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**Connecticut Hospital Association Hosts
Landmark Pressure Ulcer Symposium**

Wallingford, CT - The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) today hosted a groundbreaking symposium on pressure ulcers - sometimes called bedsores - for healthcare practitioners from throughout the state. A capacity crowd of more than 300 nurses, doctors, and hospital administrators heard from the nation's leading experts in the field of wound prevention and treatment during the daylong event.

Among the speakers was Barbara Braden, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N., dean of the Graduate School and University College at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. Dr. Braden pioneered the Braden Scale for Predicting Pressure Sore Risk, widely used in the United States and abroad, and one of the tools recommended for use in the Clinical Practice Guidelines on Pressure Ulcers in Adults, promulgated by the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research. In addition to discussing formulating a facility prevention plan using the scale, Dr. Braden addressed the financial impact and legal aspects of a comprehensive prevention plan.

Courtney Lyder, N.D., G.N.P., F.A.A.N., professor of Nursing, Internal Medicine and Geriatrics at the University of Virginia and past President of the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Board, focused on pressure ulcer management for special populations, including bariatric and perioperative patients, as well as patients in critical care and emergency departments. Dr. Lyder has given more than 200 lectures throughout the United States and abroad and has received nearly \$7 million in research and training grants as a principal investigator or co-investigator.

Speaking on the implications of the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel's updated Pressure Ulcer Staging System was Janet Cuddigan, Ph.D., R.N., C.W.C.N., C.C.C.N. Dr. Cuddigan is an assistant professor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. Her groundbreaking research on tissue oxygen levels and capillary blood flow in response to pressure loading is an important contribution to the science of wound care.

The Minnesota SAFE SKIN Initiative was the topic presented by Denise Nix, R.N., M.S., C.W.O.C.N., associate director of the webWOC Nursing Education Program. Developed in 2005, Minnesota's safe skin protocol outlined best practices for pressure ulcer prevention. In 2007, the Minnesota Hospital Association developed a SAFE SKIN call-

to-action, involving nearly 100 hospitals working together to implement pressure ulcer prevention best practices.

Today's symposium also marked the beginning of the Connecticut Healthcare Research and Education Foundation's first-ever Patient Safety Organization Collaborative. The collaborative is an on-going, interdisciplinary venture through which participating hospitals will endeavor to reduce the incidence of pressure ulcers in Connecticut by 50% through joint activities such as regular meetings, educational sessions, a listserv, and website. The Collaborative is being led by Brian Fillipo, M.D., CHA Vice President, Quality and Patient Safety.

Jennifer Jackson, CHA President and CEO, remarked, "The landmark Pressure Ulcer Symposium and initiation of the Pressure Ulcer Collaborative has the promise to dramatically improve the care of patients in hospitals throughout Connecticut. Today is the first step in an important initiative to significantly reduce the prevalence of pressure ulcers and provide greater comfort and safety for patients at risk of developing pressure ulcers."

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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.