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Hospitals Announce New Efforts to Fight Infections

Wallingford, Connecticut, March 3, 2006 --- Fighting infections is key in a three-part patient safety initiative launched by the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) today in recognition of National Patient Safety Awareness Week, March 5-11.

As a result of this new initiative, Connecticut hospitals will be: (1) expanding voluntary public reporting to include two new surgical infection prevention measures; (2) refining and implementing clinical best practices; and (3) expanding efforts in community education.

“Connecticut hospitals have a long history of working together to improve quality and patient safety,” said Jennifer Jackson, President and CEO of the Connecticut Hospital Association. “Although the issue of hospital-acquired infections has gained significant public interest in recent years, in fact hospitals have been involved in infection prevention efforts for decades.”

CHA has been working with hospitals to identify meaningful information to provide to the public about infection prevention efforts, as well as engaging in national efforts to reduce infections, such as the Institute for Healthcare Improvement’s (IHI) 100,000 Lives Campaign. This new initiative will bring in consumers as partners in community education.

“For years, our hospitals have been national leaders in providing hospital performance information to the public and I am particularly committed to CHA’s continued leadership in this area,” said Pat Charmel, Chairman of the CHA Board of Trustees and President and CEO of Griffin Hospital. “Connecticut’s success in quality, safety and performance reporting has been due in part to working closely with federal experts to design national initiatives and effectively utilizing their expertise in developing Connecticut initiatives.”

“As Connecticut’s Quality Improvement Organization, Qualidigm is a strong supporter of CHA’s efforts to reduce surgical complications. As a participant in the national Surgical Care Improvement Project (SCIP), we know that the sharing of best practices and evidence based procedures among the state’s hospitals will lead to meaningful improvements in the safety of surgical care,” said Marcia K. Petrillo, CEO of Qualidigm.

Background:
Connecticut Hospital Leadership in Performance Reporting

- In 2003, Connecticut was the first state in which all hospitals voluntarily agreed to report performance data to the federal agency that oversees hospitals, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
- In 2004, CHA began publicly reporting hospital quality data in order to provide Connecticut residents with access to the most recent hospital performance information, a year before CMS launched its *Hospital Compare* website for consumers.
- CHA originally began by providing data on ten performance measures and has continued to expand the information available on its [website](#) over the past two years. Currently, Connecticut hospitals voluntarily publish quality performance indicators as well as hospitals' compliance with the National Patient Safety Goals adopted by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). Hospitals report this information on a quarterly basis via the CHA website before this information is made available by CMS.
- This infection prevention initiative is an extension of the voluntary reporting initiatives that Connecticut hospitals already have undertaken in their statewide patient safety efforts.
- Connecticut hospitals are committed to public accountability and providing the highest quality of care to patients. Toward this end, hospitals will begin publicly reporting two surgical infection prevention measures endorsed by CMS and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- National experts have determined that these two surgical infection prevention measures will provide meaningful information because: (1) good practices lead to good outcomes; (2) by using the right measures consumers can make “apples-to-apples” comparisons; and (3) these processes are something over which hospitals have control and can measure improvement.

CHA's Hospital Performance Reporting website can be accessed at <http://www.cthosp.org/Quality/HPR.html>.