

## PRESS RELEASE

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**Wyoming Medical Society and Wyoming Telehealth Network Release Survey Results**

*The Impact of COVID-19 on Wyoming Healthcare Practice: A Snapshot of Primary Care in Wyoming*

**CHEYENNE, WY – April 22, 2020** - The Wyoming Medical Society, in collaboration with the Wyoming Telehealth Network, surveyed physicians across the state to understand the impact of COVID-19 on primary care practices and providers. With 83 responses received between March 19 and April 8, 2020, the results reflect significant impact to physicians across the state.

When asked about the state’s response to the pandemic, 49% of respondents surveyed feel details from the state to help make informed patient and practice decisions have been at least “adequate” or “very adequate”. Physicians report that Wyoming needs to continue to emphasize the importance of people staying home, maintaining social distancing, and prioritizing testing.

In response to questions about how COVID-19 has affected their practices, providers report that disruption is the current norm, and they are experiencing financial strain that they expect to continue. Issues reported include 70% of respondents indicating an increase in cancellations, 46% report and anticipate significant administrative interruptions, and 62% currently experience or anticipate cash flow issues.

In addition to financial concerns, providers indicate significant concerns with supplies and materials. Eighty-four percent report disruptions in current supply chain or procurement of materials, specifically personal protective equipment (PPE). In addition, 86% report that they have not been able to identify alternatives for purchasing needed supplies.

Among Wyoming physicians, telehealth use is on the rise, with 54% of respondents reporting that they are using telehealth in their practice and an additional 58% reporting that they have encouraged patients to consider telehealth. For providers using or considering using telehealth, they are seeking additional resources and information in several areas, including the rapidly changing billing and reimbursement practices, patient access issues, resources on telehealth use and technology, and information on practice policies and procedures.

To view infographic of survey results, visit:

[http://www.uwyo.edu/wind/\\_files/docs/wytn-doc/survey-infographic.pdf](http://www.uwyo.edu/wind/_files/docs/wytn-doc/survey-infographic.pdf)

**ABOUT WYOMING MEDICAL SOCIETY AND WYOMING TELEHEALTH NETWORK**

The Wyoming Medical Society provides representation, advocacy and service to Wyoming physicians, anticipating and responding swiftly to the rapidly changing healthcare environment. Learn more at [wyomed.org](http://wyomed.org).

The Wyoming Telehealth Network serves as a statewide hub, connecting everyone with an interest in telehealth by providing access to telehealth technology, resources and education. The WyTN is a legislatively mandated activity of the Wyoming Telehealth Consortium and is financially supported through the Wyoming Department of Health, Office of Rural Health and the College of Health Sciences, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities. Learn more at [wyomingtelehealth.org](http://wyomingtelehealth.org).

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