



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 16, 2009

Contact: Leslie Gianelli

203.294.7213

gianelli@chime.org

CHA Receives Federal Patient Safety Organization Designation

Wallingford, CT— The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has confirmed that the application of the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) and its education and research affiliate, the Connecticut Healthcare Research and Education Foundation, to establish a federal Patient Safety Organization (PSO) has been approved by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. CHA's federal PSO designation extends through December 15, 2012.

CHA received designation by the Connecticut Department of Public Health as a state PSO following the passage of enabling legislation in 2004. Through the state PSO, CHA hospitals across the state have participated in various clinical collaboratives and learning communities addressing patient safety issues such as pressure ulcers, drug-resistant infections, and falls with injury, and have participated in extensive education programming focused on improving quality and patient safety. Approval to establish a separate federal PSO is significant, as it allows CHA to access a national healthcare database devoted to sharing patient safety information with common definitions to improve quality and patient safety.

Data available through the federal PSO will help alert Connecticut clinicians to infrequent but serious adverse events ("never" events) occurring elsewhere from which they can learn. Through analyzing federal PSO data, the CHA federal PSO will have the opportunity to alert hospitals to potentially devastating events and share best practices to avoid problems before they occur.

"The federal PSO designation gives CHA a new and significant means of collaborating with healthcare organizations throughout the U.S., enhancing our strong emphasis on quality care and patient safety," commented Brian Fillipo, M.D., Vice President, Quality and Patient Safety, CHA. "Better, safer care for all will result from this important federal designation."

###

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.