



Thursday,
February 2, 2012

General Assembly to Convene for the 2012 Legislative Session

The General Assembly will convene on Wednesday, February 8, for the opening of the 2012 Regular Session. Ceremonial in nature, the day will consist of the seating of members, the affirmation of legislative committee leadership, and a budget address given by Governor Dannel Malloy. Governor Malloy is expected to reveal budget and legislative initiatives including:

- Various budget modifications to keep the FY 2013 spending plan balanced;
- Increased spending to bolster affordable and supportive housing across the state;
- PreK-12 education reform;
- Increasing contributions to the state employee pension system;
- Updating the laws governing the wholesale and retail sales of alcoholic beverages;
- The state's response to the Report of the Two Storm Panel; and
- State agency [consolidations](#).

After the meeting, the budget will be referred to the General Assembly's Appropriations Committee for review and action. The Appropriations Committee is scheduled to hold a series of public hearings on the Governor's budget proposal during the two weeks following opening day. Legislative proposals will be sent to the committees of cognizance for further review and action. It is expected that again this year, balancing the budget and proposals to be at the forefront of the legislative session.

A comprehensive overview of Governor Malloy's budget proposal, with items of interest to the hospital and healthcare communities, will be published in next week's edition of *Update*. The 2012 Regular Session adjourns on May 9, 2012.

Pre-Session Legislative Activity

On Monday, January 30, 2012, the state's Bond Commission met to take action on and approve a series of bond requests. Of particular note was the approval of \$290.69 million in bonding for the Jackson Laboratory project, for fiscal years 2012 to 2021. The Jackson Laboratory project, a major construction and life sciences initiative, was proposed by Governor Malloy and passed by the General Assembly during the 2011 Legislative Session.

Also this week, members of the General Assembly's [Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee met](#) to raise concepts and begin to prioritize policy initiatives they wish to be considered for action during the session. All legislative committees will begin meeting in the coming weeks, as the process of raising and drafting bills for consideration gets underway.

Flu Season Peak: CHA to Brief Members on Statewide Mandatory Influenza Vaccination Policy

Flu season is expected to peak in February, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The CDC provides a host of [information](#) about what to expect, as well as a [nationwide incident map](#) for tracking the spread of the flu.

Influenza vaccination for healthcare personnel is an important strategy for keeping patients safe. Yet national flu vaccination rates of healthcare workers remain around 50%.

In concert with key national organizations and CHA hospitals' commitment to patient safety, the CHA Board of Trustees has adopted a statewide policy endorsing mandatory flu vaccinations for hospital personnel. Several Connecticut hospitals have already made flu vaccinations mandatory, requiring all employees regardless of position to be vaccinated unless a valid medical reason contraindicating vaccination exists.

At the February 7th Member Briefing on the CHA Statewide Policy on Mandatory Influenza Vaccination, a multidisciplinary

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panel of representatives from those hospitals will share information about how they developed and implemented their policies. The program, offered exclusively to CHA provider members, will also include ample Q&A and discussion time.

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

Recruitment Continues for the National Partnership for Patients Initiative

Acute care CHA member hospitals may register for the National Partnership for Patients Hospital Engagement Network through Monday, February 6. The goal of the Partnership for Patients initiative is to reduce patient harm caused by a set of nine conditions by 40%, and to reduce readmissions by 20%.

The Partnership for Patients initiative is provided through a partnership between CHA and the Health Research and Educational Trust (HRET), the nonprofit research and educational arm of American Hospital Association. CHA/HRET will provide access to experts to provide a range of quality improvement support activities designed to meet participating hospitals' needs.

The ten clinical areas of focus for Partnership for Patients are:

- Preventing adverse drug events (ADE);
- Preventing catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI);
- Preventing central line-associated blood stream infections (CLABSI);
- Reducing injuries from falls and immobility;
- Preventing obstetrical adverse events by reducing the number of elective inductions prior to 39 weeks gestation;
- Preventing pressure ulcers;
- Preventing surgical site infections;
- Preventing post-surgical venous thromboembolism (VTE);
- Preventing of ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP); and
- Reducing preventable readmissions.

The Partnership for Patients initiative begins in the first quarter of 2012 for an initial two-year period. For more information, please contact Alison Hong, MD, Interim Vice President, Quality and Patient Safety, at hong@chime.org or (203) 294-7266.

Education Updates

Reducing Heart Failure Readmissions Collaborative Learning Session February 10, 2012, 7:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

The sixth learning session of the Reducing Heart Failure Readmissions Collaborative, which began in February of 2010, is one week away. On February 10, 2012, hospital teams and their community partners will share the improvement work they have conducted over the past 24 months, and key lessons learned as participants in the collaborative.

The keynote speaker will be Christine Beechner, RN, vice president of patient and guest relations at Greenwich Hospital. Ms. Beechner will share successful strategies for building a lasting culture of service, measurably improving quality and patient safety, and implementing innovative ideas and concepts utilized by leading healthcare organizations.

[Click here to access the registration form.](#)

Webinar: Assessing Your Vendors for ICD-10 Readiness February 15, 2012, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

With a project as big as the ICD-10 transition, virtually no provider is undertaking the transition without an external partner. And no transition plan is complete without a thorough assessment of the ICD-10 readiness of your current vendors and payers. Choosing the right partner or having an existing partner who may not be ready in time can mean the difference between success and failure. Knowing how to leverage your partnerships will be invaluable to the success of your transition plan.

This session, the final in a four-part series, will focus on asking the right questions and knowing the right facts about your current vendors, and in selecting any new vendors.

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

CHA Nurse Preceptorship Program
February 22, 2012, 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 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 covering 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.

The Nurse Preceptorship Program will provide critical information to new nurse preceptors. The program may also be of interest to experienced RN preceptors who have either not viewed this content or would like to be refreshed on the concepts.

Connecticut Hospital Association-CHA 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](#).