

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

PRINTED: 01/26/2026  
FORM APPROVED  
OMB NO. 0938-0391

STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES AND PLAN OF CORRECTION	(X1) PROVIDER/SUPPLIER/CLIA IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:  <b>530012</b>	(X2) MULTIPLE CONSTRUCTION A. BUILDING _____  B. WING _____	(X3) DATE SURVEY COMPLETED  <b>C</b> <b>04/15/2025</b>
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NAME OF PROVIDER OR SUPPLIER  <b>WYOMING MEDICAL CENTER</b>	STREET ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE <b>1233 EAST 2ND ST CASPER, WY 82601</b>
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A 000	<p><b>INITIAL COMMENTS</b></p> <p>A complaint health survey for compliance with Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) 42 CFR Part 489.20 Basic Section Commitments Relevant to Section 1867 Responsibilities and 42 CFR Part 489.24 Special Responsibilities of Medicare Hospitals in Emergency Cases, was conducted from 4/7/25 through 4/15/25. The survey was prompted by complaint intakes WY0004271 and WY0004288. Based upon the findings of the survey team, Wyoming Medical Center was found not in compliance with the requirements for A-2400 and A-2406.</p>	A 000		
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LABORATORY DIRECTOR'S OR PROVIDER/SUPPLIER REPRESENTATIVE'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE \_\_\_\_\_ (X6) DATE **01/23/2026**

Any deficiency statement ending with an asterisk (\*) denotes a deficiency which the institution may be excused from correcting providing it is determined that other safeguards provide sufficient protection to the patients. (See instructions.) Except for nursing homes, the findings stated above are disclosable 90 days following the date of survey whether or not a plan of correction is provided. For nursing homes, the above findings and plans of correction are disclosable 14 days following the date these documents are made available to the facility. If deficiencies are cited, an approved plan of correction is requisite to continued program participation.

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A2400	<p>COMPLIANCE WITH 489.24 CFR(s): 489.20(l)</p> <p>[The provider agrees,] in the case of a hospital as defined in §489.24(b), to comply with §489.24.</p> <p>This STANDARD is not met as evidenced by: Based on medical record review, staff interview, video review, review of police reports, Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) reports, autopsy results, and policies and procedures, the facility failed to ensure an appropriate medical screening examination was completed for 1 of 20 sampled patients (#18) who presented to the emergency department. The findings were:</p> <p>1. Refer to A-2406 for details on the facility's failure to provide an appropriate medical screening examination to patient #18.</p>	A2400		
A2406	<p>MEDICAL SCREENING EXAM CFR(s): 489.24(a) &amp; 489.24(c)</p> <p>(a) Applicability of provisions of this section. (1) In the case of a hospital that has an emergency department, if an individual (whether or not eligible for Medicare benefits and regardless of ability to pay) "comes to the emergency department", as defined in paragraph (b) of this section, the hospital must- (i) Provide an appropriate medical screening examination within the capability of the hospital's emergency department, including ancillary services routinely available to the emergency department, to determine whether or not an emergency medical condition exists. The examination must be conducted by an individual(s) who is determined qualified by hospital bylaws or rules and regulations and who meets the requirements of §482.55 of this chapter concerning emergency services personnel and</p>	A2406		

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A2406	<p>Continued From page 1</p> <p>direction; and</p> <p>(ii) If an emergency medical condition is determined to exist, provide any necessary stabilizing treatment, as defined in paragraph (d) of this section, or an appropriate transfer as defined in paragraph (e) of this section. If the hospital admits the individual as an inpatient for further treatment, the hospital's obligation under this section ends, as specified in paragraph (d)(2) of this section.</p> <p>(2)(i) When a waiver has been issued in accordance with section 1135 of the Act that includes a waiver under section 1135(b)(3) of the Act, sanctions under this section for an inappropriate transfer or for the direction or relocation of an individual to receive medical screening at an alternate location do not apply to a hospital with a dedicated emergency department if the following conditions are met:</p> <p>(A) The transfer is necessitated by the circumstances of the declared emergency in the emergency area during the emergency period.</p> <p>(B) The direction or relocation of an individual to receive medical screening at an alternate location is pursuant to an appropriate State emergency preparedness plan or, in the case of a public health emergency that involves a pandemic infectious disease, pursuant to a State pandemic preparedness plan.</p> <p>(C) The hospital does not discriminate on the basis of an individual's source of payment or ability to pay.</p> <p>(D) The hospital is located in an emergency area during an emergency period, as those terms are defined in section 1135(g)(1) of the Act.</p> <p>(E) There has been a determination that a waiver of sanctions is necessary.</p>	A2406		
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A2406	<p>Continued From page 2</p> <p>(ii) A waiver of these sanctions is limited to a 72-hour period beginning upon the implementation of a hospital disaster protocol, except that, if a public health emergency involves a pandemic infectious disease (such as pandemic influenza), the waiver will continue in effect until the termination of the applicable declaration of a public health emergency, as provided under section 1135(e)(1)(B) of the Act.</p> <p>(c) Use of dedicated emergency department for nonemergency services. If an individual comes to a hospital's dedicated emergency department and a request is made on his or her behalf for examination or treatment for a medical condition, but the nature of the request makes it clear that the medical condition is not of an emergency nature, the hospital is required only to perform such screening as would be appropriate for any individual presenting in that manner, to determine that the individual does not have an emergency medical condition.</p> <p>This STANDARD is not met as evidenced by: Based on medical record review, staff interview, video review, review of police reports, Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) reports, autopsy results, and policies and procedures, the facility failed to ensure an appropriate medical screening examination was completed for 1 of 20 sample patients (#18) who presented to the emergency department (ED). The findings were:</p> <p>1. Related to patient #18: a. Review of a police report showed on 3/8/23 at 7:36 AM patient #18 was involved in a motor vehicle accident. The report showed on 3/8/23 at approximately 8:22 AM an officer tested a substance the other police officers believed was methamphetamine (a central nervous system</p>	A2406		
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A2406	<p>Continued From page 3</p> <p>stimulant that is mainly used as a recreational or performance-enhancing drug). The substance yielded a presumptive positive result. Two police officers placed patient #18 into custody and placed him/her in the back of the patrol car and transported him/her to jail.</p> <p>b. Review of the Wyoming DCI investigation report showed on 3/8/23 police officers searched the bag and truck of patient #18 and found a syringe and pipe. Both tested presumptive positive for methamphetamine. They placed patient #18 under arrest and transported him/her to jail. At jail, one of the officers asked patient #18 if s/he was high right now, and s/he stated "I ate an eight ball." One of the officers observed patient #18 to be shaking badly and moaning. The jail nurse came in and tried to ask the patient a few questions for the medical clearance form, "which [patient name] could not answer." The nurse told the officers to take the patient to the hospital. The officers handcuffed the patient and walked him/her back to the patrol car. The patient "...moaned and shook all the way to Wyoming Medical Center (WMC)."The officers parked next to the hospital sally port (secure entryway) and walked the patient into the ED and put him/her in bed #8. A nurse asked one of the officers what was going on and the officer told the nurse the patient was under arrest, acted normal until booking, and then began shaking and moaning. The officer told the nurse the patient told them s/he "ate an eight ball," but never told them what s/he ate an eight ball of. Shortly after, a doctor came and asked the officers questions, and they gave the same answers they gave to the nurse. The doctor went into the room and came out a short time later and told the officers that he was going to clear the patient for jail and said something about the movements that the patient</p>	A2406		
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A2406	<p>Continued From page 4</p> <p>was making were deliberate and intentional and that the patient had a case of "incarceritis." Officers were given a printout of the clearance forms and believed they were at the hospital for maybe 20 minutes.</p> <p>c. On 4/10/25 at 9:30 AM video of the ED on 3/8/23 was reviewed. The time stamp showed at 8:16 AM the patient was seen with his/her hands handcuffed in front of the body. Two law enforcement officers were holding onto him/her on each side of him/her while the patient walked through the ambulance bay into the ED. The patient's hands/arms were observed to be shaking up and down. There was no video footage once the patient was in an ED room. The patient was seen exiting the ED at 8:34 AM (18 minutes later).</p> <p>d. Review of the medical record showed patient #18 arrived to the ED on 3/8/23 at 9:19 AM and was discharged at 9:37 AM (18 minutes). The chief complaint was a medical clearance for local law enforcement. ".Per LE [law enforcement], pt suddenly became non-verbal with tremors on arrival to jail. Pt not currently answering questions." The patient's blood pressure at 9:27 AM was documented as 168/125 mmHg (elevated; normal is less than 120/80). The Glasgow coma scale (neurological scale used to assess level of consciousness) was 12 and under "verbal" it read "incomprehensible sounds." Review of the ED report by physician #1 showed the patient was in the ED for evaluation. "[S/he] was on [his/her] way to jail with the police with no complaints however when [s/he] arrived at the jail [s/he] began to shake violently. Patient would not discuss anything with me the predominance that history is obtained from police and nursing staff." The physical exam showed vitals including the blood pressure of 168/125 mmHg, "patient</p>	A2406		
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A2406	<p>Continued From page 5</p> <p>appears agitated," "psych: unable to assess," and "neuro: Patient will move [his/her] extremities and volitional appearing [done on purpose] [male/female] without rhythmic movements that would suggest seizure. The activities that are visualized would not be consistent with an excited delirium [characterized by extreme agitation, erratic behavior, and potential for sudden death]." The physician's medical decision making was documented as "Differential diagnosis includes but is not limited to intoxication, malingering, low suspicion for traumatic injuries or significant electrolyte derangement [abnormal concentration of electrolytes in the body]." No laboratory tests were ordered or completed. The physician documented "...The examination and findings that I am visualizing appear to indicate that this would most likely be malingering...I have low suspicion for acute medical emergency we will discharge to jail."</p> <p>e. Further review of the DCI report showed when the police got back to the jail from the ED, one of the officers got out and went to the caged portion of the vehicle and stated "I don't think [s/he's] doing good." They tried a sternum rub with no response. The officer pulled him/her out of the cage and laid him/her on their back. Sheriff's deputies came to assist and chest compressions were started in an attempt to resuscitate him/her. An AED (automated external defibrillator) was placed which advised "no shock." A sergeant called for an ambulance and emergency medical services (EMS) took over life-saving procedures upon arrival.</p> <p>f. Review of the ambulance report showed the ambulance was dispatched to the jail on 3/8/23 at 9:48 AM for an unconscious person and law enforcement had started cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The ambulance arrived on</p>	A2406		
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A2406	<p>Continued From page 6</p> <p>scene at 9:54 AM. The report showed "sheriff's on scene told me upon our arrival that the patient in question swallowed what looked like an 8-ball of drugs but is unsure what kind." The report showed life saving measures were provided, including CPR and the administration of Narcan (medication used for opioid overdose) and Epinephrine (administered for cardiac arrest to stimulate the heart). Attempts were made to resuscitate the patient for 30 minutes; 10 minutes by law enforcement and 20 minutes by EMS/fire personnel. The time of death was called at 10:19 AM.</p> <p>g. Review of the autopsy report for patient #18 showed the history was "...reportedly ingested drugs and presented to the emergency room for evaluation. [S/he] was released and when [s/he] arrived at the jail [s/he] began to shake violently and became unresponsive." The coroner examination showed the stomach contained multiple fragments of plastic bag. The toxicology results included 19000 nanograms per milliliter (ng/mL) of Methamphetamine. The final diagnosis was listed as "I. Methamphetamine toxicity: A. Plastic bag in the stomach. B. Pulmonary edema and congested lungs."</p> <p>2. Review of the facility's policy "EMTALA-Medical Screening Examination and Stabilization Treatment," effective 11/4/2020, showed "An appropriate MSE [medical screening examination] will be offered to individuals on the Campus of Banner Hospitals with a Dedicated Emergency Department who request emergency medical services, on whose behalf such services are requested, or, in the absence of such a request, whose appearance behavior would cause a prudent layperson observer to believe that such individuals need examination or treatment for a</p>	A2406		
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A2406	Continued From page 7 medical condition...An MSE will be conducted to determine whether the Patient has an EMC [emergency medical condition]. The Hospital will conduct a consistent MSE, in nondiscriminatory matter [sic], for all Patients with similar medical conditions."	A2406		
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