My Heart and I
A journey to a healthier ME

billingsclinic.com/heart
Cardiovascular Services

Barbara Dudczak, MD, FACC, ABOM
Per Sommer, MD, FACC

Collin Fischer, MD, FACC
Juwono (Joy) Sutedjo, MD, FACC

Roger Ng, MD
Erin Lafavor, PA

Benjamin Plank, MD, FACC
Steven Blohm, FNP

Brian Rah, MD, FACC
Elliy Phillips, PA

Scott Sample, DO, FACC
Jennifer Beverly, PA

Kristin Scott-Tillery, MD
Tanja Sloan, PA

Alan Thometz, MD, FACC
Joslyn Wanner, FNP

Loren Budge, MD, FACC
Zachary Appel, PA

John Verbsky, MD, PhD
Amber Zito, PA
1. What is a heart attack?

2. What happened during my hospitalization?

3. Medications

4. The first two weeks... What do I need to know?
   - Site care
   - Activity restrictions
   - Intimacy
   - Alcohol
   - Work restrictions
   - Smoking
   - Diet

5. What next?
   - Stress reduction tips
   - Risk factors
   - Cardiac rehab
   - Early Heart Attack Care

6. Numbers I need to know

7. My questions and notes
1

What is a heart attack?
Did you have a heart attack?
☐ Yes  ☐ No

What are some other names used for “heart attack?”
• NSTEMI (non-STEMI)
• STEMI
• MI (myocardial infarction)
• AMI (acute myocardial infarction)

What is a heart attack?
A heart attack occurs when the blood flow to your heart becomes reduced due to a blockage in your vessels in your heart.

About every 43 seconds, someone in the US has a heart attack.
What is a heart attack?

This blockage can be due to a build up of fat, cholesterol and other substances, which forms a plaque on the inside lining of your vessels. This plaque can rupture causing a clot to form that can either partially or totally block your vessel.

This blockage can cause a lack of blood to reach your heart muscles depriving your muscles of oxygen. This can cause “ischemia” or muscle damage or death. Another name for ischemia is heart attack or myocardial infarction (MI).

85% of heart damage occurs within the first two hours of a heart attack. The average person in Montana waits at least 4 hours to seek medical attention when they have a heart attack!
What is a heart attack?

Watch for THE SIGNS

- Discomfort or tingling in arms, back, neck, shoulder or jaw
- Chest pain
- Shortness of breath
- Sudden dizziness
- Heartburn-like feeling
- Cold sweat
- Nausea or vomiting
- Unusual tiredness

Most common IN MEN...
Additional symptoms, most common IN WOMEN...

Think you’re having one?

1 IN 2 PEOPLE who die from heart attacks, pass away within the 1st hour of having symptoms.

Many patients experience the symptoms but they wait too long.

Every second matters to save heart muscle—and your life!

When in doubt, dial 9-1-1!
2

What happened during my hospitalization?
Heart catheterization: elective vs emergent
You may have had mild heart symptoms or chest pain, so your doctor may have done some testing that helps him/her to determine what is causing your discomfort. Your provider may choose to do a stress test, a stress echo, or perhaps a cardiac angiogram or heart catheterization.

- OR -

You may have had symptoms of a heart attack:
- Heaviness in the chest or chest pressure
- Dizziness or light-headedness
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea or sweating
- Discomfort or pain in arms, neck, jaw, shoulder or upper back
- Burning feeling under breastbone/felt like indigestion

AND so you called 911, enjoyed a fast ambulance, helicopter or airplane ride to Billings Clinic or perhaps went directly to your local emergency room (ED). That is when you started your whirlwind journey to a healthier YOU.

In the ED, they would have immediately done a test called an electrocardiogram (EKG) to determine what your heart rhythm was doing. The EKG is how they determined if you had a heart attack or not. You may have heard the terms “Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS),” “Non-STEMI (NSTEMI),” “STEMI.” Each diagnosis would determine your course of treatment and which medications you would receive.
Angiogram or heart catheterization

An angiogram is a procedure where a catheter is inserted through an artery and passed into the heart. Contrast dye is injected so the blockages can be visualized. For angioplasty, a balloon is deployed to the site of the plaque, the balloon is inflated, and it smashes the plaque against the vessel walls, thus opening the vessel so oxygen-rich blood can flow through the vessel.

In addition to angioplasty, the physician can choose to deploy a stent at the site of the plaque. There are two different types of stents – bare metal or drug-eluting stents. The stent can be deployed which keeps the vessel open in that particular area. Your doctor will choose the correct stent for you.

You will need to be on aspirin for life and an anti-platelet medication for at least one year to prevent clotting in your new stent or in your vessels which could cause a heart attack.
3 Medications
Why do I have to take all these pills?

1. Aspirin
Aspirin is used to help “thin” your blood after you have a stent placed. It prevents something in your blood called “platelets” from sticking together to form clots. You will need to take aspirin for the rest of your life. The most common side effect is related to increased bruising or bleeding.

2. Anti-platelet agents
There are three common agents used in this class of medications. You will need to take this medication for at least 1 year to prevent platelets from sticking together to form a clot in your new stent or to cause another heart attack. Taking this medication every day is VERY IMPORTANT! The most common side effects are related to bruising or bleeding or shortness of breath. Your doctor will choose the medication that is right for you.
- Clopidogrel (Plavix®)
- Prasugrel (Effient®)
- Ticagrelor (Brilinta®)

Clopidogrel (Plavix®) and Prasugrel (Effient®) are taken once daily. It is best to try to take at the same time every day. You will also take an aspirin every day with this medication.

Ticagrelor (Brilinta®) is taken twice daily. It is best to try to take at the same time every day (morning and bedtime). NEVER take more than 81mg of aspirin with this medication.

3. Beta blockers
There are many different beta blockers available. Below are some names (generic names and brand names) of which you may be started on:
- Metoprolol (Lopressor® or Toprol®)
- Atenolol (Tenormin®)
- Carvedilol (Coreg®)

These medications have been shown to reduce short term complications and improve long term survival. They also help keep your heart beating in a nice, normal rhythm if you happen to have a fast heartbeat or “Atrial Fibrillation.” Side effects include tiredness, dizziness, and slow heart rate.
4. Angiotensin Converting Enzyme (ACE) Inhibitors/ Angiotensin Receptor Blocker (ARB)

You may also be started on an ACE Inhibitor (or ARB if you are unable to tolerate an ACE inhibitor). Some commonly prescribed ACE inhibitors/ARBs include:

**ACE Inhibitors**
- Captopril (Capoten®)
- Lisinopril (Prinivil®)
- Ramipril (Altace®)
- Benazepril (Lotensin®)
- Enalapril (Vasotec®)

**ARBs**
- Irbesartan (Avapro®)
- Olmesartan (Benicar®)
- Valsartan (Diovan®)
- Losartan (Cozaar®)
- Candesartan (Atacand®)

These medications relax blood vessels, allowing blood to flow easier and decrease the resistance the heart has to pump against. This decreases how hard the heart has to work. They have also been shown to improve long term survival rates after a heart attack. They may also help reduce your blood pressure. Side effects include dizziness upon standing, cough, and low blood pressure.

5. Statins

There are many Statins available now. Your doctor will choose the appropriate medication for you. Some commonly prescribed Statins include:

- Atorvastatin (Lipitor®)
- Simvastatin (Zocor®)
- Rosuvastatin (Crestor®)

These medications can do a variety of things. They reduce inflammation and stabilize vessels in your heart that have been injured from your heart attack. They may reduce your cholesterol, decrease your LDLs (the “bad guys”) and increase your HDLs (the “good guys”). Your doctor may have to adjust your dose and check your blood periodically to make sure your liver is not being affected. Be sure to report any severe muscle achingness to your doctor. You also need to avoid grapefruit juice while taking these medications. Some of these medications need to be taken at night. Be sure to discuss this with your pharmacist.

**Most importantly, take your medications as prescribed by your doctor and be sure to ask questions if you don’t understand how to take them!**
The first two weeks... What do I need to know?
Site care
Your catheterization could be performed through a radial/wrist puncture site or a femoral/groin puncture site.
• You may shower the day after the procedure, however no soaking the site
• Do not flex or bend the wrist for 24 hours
• No heavy lifting, pushing, or pulling greater than 10 pounds for 1 week
• You may not drive or operate heavy machinery for 24 hours following the procedure
• You may notice bruising at the site, but it should be painless
• Seek medical attention if you experience any of the following:
  - Redness, warmth, swelling, or pain at the puncture site
  - Drainage
  - Fever or chills persistent for greater than 72 hours
  - Your limb becomes painful, cool to touch, or pale
  - If you start bleeding at the site, apply pressure

Activity restrictions
• No strenuous exercise for 2 weeks following a heart attack
The first two weeks... What do I need to know?

Intimacy
• You can usually return to your normal sexual activity after you have seen your doctor 1-2 weeks after discharge, and if you do not have chest pain, shortness of breath, or heart rhythm problems. Talk to your health care provider.

Here are some tips to help you return to sexual activity:
• Use a position of comfort and one that does not restrict your breathing
• Stop and rest if you have chest pain or symptoms of angina. If you have been prescribed a medicine such as nitroglycerin for chest pain, take the medicine. If your pain does not stop in a few minutes, see emergency care.
• DO NOT take nitroglycerin within 24 hours of taking medications such as Viagra, Levitra, or Cialis. This combination can cause your blood pressure to fall and make you faint! If your angina does not go away with rest, you feel dizzy, or like you might faint, call 911.

Alcohol
• Moderation is recommended

Work restrictions
• Check with your health care provider. Usually they recommend taking a week off work following a heart attack.

Smoking
If you smoke or use nicotine, you are strongly encouraged to stop to improve your health. If you need help quitting, talk with your health care provider or call Billings Clinic Healthline at 255-8400 or 1-800-252-1246.

Diet
• The ACC recommends following a Mediterranean diet

Benefits of the Mediterranean diet
Research has shown that the traditional Mediterranean diet reduces the risk of heart disease. In fact, an analysis of more than 1.5 million healthy adults demonstrated that following a Mediterranean diet was associated with a reduced risk of death from heart disease and cancer, as well as a reduced incidence of Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s diseases.

The Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommends the Mediterranean diet as an eating plan that can help promote health and prevent disease. And the Mediterranean diet is one your whole family can follow for good health.
The Mediterranean diet emphasizes:

- Eating primarily plant-based foods, such as fruits and vegetables, whole grains, legumes and nuts
- Replacing butter with healthy fats, such as olive oil
- Using herbs and spices instead of salt to flavor foods
- Limiting red meat to no more than a few times a month
- Eating fish and poultry at least twice a week
- Drinking red wine in moderation (optional)

The diet also recognizes the importance of being physically active, and enjoying meals with family and friends.
Focus on fruits, vegetables, nuts, and grains
The Mediterranean diet traditionally includes fruits, vegetables and grains. For example, residents of Greece average six or more servings a day of antioxidant-rich fruits and vegetables.

Grains in the Mediterranean region are typically whole grain and usually contain very few unhealthy trans fats, and bread is an important part of the diet. However, throughout the Mediterranean region, bread is eaten plain or dipped in olive oil – not eaten with butter or margarine, which contains saturated or trans fats.

Nuts are another part of a healthy Mediterranean diet. Nuts are high in fat, but most of the fat is healthy. Because nuts are high in calories, they should not be eaten in large amounts – generally no more than a handful a day. For the best nutrition, avoid candied or honey-roasted and heavily salted nuts.

The AHA offers these healthy tips for diet
• Use up at least as many calories as you take in
• Eat a variety of nutritious foods from all the food groups
• An overall healthy diet includes a variety of fruits and veggies, whole grains, low-fat dairy, poultry and fish, and nuts and legumes
The first two weeks... What do I need to know?

Encouraging healthy lifestyles for cardiovascular health

Hunters: How does your game measure up to traditional beef?

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Source: M.J. Marchalle, North Dakota State University Dept. of Animal Science, Morris G. Mart, Food Science Corner 12 (3), 4, 1988, (Results of research conducted at North Dakota State University)

Billings Clinic - reviewed 9/2009 Kristine Kilen, RD, CDE
What’s next?
Cardiovascular rehabilitation

Your next step in a successful recovery!
If you recently survived a heart attack, had heart surgery (bypass or valve), have recently undergone placement of a stent or angioplasty, or have been diagnosed with heart failure, it’s essential to enroll in Outpatient Cardiovascular Rehab.
Your physician has strongly recommended an appointment soon after your procedure.

Why is Cardiac Rehab important?
• Rehab can stabilize, slow or even reverse the progression of heart disease
• Improves strength and endurance
• speeds up the recovery process
• Enables quicker return to work and recreational activities
• Reduces cardiovascular risk factors such as: lowers cholesterol, promotes weight loss, decreases blood pressure, improves blood sugar control, supports smoking cessation, reduces stress, and helps manage depression
• Promotes wellness through lifestyle changes that are essential for prevention of future heart-related events

What is Cardiac Rehab & what can I expect?
• Customized exercise program designed specifically for you to strengthen your heart
• The program is supervised by a team of nurses, exercise physiologists, respiratory therapists, and physicians
• Heart health education provided by a team of nurses, exercise physiologists, dietitians, and counselors
• Any health concerns will be reported to your physician
• Meets 2-4 days per week. Both the exercise and education classes last approximately an hour

What is the cost?
• Insurance coverage varies and will need to be addressed on an individual basis
• Common diagnoses that insurance (and Medicare) typically cover include: heart attack, open-heart surgery, angioplasty and/or stenting, stable angina, and heart failure

How to get started?
Please call (406) 247-6431 to schedule your cardiac rehab appointment.
Stress reduction tips

Stress can elevate your blood pressure and heart rate which can increase your risks of a heart attack.

Here are some tips to help reduce stress:

• Get at least 6-8 hours sleep every day
• Enjoy simple things every day
• Take a walk
• Read a good book or watch your favorite movie
• Visit with friends
• Exercise every day
• Learn to do some deep Belly Breathing:
  - Think that your belly is a big balloon and you are slowly filling it with air
  - Place your hands on your belly while you slowly breathe in and out
  - Focus on your belly while you continue to breathe slowly and deeply
  - Relaxation is the calm and peaceful feeling you get from Belly Breathing
  - Think about positive things when you do Belly Breathing
• Take a few minutes to relax each day
• Think about the good things in your life:
  - Think about someone you love
  - Think about a place you love to visit
  - Think about a nice thing that someone did for you
• Laugh more!
Risk factors that you can control

**Obesity**

Obesity can be a big risk factor for a heart attack, especially if you carry your weight around your waist. This is referred to as being "Apple-shaped" or "Pear-shaped." It refers to where you carry the majority of your weight. Having abdominal obesity or being an "Apple" can increase your risk of diabetes and heart disease.

To find out if you have abdominal obesity, measure your waist straight around your middle and just above your belly button.

**You have abdominal obesity if your waist is**

- 35 inches or more for women
- 40 inches or more for men

**BMI**

You should try to get your BMI less than 25. (BMI = Body Mass Index)

- Normal BMI is 18.5-24.9
- Overweight is 25-29.9
- Obese Class 1 is 30-34.9
- Obese Class II is 35-39.9
- Obese Class III is >= 40

To calculate your BMI = weight (lbs) x 703 / height (in) x height (in)

For example: if you are 57 inches tall and 170 pounds, your BMI is:

$$170 \text{ lbs} \times \frac{703}{57 \text{ in}} \times \frac{57 \text{ in}}{57 \text{ in}} = 36.7$$

which means you are classified as **OBESE Class II**.

Time to start thinking about exercising and losing weight, as risks of heart disease and diabetes are elevated.
Risk factors that you can control

Diabetes
Elevated blood sugars can lead to a build up of cholesterol in your arteries as well as cause damage to many of your vital organs like your kidneys, heart, and eyes. Keep your sugars within normal range by losing weight, exercising and controlling your diet. There are many medications used to help keep your blood sugars within range.

High blood pressure (normal is less than 120-80mmHg.)
You can lower your blood pressure by exercising, losing weight, or by taking medications.

High cholesterol
High cholesterol or “Fats” can clog your arteries and cause a heart attack. You can lower your cholesterol by watching the amount of fat you eat in your diet, exercising every day, and by taking medications called “Statins.” Statins can lower you LDLs (bad guys), increase your HDLs (good guys) and reduce inflammation in your vessels.

Inactivity
Try to do 30 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic (brisk walking, water aerobics, doubles tennis, general gardening, or a slow bike ride) at least 5 days a week or 25 minutes of vigorous-intensity activity (race walking, jogging or running, lap swimming, aerobic dancing, jumping rope, hiking, and singles tennis) at least 3 days a week. This does not need to be done all at one time. If you have not been active, you may need start with exercising for shorter times, and then work on increasing this to the recommended amount.
What’s next? 5

Just remember...

Early Heart Attack Care

What is EHAC or Early Heart Attack Care?

• 85% of heart damage occurs within the first 2 hours of a heart attack
• EHAC is knowing the subtle danger signs of a heart attack and acting upon them immediately – BEFORE HEART DAMAGE OCCURS
• Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women in the US
• Every 25 seconds, an American will have a coronary event; every minute, someone will die from one

Know the signs of a heart attack

So what are the early symptoms of a heart attack?

Remember, people may or may not experience any or all of these symptoms.
Numbers I need to know
Numbers I need to know

Important phone numbers

**Billings Clinic Department of Cardiology:**
- Scheduling: (406) 238-2000, ext. 1445
- Nurses Line: (406) 238-2040
- Healthline: (406) 255-8400 or 1-800-252-1246

**Billings Clinic Cardiac Rehabilitation:**
(406) 247-6431

**Other information numbers:**
- Pastoral Care Department: (406) 238-2500
- Care Management Department: (406) 238-2500
- Patient Financial Services Department: (406) 238-2500
- Medication Assistance Program: (406) 238-5896

**Montana Quit Line:**
1-800-784-8669 or tobacofree.mt.gov

**Wyoming Quit Line:**
1-866-996-7848 or wy.quitnet.com

**Telemedicine Sites Montana**
- Baker: Fallon Medical Center, Tammy (406) 778-5109
- Culbertson: Roosevelt Medical Center, Vickie (406) 787-6401
- Forsyth: Rosebud Health care Center, Andrea (406) 346-4227
- Glasgow: Frances Mahon Deaconess Hospital, Julie (406) 228-3626
- Glendive: Glendive Medical Center, Lori (406) 345-3345
- Hardin: Big Horn Hospital, Vera (406) 665-9616

- Helena: St. Peter’s Hospital, Kathy (406) 447-2840
- Miles City: Billings Clinic Miles City, Kirstin (406) 233-7039
- Plentywood: Sheridan Memorial Hospital, Connie (406) 765-3709
- Poplar: Northeast MT Health Services, Robin (406) 653-6549
- Terry: Prairie County Clinic, Jessica (406) 635-5863
- Wolfpoint: Trinity Hospital, Robin (406) 653-6549

**Wyoming**
- Cody: Billings Clinic Cody, Dian (307) 527-7561, ext. 1947

**Cardiology Outreach Clinics**
- **Big Timber:** Outreach Clinic every other month
- **Cody:** Outreach Clinic three times a month; Device Clinic every other month
- **Colstrip:** Telemedicine Clinic once a month
- **Columbus:** Outreach Clinic once a month
- **Glasgow:** Outreach Clinic once a month; Telemedicine Clinic once a month; Device Clinic every other month
- **Glendive:** Outreach Clinic once a month
- **Lewistown:** Outreach Clinic every other month; Electrophysiology Outreach Clinic every other month
- **Livingston:** Outreach Clinic three times a month
- **Lovell:** Outreach Clinic once a month; Telemedicine Clinic once a month
- **Malta:** Telemedicine Clinic once a month
- **Miles City:** Outreach Clinic four times a month; Device Clinic once a month
- **Plentywood:** Telemedicine Clinic once a month
- **Red Lodge:** Outreach Clinic once a month
- **Sheridan:** Electrophysiology Outreach Clinic every other month
# Numbers I need to know

## Cardiac Rehab

### Montana

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<th>Town</th>
<th>Phone Number (406)</th>
<th>Staff Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Billings</td>
<td>247-6431</td>
<td>Erika S, Deb W, Casey H, Jake N</td>
<td><a href="mailto:awishman@bdh-boz.com">awishman@bdh-boz.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bozeman</td>
<td>585-5040</td>
<td>Ashley Wishman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:karenbennett@sjih-mt.org">karenbennett@sjih-mt.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butte</td>
<td>723-2560</td>
<td>Karen Bennett &amp; Dawn Pickett</td>
<td><a href="mailto:karenbennett@sjih-mt.org">karenbennett@sjih-mt.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Columbus</td>
<td>322-1071</td>
<td>Julie Bruursema</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jbruursema@stillwaterbillingsclinic.org">jbruursema@stillwaterbillingsclinic.org</a></td>
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<td>Conrad</td>
<td>271-3211</td>
<td>Cathy Jones</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dillon</td>
<td>683-3170</td>
<td>Deanna Nelson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dnelson@barrettinhospital.org">dnelson@barrettinhospital.org</a></td>
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<td>Glasgow</td>
<td>1-800-322-3634 ext. 3310</td>
<td>Bev Falcon</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bevfalcon@fmdh.org">bevfalcon@fmdh.org</a></td>
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<td>Glendive</td>
<td>345-3209</td>
<td>Penny Maher</td>
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<td>Great Falls</td>
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<td>Pam Crisp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Havre</td>
<td>262-1185</td>
<td>Corey Labrie</td>
<td><a href="mailto:colabrie@yahoo.com">colabrie@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helena</td>
<td>447-2622</td>
<td>Kristene Palmer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kpalmcr@stpetes.org">kpalmcr@stpetes.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helena-VA</td>
<td>647-7708</td>
<td>P. Jim Lund</td>
<td><a href="mailto:paul.lund@ava.gov">paul.lund@ava.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalispell</td>
<td>751-4504</td>
<td>Cathy Lisowski</td>
<td><a href="mailto:clisowski@krmc.org">clisowski@krmc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewistown</td>
<td>535-6209</td>
<td>Debbie Lee</td>
<td><a href="mailto:debbyleen@msn.com">debbyleen@msn.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libby</td>
<td>283-7279</td>
<td>Ruth Fenn</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ruth.fenn@sjih.com">ruth.fenn@sjih.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livingston</td>
<td>823-6459</td>
<td>Christine Usher</td>
<td><a href="mailto:christine.usher@livingstonhealthcare.org">christine.usher@livingstonhealthcare.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miles City</td>
<td>233-2635</td>
<td>Diane Molstad</td>
<td><a href="mailto:diane.molstad@hr-mt.org">diane.molstad@hr-mt.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missoula (St. Pats)</td>
<td>329-5824</td>
<td>Susi Mathis</td>
<td><a href="mailto:smathis@stpatrick.org">smathis@stpatrick.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missoula (Community)</td>
<td>728-4100 ext. 7560</td>
<td>Julie Bauer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jbaier@communitymed.org">jbaier@communitymed.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polson</td>
<td>883-8478 or 883-2377</td>
<td>Lisa Bertoglio</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lbertoglio@saintjoes.org">lbertoglio@saintjoes.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Lodge</td>
<td>446-0627</td>
<td>Heidi Hunsperger</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hhunsperger@beartoothbillingsclinic.org">hhunsperger@beartoothbillingsclinic.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronan</td>
<td>676-4441 ext. 230</td>
<td>Lydia Walton</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lwilton@stlc.org">lwilton@stlc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sidney</td>
<td>488-2124</td>
<td>Brandi Franck</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brandifranck@sidneyhealth.org">brandifranck@sidneyhealth.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitefish</td>
<td>862-2515 ext. 153</td>
<td>Cathy Relf</td>
<td></td>
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### Wyoming

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Phone Number (307)</th>
<th>Staff Name</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buffalo</td>
<td>684-6320</td>
<td>Karen Sullivan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:karens@cheethercare.com">karens@cheethercare.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casper</td>
<td>577-2240</td>
<td>Denise Lusk</td>
<td>Fax (307) 577-2968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cody</td>
<td>578-2286</td>
<td>Linda Mendl-Kalb</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lmendlkalb@wph.cody.org">lmendlkalb@wph.cody.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gillette</td>
<td>688-2330</td>
<td>Kelly Tyrone</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lander</td>
<td>332-4420 or 335-6391</td>
<td>Rita Peterson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lovell</td>
<td>548-5268</td>
<td>Melanie Schmitt</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mschmitt@jnibh.com">mschmitt@jnibh.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powell</td>
<td>754-1227 or 754-1228</td>
<td>Dianna Gersuch</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dgersuch@pvhc.org">dgersuch@pvhc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheridan</td>
<td>672-1062</td>
<td>Jenny Clemens, Rhonda, Thelma</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jenny.clemens@sheridanhospital.org">jenny.clemens@sheridanhospital.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thermopolis</td>
<td>864-5083</td>
<td>Bree</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woteland</td>
<td>347-5755</td>
<td>Robyn Jones</td>
<td><a href="mailto:robyn.jones@bannerhealth.com">robyn.jones@bannerhealth.com</a></td>
</tr>
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### North Dakota

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Phone Number (701)</th>
<th>Staff Name</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Williston</td>
<td>774-7400 or 1-800-544-3579</td>
<td>Gloria Fenster (Mercy Medical Ctr)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Release of Information: Billings Clinic 238-2589 · fax: 248-2677 | Billings Clinic Hospital 657-4348 | Cardiology fax: 238-2066*
My questions and notes
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References

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6. www.cardiosmart.org/~/media/Infographics/2015/Heart-Attack.ashx
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