



Increase Access To Information On Support And Administration Of Care Through Informatics

The Challenge: Wyoming's isolation creates problems for health care providers with respect to their quality of life. Professionals face difficulty in obtaining consultations, finding educational opportunities, and networking with peers. It is hard to arrange coverage for personal and professional leave. Workers face burnout and in extreme cases, work-related traumatization. Negative professional quality of life issues compound the shortage of health care providers, contributing to high turnover and increased error risk.

Informatics as a Solution: Use technology to support access to health policy and practice information by focusing on:

- **Health services information**
- **Health policy, legal, and regulatory information**
- **Digital medical libraries**
- **Data access, acquisition, and archiving**
- **Consumer health information**

Increasing access to information increases quality of care and gives professionals information specific to treatment concerns. Increasing access to professional resources increases access and quality by reducing the risk factors associated with isolation, which can lead to poor recruitment, retention, burnout, and compassion fatigue. Increasing access to information may increase professional quality of life and compassion satisfaction, which can increase protective factors associated with recruitment and retention.

The mission of the Wyoming Network for Telehealth (WyNETTE) project is to improve access to, and quality of, health care in Wyoming through information and telecommunications technology. The project's primary objectives are (1) **increase health care opportunities** for the state's residents through telemedicine; (2)

increase the number, types, and skills of health professionals in the state through distance delivery of health care education; and (3) **increase access to information** to support both health care and the administration of care through informatics and information technology, research, and policy development.