



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### CHA Hosts “Smart Moves” Forum Aging and Obesity Challenge Healthcare Workers

Wallingford, CT – Promoting a healthy workplace for nurses and other healthcare workers is the focus of a forum on safe patient handling being hosted by the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) on Tuesday, February 24. Experts in safe patient handling will address challenges related to aging and obesity in both the healthcare worker and patient populations.

Dr. Michael Silverstein, MD, MPH, Clinical Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health, University of Washington School of Public Health, will deliver the keynote address. Dr. Silverstein will speak on “Age and Obesity at Work”, offering a unique perspective developed through many years specializing in occupational health and safety with the Washington State Department of Health and the United Automobile Workers Union, and through the practice of family and occupational medicine in Michigan and California.

Dr. Silverstein will also present a workshop on “Action Planning for an Age Friendly/Weight Aware Workplace”, one of several informative sessions planned for the event.

The forum is presented by “Smart Moves”, a statewide initiative on safe patient handling that aims to improve the health and safety of nurses and other healthcare workers, increase patient safety, and reduce healthcare costs. Initiative partners include CHA, the Connecticut Nurses Association, the Connecticut Association of Not-for-Profit Providers for the Aging, the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities, and the Connecticut Association for Home Care and Hospice.

Elizabeth Beaudin, RN, Ph.D., CHA’s Director of Nursing and Workforce Initiatives, commented, “Safe patient handling programs are a critical component in the provision of healthy work environments for nurses and other healthcare staff. Aging and obesity of the workforce and patients presents challenges that must be addressed to ensure the health and safety of patients and employees. This forum will look at new considerations, approaches, and technology that will be helpful to practitioners and healthcare organizations in achieving this goal.”

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The Connecticut Hospital Association has been dedicated to serving Connecticut's hospitals since 1919. Through state and federal advocacy, CHA represents the interests of Connecticut's not-for-profit hospitals on key healthcare issues in the areas of quality and patient safety, access and coverage, workforce, public health, and hospital reimbursement.