



Thursday,
November 17, 2011

Connecticut Hospitals Launch Participation in the National Stop CAUTI Project

This Monday, November 14, Connecticut hospitals began their participation in the third cohort of the national patient safety program, “On the CUSP: Stop CAUTI.” The program is aimed at reducing one of the most prevalent hospital-associated infections — catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI) — by standardizing the use, maintenance, and removal of urinary catheters, and implementing the Comprehensive Unit-based Safety Program (CUSP). Developed at Johns Hopkins Hospital by Peter Pronovost, MD, CUSP has transformed care in hospitals throughout the country by improving the safety culture and practices on the participating units.

During the full-day learning session, participants heard about prevention strategies from Mohamad Fakh, MD, MPH, Associate Professor of Medicine, Wayne State University School of Medicine, and St. John Hospital and Medical Center in Detroit, MI; measuring success through data, measures, collection, and submission from Chris George, MS, BSN, RN, MHA Keystone Center for Patient Safety & Quality; the technical and socio-adaptive aspects of preventing CAUTI from Sanjay Saint, MD, MPH, Professor of Medicine, Ann Arbor VA Medical Center and University of Michigan Medical School; and an overview of CUSP by Lisa Lubomski, PhD, Armstrong Center for Patient Safety & Quality at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

The CAUTI project is open to all CHA PSO participating hospitals at no charge. Adult and pediatric inpatient units are eligible to participate. For more information, please contact Alison Hong, MD at hong@chime.org.

CHA Tells Connecticut Hospital Story Around the State

During the past month, Stephen Frayne, CHA Senior Vice President for Health Policy, has been discussing the implications of health reform and the current financial landscape for Connecticut hospitals with a variety of groups and organizations across the state. In a November 3 [presentation](#) before the Connecticut Business and Industry Association, Mr. Frayne discussed the impact of reform on sources of insurance and hospital finance. He pointed out that while Connecticut businesses have done an excellent job providing employees with health insurance – with roughly 61% of those with health insurance obtaining it from their employers – the poor economy and loss of private sector jobs has resulted in more individuals losing access to employer-sponsored insurance and instead relying on government-subsidized plans. This movement towards Medicaid is a particular problem because government traditionally underfunds this program.

In both this and a [presentation](#) with graduate students at Western Connecticut State University, Mr. Frayne discussed the effect of the recession on hospitals’ care delivery and finance. With Connecticut hospitals currently operating at a margin 25% lower than other New England states and 40% lower than the national average, Mr. Frayne described the “delicate balancing act” hospitals must perform to both provide adequate services and stay financially solvent. This is particularly challenging since the population is growing and aging and the demand for services continues to rise.

In other presentations before Connecticut hospital executives, Mr. Frayne has highlighted the key elements of the [Medicare Value-Based Purchasing \(VBP\) Program](#) and the [health reform readmission rate policy](#).

State Representative Timothy O’Brien Resigns — Special Election To Be Held

On November 16, State Representative Timothy O’Brien was sworn in as Mayor of the city of New Britain. The day before, he had submitted his resignation as member of the General Assembly. Because of the now-open seat, Governor Dannel P. Malloy must issue a Writ of Special Election within 15 days and the special election must be held within 46 days of the issuance of the writ.

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This will be the second special election in less than a year for some New Britain voters, after former state Senator Donald DeFronzo vacated his seat to take a job with the Malloy Administration as the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services. The 24th district General Assembly seat being vacated by O'Brien covers the city of New Britain and part of Newington.

U.S. Supreme Court to Hear PPACA Case

The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to review a case brought by Florida and 25 other states challenging the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA). In the case, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled the PPACA's individual mandate unconstitutional, but said the provision could be severed from the rest of the law, which should be left intact. The Supreme Court will review the individual mandate and its severability, as well as the PPACA's Medicaid expansion and whether the Anti-Injunction Act bars federal lawsuits against the individual mandate before the provision takes effect. The Supreme Court is expected to hear arguments during March.

Education Updates

Getting to the Heart of Conflict—Skills for Healthy Conflict Management Monday, November 21, 2011, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

It is clear to almost everyone that conflict is inevitable in life — in our personal lives as well as in the workplace. Different personalities, different work styles, cultural/ethnic norms, and differences in generational mix, all lead to an endless possibility of conflict surfacing at work.

What is not so clear, is the role conflict plays in the process of change and effective team problem solving — both major factors in improving organization performance. How can we recognize and manage the sources and trigger points of conflict? When is conflict healthy — what makes it destructive? How can we reduce or defuse unnecessary conflict? What are the various styles of dealing with conflict, and the risks and benefits of each approach?

Sarah Campbell Arnett, MA, NCC, BC-DMT, will present this full-day, highly interactive program, frequently requested by supervisors and managers attending prior management development programs. Ms. Arnett, a Certified Coach, has worked in healthcare for almost 25 years. She is certified as a corporate coach through CoachU. Ms. Arnett is a colleague of Joan Evans, who has also taught this program, and currently works as an Organizational Specialist at Cone Health in Greensboro, North Carolina. She facilitates executive leadership training and coaching for teams and individuals, and specializes in team development and conflict resolution.

Connecticut Hospital Association is an Approved Provider of Continuing Nursing Education by the Connecticut Nurses' Association, an Accredited Approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. Additionally, this program is approved for 5.0 Category II continuing education credit from the American College of Healthcare Executives and 5.25 CPHQ CE credits from the National Association for Healthcare Quality.

For more information, click [here](#). To register, click [here](#).

CHA Nurse Preceptorship Program, Tuesday, November 22, 8:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Supporting and strengthening the work of nurse preceptors is critical to the development of new nurses and retention of the highly skilled staff registered nurses who teach them at the bedside. The curriculum for the CHA *Nurse Preceptorship Program* was developed by a team of educators from hospitals and schools of nursing and is designed to provide core content that is foundational for the role of nurse preceptor. This one-day program includes presentations and interactive sessions that cover topics such as roles and responsibilities, characteristics of a professional role model, basics of teaching and learning, tools and strategies for effective communication, principles of constructive feedback delivery, evaluating competence, delegating effectively, and more. Faculty for the program include: Janice Costello, RN, Chairperson, Department of Nursing, Goodwin College; Anna McGuirk, RN, Clinical Educator and Consultant; and Justin Sleeper, RN, Clinical Director of Inpatient Psychiatry, The William W. Backus Hospital.

Connecticut Hospital Association is an Approved Provider of Continuing Nursing Education by the Connecticut Nurses' Association, an Accredited Approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation (6.0 contact hours).

For more information, click [here](#). To register, click [here](#).

2012 Joint Commission Standards and National Patient Safety Goals Updates
Thursday, December 1, 2011, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

National expert Diana Scott will present a full-day program outlining the 2012 Joint Commission Standards, specific changes in the standards, and National Patient Safety Goals. She will highlight specific challenges in the goals, and discuss strategies and best practices to address them. In addition, Mark Crafton, Executive Director of State and External Relations at The Joint Commission (TJC) will discuss a number of enhancements to the accreditation process, including modifications to the tracer methodology and the periodic performance review that TJC will be piloting or implementing in 2012.

Connecticut Hospital Association is an Approved Provider of Continuing Nursing Education by the Connecticut Nurses' Association, an Accredited Approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation (6.5 contact hours). This activity is approved for 6.5 CPHQ CE credits from the National Association for Healthcare Quality, and 6.5 hours of Category II continuing education credit from the American College of Healthcare Executive. The John D. Thompson Hospice Institute for Education, Training and Research, Inc. designates this educational activity for a maximum of 6.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ for physicians.

For more information, click [here](#). To register, click [here](#).

HIPAA Privacy Basics: A Bridge to New Rules of the Road, Tuesday, December 13, 2011, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

HIPAA Privacy rules changes outlined in the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH) are expected soon, and there will be *very limited time* to comply with what promises to be a difficult operational shift for HIPAA compliance. Covered entities and business associates need to ensure that their *existing* HIPAA operations and platforms are fully functioning, and all policies and procedures are already up-to-date; otherwise the goal of managing the HITECH changes by the compliance dates will be extremely difficult to achieve. For more information, click [here](#). To register, click [here](#).