

Cheyenne County Hospital joins national initiative

Cheyenne County Hospital is now voluntarily reporting data on the quality of patient care for use by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The voluntary reporting is in conjunction with the national Hospital Quality Initiative supported by the center, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Cheyenne County Hospital is committed to providing the best care to every patient, every time.

"We are always working to improve our excellent record of quality of patient care," said Les Lacy, administrator of Cheyenne County Hospital. "The CMS Hospital Quality Initiative gives us access to resources and hands-on training to support our quality improvement efforts."

"Publicly available quality data can help patients and their families to compare hospital care," Administrator Lacy said. "Consumers should also talk to healthcare professionals, family and friends, and local consumer organizations about hospital quality."

"Due to the fact that this hospital is on the very small end of the spectrum, our volume is low enough that we don't meet the minimums for posting, but we are contributing to aggregate data," Administrator Lacy said. "Eventually the numbers will accumulate enough in each category that the results will be posted."

The results of the quality data Cheyenne County Hospital is reporting will give consumers information about performance in three medical conditions: heart attack, heart failure, and pneumonia. The conditions can result in hospital stays and are common among people with Medicare. The measures in each condition address key aspects of appropriate care:

Heart attack (Acute Myocardial Infarction)

- Was aspirin given to the patient upon arrival at the hospital?

- Was aspirin prescribed when the patient was discharged?
- Was a beta-blocker given to the patient upon arrival at the hospital?

- Was a beta-blocker prescribed when the patient was discharged?
- Was an ACE Inhibitor given to the patient with heart failure?

Heart failure

- Did the patient get an assessment of his or her heart function?
- Was an ACE Inhibitor given to the patient?

Pneumonia

- Was an antibiotic given to the patient in a timely way?
- Had a patient received a Pneumococcal vaccination?
- Was the patient's oxygen level assessed?

The 10 quality measures have gone through years of extensive testing for validity and reliability by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and Quality Improvement Organization, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, and researchers. The National Quality Forum, a voluntary standard-setting, consensus-building organization representing providers, consumers, purchasers and researchers, has endorsed these measures.

The national Hospital Quality Initiative is part of an overall Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services effort to improve the quality of care provided to Medicare patients and to inform consumers through public reporting of quality information.

Beginning in early 2005, the hospital quality data will be available on a consumer website, Hospital Compare, at "http://www.medicare.gov" or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (800-633-4227). Currently, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services publishes quality information on "http://www.medicare.gov" for [State's] Medicare and Medicaid-certified nursing homes and Medicare-certified home health agencies.



DELBERT POWELL AND KEN BEOUGHER spend some time in the Thresher Show Grounds shop. The tractor they are working on is a 1951 Case.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

51st Show provides variety of events

By Casey McCormick

The highlight of the Bird City summer is here. The Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Association will hold its 51st show on July 29, 30, 31 and August 1.

There will be more to see than steam engines and wheat threshing. Automobiles will be displayed and paraded, as will many tractors. Museums and various buildings will house many interesting and historic items. And of course many will flock to the swap meet and flea market.

Here is a schedule of events:
Thursday, Friday and Saturday Programs
 (reduced schedule on Sunday)

- 9:30 a.m.- Servicing equipment.
- 10-Invocation, flag raising, introduction of personnel and the queen and princess.
- 10:15-Corn shelling, Prony brake and Baker fan testing.
- 10:45-Parade of old machinery and early-day harvest equipment.
- 11:15-Pyramid stunt, steam engine talk and thresher talk.
- 11:45-Steam engine races.
- Noon-Lunch.
- 1 p.m.-Kidstug-o-war with small steam engine.
- 1:15-Parade of antique cars.
- 1:30-Parade of antique tractors and steam engines.
- 2:30-Threshing, plowing and straw baling (using a gas tractor on

- Thursday and using a steamer Friday and Saturday).
- 3:15-Saw mill and shingle mill.
- 4-Steam engine races, stationary engine demonstration and antique auto display.
- 4:30-Steam engine rides.
- Special Noon-Day Programs**
 Thursday: Recognition of outgoing Queen and introduction of 2004 Queen and Thresher Princess.
- Friday: Recognition of Auto Club Queen.
- Swap Meet Each Day**
 For information, inquire in Building 5, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Thursday Old Fashioned**

Literary

- An old fashioned literary will be held at the country school at 7 p.m.
- Friday Antique Tractor Pull**
 The popular event will be held at 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday Evening Barbecue**
 The McDonald Lions Club will host the barbecue from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The price will be announced.
- Special Entertainment**
 Following the barbecue will be entertainment by Deans Duckson and the Turkey Snorts.
- Sunday Worship Services**
 Worship services will be held at the country church at 9, 9:30 and 10 a.m. Sunday.

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