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## **Connecticut Hospitals Exceed National Standards On Important Patient Care Quality Indicators**

Wallingford, CT – Data compiled by the [Connecticut Hospital Association](#) (CHA) show that hospitals in the state are performing above national standards in several important areas related to quality of care, including processes related to surgical care and conditions such as heart failure and heart attack.

Connecticut hospitals have a long-standing commitment to measuring and publicly reporting hospital quality and safety information. Connecticut was the first state in the nation to have 100 percent of its hospitals voluntarily reporting quality data to the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). In addition, Connecticut's hospitals, through CHA, were among the first in the country to develop a [quality performance reporting system](#) that provides information directly to patients and consumers.

Connecticut hospital quality data are available on the CMS [Hospital Compare](#) website. This site displays measures collected from hospitals four times per year and is an important resource for consumers seeking quality information about hospitals.

As reported by Hospital Compare for patient discharges between January and December 2008, hospitals in Connecticut exceeded national Surgical Care Improvement Process (SCIP) measures in six of seven key areas, such as the percentage of surgical patients given antibiotics within one hour of surgery, the percentage of patients given the right antibiotic, and the percentage of patients whose physicians ordered blood clot prevention.

For heart attack, Connecticut hospitals performed better than hospitals nationally in five of seven areas, including the percentage of patients given aspirin at arrival or discharge, and the percentage of heart attack patients given smoking cessation counseling. In the area of heart failure, hospitals in the state bested national standards on all measures, including the percentage of patients given discharge instructions and those receiving smoking cessation counseling.

For pneumonia, hospitals here equaled or exceeded national levels in six of seven indicators, and for children's asthma care, for the two children's hospitals in the state, the three key measures were equaled or exceeded.

“Providing the safest, highest quality care is the top priority for hospitals in Connecticut. Through data collection and careful analysis, we identify the areas where we can improve and bring our hospitals together in a mutual quest to excel on behalf of our patients,” commented Jennifer Jackson, CEO of the Connecticut Hospital Association. “While Connecticut hospitals routinely exceed national quality standards, we are determined to continually improve and provide the best possible care for all patients.”

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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.