

Diagnosis and Treatment

Advances in medicine can appear at an alarming rate, making it difficult to keep up with the newest advances in all of the various specialties. This is compounded in a state such as Wyoming where many citizens live at a medical frontier. There may be significant distances from centers that can offer the expertise and technical support necessary for the acute care of cardiovascular emergencies. Appropriate planning, communication and education can help assure rapid availability of the best care to all of our citizens. The Diagnosis and Treatment work group of the Cardiovascular Disease Coalition is dedicated to achieving this goal.



Goal #4



Improve quality of care provided to patients with CVD or stroke related disorders by advocating the use of evidence-based treatment guidelines.

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Objective I

By 2010, increase the number of hospitals in Wyoming utilizing evidence-based treatment protocols for CVD.

HP2010 Baseline:

In 2000, HP2010 identified 28 focus areas that have motivated the healthcare community and national organizations to develop evidence-based treatment protocols to improve the overall health of the citizens of the United States of America.

Wyoming Baseline:

As of December 2007, there were six hospitals using the “Get with the Guidelines*” program as a tool for recommended practice in treating

stroke and coronary artery disease.

Action Plan:

- Continue to partner with the American Heart Association and the American Stroke Association in providing the latest evidence-based treatment protocols for heart disease, stroke, and peripheral artery disease*.
- Continue to partner with the American Heart Association and the American Stroke Association and other national organizations in providing support to hospitals, clinics, and private practices that are currently using the latest evidence-based treatment programs. Emphasis will be on providing opportunities for more education.
- Develop statewide recommended protocols for the treatment of stroke and coronary artery disease that will include (*among other tools and suggestions*), the use of “Get with the Guidelines” in hospitals.

Objective II

By 2010, provide an avenue for providers to access the latest guidelines for the treatment of patients with heart disease or stroke.

Wyoming Baseline:

Currently, there is no known central location for providers to access up-to-date protocols.

Action Plan:

- Partner with physicians to develop evidence-based protocols for Wyoming for the treatment of cardiovascular disease.
- Partner with physicians, national organizations, and other health agencies to develop or locate a “recommended



practice” guide for treating and managing atherosclerosis*, heart disease, stroke, and peripheral artery disease*. Distribution will be to primary care providers in Wyoming.

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Goal #5
Enhance pre-hospital care for stroke* patients.

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Objective I

By 2010, develop a statewide protocol for pre-hospital treatment of stroke.

Objective II

By 2010, make available a training program for all pre-hospital responders*/caregivers regarding the recognition of stroke symptoms.

HP2010:

Focus areas 1-11 of HP2010 address the need for increased numbers of people to have access to rapid pre-hospital emergency care. HP2010 focus area one also emphasizes improvement in the quality of care given.

Wyoming Baseline:

The 2006 report of the Wyoming Emergency Medical Services (EMS) states an average response time of 7.0 minutes from the time of the 9-1-1 notification to arrival on the scene (wdhfs.state.wy.us/ems). Currently, there is no statute requiring training in stroke recognition and treatment for EMS crews and pre-hospital responders* to obtain certification.

Action Plan:

- Educate citizens of Wyoming about the signs and symptoms of heart attack and stroke through the use of various media. Emphasize the need to call 9-1-1.
- Partner with EMS agencies in Wyoming to ensure that first responders, paramedics and EMTs receive training in the latest techniques in pre-hospital care for heart disease and stroke.
- Partner with state EMS agency to make available training modules for pre-hospital caregivers.
- Collaborate with other interested organizations to create a statewide protocol for the pre-hospital treatment of stroke.
- Partner with the American Heart Association and hospitals to promote the availability of CPR training to all Wyoming citizens.

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References: Diagnosis and Treatment

<http://wdhfs.state.wy.us/ems/Documents/Data/2005SystemQuickStats.pdf>

<http://www.healthypeople.gov>

