



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
MEDICAL INEFFICIENCY COMMITTEE
Monday, February 8, 2010**

Informational Forum And Public Hearing On The Definition Of "Medical Necessity"

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony to the Medical Inefficiency Committee on the definition of medical necessity.

Connecticut's hospitals are among the finest in the nation. Access to the most skilled professionals, the highest quality of care, and latest technology is expected by all patients in our state, and Connecticut hospitals provide this to patients every day. Caring for all who need it, regardless of their ability to pay, 24 hours per day, seven days per week year-round, hospitals are integral to the quality of life and health in our communities.

For the past several years, the Department of Social Services (DSS) has proposed changing the definition of medical necessity in the Medicaid program to the definition used in the State-Administered General Assistance (SAGA) program. Changing the definition would modify the long-standing requirement under federal Medicaid rules that the treating healthcare provider's judgment on appropriate treatment be given deference by state Medicaid agencies. CHA opposes this change because we believe that narrowing the definition will reduce the services and care provided to Medicaid clients that they need to lead healthy and productive lives.

CHA respectfully urges this Committee, under the authority granted to them in PA 09-7, Sec 107, to advise DSS that any definitional change must not negatively affect the quality of care or access to healthcare providers for those enrolled in the Medicaid program.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

For additional information, contact CHA Government Relations at (203) 294-7310.