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Connecticut Hospitals Announce Smoke-Free Campus Initiative

Attorney General Blumenthal, American Cancer Society join Bristol Hospital for Statewide Launch

Wallingford, CT – Connecticut hospitals today began a two-year campaign to make all hospital campuses completely smoke-free. Consistent with the mission of hospitals, eliminating smoking from hospital campuses will provide a healthier, cleaner, and safer environment for patients, staff, and visitors.

The smoke-free hospital campus initiative is spearheaded by the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA). CHA's 29 acute-care, not-for-profit hospital members have adopted the goal to implement smoke-free campuses by November 2010.

The statewide launch, hosted by Bristol Hospital, featured Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, an advocate for smoking cessation programs in Connecticut, as well as the American Cancer Society, which celebrated its annual Great American Smokeout on November 20. Other participants included Kurt Barwis, President and CEO of Bristol Hospital, Bristol Mayor Art Ward, the Connecticut Hospital Association, and Pfizer, sponsor of the statewide initiative.

Six hospitals in Connecticut, St. Vincent's Medical Center, Eastern Connecticut Health Network (Manchester Memorial Hospital and Rockville General Hospital), Connecticut Children's Medical Center, MidState Medical Center, and The Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, are currently smoke-free campus-wide. Joining this list on November 20 are Bristol Hospital, Griffin Hospital, Lawrence & Memorial Hospital, and Windham Community Memorial Hospital. Other Connecticut hospitals will be phasing in smoke-free campuses throughout the next two years.

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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.