



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 17, 2009

Contact: Leslie Gianelli  
(203) 294-7213, [Gianelli@chime.org](mailto:Gianelli@chime.org)

## **Connecticut Hospital Association Launches Patient Safety Initiative To Reduce Deadly Infections**

### **Connecticut Joins National Program Led by Renowned Johns Hopkins Professor**

Wallingford, CT – This week, the Connecticut Hospital Association launched a patient safety initiative aimed at eliminating central line-associated blood stream infections (CLABSI). CLABSIs are infections that are associated with the presence of a central line (central venous catheter); most patients admitted to a hospital intensive care unit (ICU) undergo intravenous catheterization. As many as 500,000 CLABSIs occur in U.S. hospitals each year, often resulting in longer, more costly hospital stays and greater risk of mortality.

Connecticut hospital ICU teams have joined the national “Stop BSI” program, led by Peter Pronovost, MD, of The Johns Hopkins University Quality and Safety Research Group. Pronovost, an international patient safety leader, received a 2008 MacArthur Foundation Award for setting new standards of healthcare performance.

The widely heralded Johns Hopkins patient safety initiative will eventually be implemented throughout the United States and abroad. When the program was run at 77 hospitals in Michigan for 18 months, infection rates dropped by 66 percent, saving more than \$200 million and an estimated 2,000 lives. Pronovost expects to see similar results nationwide.

In a day-long session led by Dr. Pronovost in Connecticut, hospital teams worked interactively to share and report on their project plans, and discuss barriers to project success. Pronovost stressed the importance of aiming at a target and executing the project, advising the teams to adopt the “aim and execute” mission. Pronovost and his team will continue to work with Connecticut hospitals for the duration of the program.

“Joining the national Stop BSI initiative and having the opportunity to work with Dr. Pronovost will lead to important patient safety advances in Connecticut,” commented Dr. Brian Fillipo, CHA’s Vice President for Quality and Patient Safety. “Lives will be saved as a result of this program.”

###

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.