



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 12, 2010

Contact: Leslie Gianelli  
203.294.7213  
[Gianelli@chime.org](mailto:Gianelli@chime.org)

**Patient Safety Summit Examines  
Hospital Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Topics**

Wallingford, CT – Quality and patient safety were at the top of the agenda when the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA), Qualidigm, and the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives presented the 2010 Patient Safety Summit today at CHA.

Karen Frush, BSN, MD, Chief Patient Safety Officer of the Duke University Health System, discussed Duke’s enhanced patient safety efforts implemented following a devastating transplant mismatch that resulted in the death of 17-year-old Jesica Santillan in 2003. Dr. Frush provided a comprehensive overview of Duke’s patient safety policies and procedures, stressing the need to protect patients through teamwork and communication at all levels of the hospital.

Timothy Vogus, PhD, Assistant Professor of Management at the Vanderbilt Owen Graduate School, addressed error prevention in high reliability organizations. High-reliability organizations, such as air traffic control centers, operate complex technologies in unforgiving environments, and can offer insights on eliminating errors in healthcare facilities.

Julie Ginn Moretz, Director of Special Projects, Institute for Family-Centered Care, described the impact that hospital system policies and practices have on patients and families, as well as how partnering with patients and families can improve outcomes in quality and safety.

David Classen, MD, MS, Chief Medical Officer, Computer Sciences Corporation, Falls Church, Virginia, discussed evaluating the impact of patient safety initiatives and methods used to monitor the occurrence of patient safety adverse events in hospitals. Dr. Classen focused on the use of “trigger tools” for the detection of adverse events and how organizations have automated these tools within Electronic Health Record Systems.

“CHA’s annual Patient Safety Summit brings together the leading authorities, from Connecticut and nationally, to address key topics in improving care and safety for all patients in our hospitals,” commented Alison Hong, MD, Interim Vice President, Quality and Patient Safety, CHA. “The complexities involved in healthcare today demand that we remain vigilant and

continually educate ourselves as clinicians about the best practices and methods in delivering the safe and excellent care our patients deserve.”

###

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.