

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### IN THIS ISSUE...

- Looking Ahead to the 2026 Legislative Session
- Wyoming & the Rural Health Transformation Program
- The WIRE
- Doc of the Day!

## Policy & Advocacy

### Federal + State Legislative Updates

#### 2026 Legislative Session

The 2026 Wyoming Legislative Session begins February 9th. While this is a budget year, important healthcare issues are already popping up. Several committee bills are posted, which you can view on the [WMS Legislative Tracker](#).

The legislative tracker is also an easy way to identify issues that are open for voting on [the WIRE](#). There is currently one proposal awaiting member input. Click [HERE](#) to read about and vote on Senate File 23.

Physician voices matter more than ever. Please share feedback through the WIRE and to reach out to WMS staff if you're interested in attending committee hearings, serving as Doc of the Day, or testifying during the session.

WMS will continue to keep members informed as the session moves forward via email, our social media pages, and our new [SMS text alerts](#).

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#### Rural Health Transformation Program

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the first year of the Rural Health Transformation (RHT) awards with Wyoming receiving \$205 million in federal funds. The funds are intended to support priorities outlined in the application submitted by the Wyoming Department of Health last year.

[Read more](#) about the funds awarded and how Wyoming compares to other states.

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#### Telehealth Use Remains Strong Post-Pandemic

A new [AMA report](#) based on the Physician Practice Benchmark Survey shows telehealth use surged during COVID-19 and continues to remain high. Physician practices using telehealth grew from 25% in 2018 to 79% in 2020, and stayed strong at 71% in 2024. The report also examines telehealth use by practice ownership and specialty, and explores why some practices have not adopted telehealth.

Other reports based on the survey can be found [here](#).

#### Telehealth Prescribing Extension

HHS & the DEA announced an additional extension of telemedicine flexibilities that allow patients to receive prescriptions for controlled medications without a prior in-person visit. The extension runs from January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, preventing disruptions in care while permanent rules are finalized. Full details are available [here](#).

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#### Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Changes

After years of Medicare physician pay cuts, a one-time 2.5% increase took effect January 1, 2026. Unfortunately, an early December AMA analysis still cautions physicians of other adjustments in the schedule taking effect in 2026 are likely to offset the 2.5% increase and may result in practices seeing an overall cut in Medicare pay. Read more from the AMA [HERE](#), or read the CMS Fact Sheet [HERE](#).

## WMS News

### Membership + Board Updates

The WIRE

WMS advocacy is driven by member input and must meet a participation threshold. When weigh in through the WIRE, that guidance directs the positions WMS presents at the Capitol. Without member participation, physician voices go unheard. Policy issues are increasingly complex and don't always fit neatly within the WMS tenets, making your input more important than ever. Please watch for brief email alerts that come from [thewire@wyomed.org](mailto:thewire@wyomed.org) or [sign up](#) for SMS text alerts.

#### 2026 Renewal

Please [login to the member portal](#) to renew your 2026 WMS Membership.

#### Save the Date

The Board of Trustees will meet February 2, 2026 in Cheyenne. Look for more information and details about observing or participating soon.

## Upcoming Events

### Important Dates + Registration Details

#### Doc of the Day – 2026 Legislative Session

Wyoming Medical Society members are invited to participate in the Doc of the Day program during the 2026 Legislative Session, February 9 – March 11, 2026.

This program gives physicians valuable face-to-face time with legislators, strengthening WMS advocacy and elevating the voice of medicine at the Capitol. Learn more by visiting the [Doc of the Day page](#) on the WMS website.

Reserve your day now by sending an email to [info@wyomed.org](mailto:info@wyomed.org) or calling the WMS office at (307) 635-2424.

## 2026 Friends of WMS

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