS, DO

From Clinic to Capitol: A Physician's Experience in Wyoming Health Policy



As a Wyoming family physician, I've long been curious about how health policy is shaped—and how it connects to the clinical decisions we make every day. For many of us, the legislative process—and the idea that a single person can influence it—can feel abstract or distant. But here in Wyoming, we're fortunate. Not only do we have a front-row seat to the policymaking process, we have real opportunities to participate in it.

In June, I attended the Joint Labor, Health & Social Services Interim Committee meeting in Casper. The agenda was packed with issues that hit close to home for this family physician: maternal care deserts, rural emergency services, artificial intelligence in prior authorization, naturopathic licensure and scope of practice, and more.

Each topic underscored a simple truth: our presence and attention matters. [Click here to read the full article.](#)

FEDERAL UPDATES

White House releases AI Action Plan - Focus on Healthcare

The White House released a sweeping AI action plan outlining more than 90 policy actions, prioritizing responsible deployment of AI in healthcare. State medical societies across the country and the AMA are calling for the plan to incorporate stronger physician leadership, robust privacy protections, and safeguards to prevent bias and patient harm. [Click here to read more..](#)

AAP Issues Evidence-Based Vaccine Schedule for Children

The American Academy of Pediatrics published an independent evidence-based immunization schedule for children and adolescents in the wake of federal changes to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). The schedule published in *AAP Red Book Online* includes guidance on COVID-19 vaccination that differs from federal policy. It also includes updates to recommendations on respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and flu. [Click here to read more...](#)

AMA Leads Opposition to Expanding Pharmacists' Scope of Practice

Organized medicine is very concerned that a federal bill would inappropriately expand the scope of practice for pharmacists with respect to testing and treating patients for influenza, COVID-19, RSV, and strep throat. In doing so, it would undermine the principle of physician-led, team-based care that is integral to improving quality, reducing costs, and preserving patient safety. [Click here to read more...](#)

HHS Announces Access to Real-Time Drug Pricing, Changes to Prior Authorization

The Department of Health and Human Services announced prescription drug reforms that will become effective October 1, originating from the Health Data, Technology, and Interoperability: Electronic Prescribing, Real-Time Prescription Benefit and Electronic Prior Authorization (HTI-4) [final rule](#). For a high-level analysis of what is included in the final rule, [click here](#).

STATE UPDATES

Wyoming and the Rural Health Transformation Fund

One of the provisions of H.R.1 was the creation of the **Rural Health Transformation Fund**. This program is expected to allocate \$10 billion per year across all states starting in FY 2026 and running through FY 2030. 50% of those payments will be distributed equally across states with approved applications, while the CMS administrator will distribute the remaining half based on a competitive process tied to individual states' rural population needs.

The funds are intended to support rural healthcare transformation through activities like investing in telehealth, recruiting clinicians, and promoting innovative care models to address chronic challenges in rural healthcare. Wyoming, like other states, must submit a comprehensive application to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) by December 31, 2025, to receive a portion of the \$10 billion in annual funding allocated.

WMS anticipates that the Wyoming Department of Health will serve as a primary lead in facilitating the state's application and we are encouraging our members to contact WMS with any and all ideas, proposal or recommendations you might have for ways in which this money could be best used to achieve the strategic goals of the RHT program.

The strategic goals of the RHT program include:

- Make rural America healthy again
- Sustainable access
- Workforce development
- Innovative care
- Tech innovation

Please contact WMS Director Sheila Bush with your thoughts, questions, or recommendations.

Helmsley Charitable Trust Grants Nearly \$2.4M to Bring Virtual Crisis Care to Wyoming

The Helmsley Charitable Trust recently granted nearly \$2.4 million to the Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police (WASCOP) to help officers across the state's rural and frontier landscape provide Wyoming residents in crisis with 24/7 access to behavioral health professionals via telehealth.

Virtual Crisis Care (VCC) equips Wyoming law enforcement officers with tablets, allowing them to call on trained experts to de-escalate, assess, and stabilize individuals in a mental health crisis such as suicidal ideation, self-harm, or depression. [Click here to read more...](#)

WMS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Register for the Annual Meeting & President's Black-Tie Gala



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