



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Connecticut Healthcare Providers Gather to Address Hospital Readmissions For Patients with Heart Failure

Goal of 20 percent reduction in heart failure readmissions by Valentine's Day 2012

Wallingford, CT – CHA, in partnership with Qualidigm, is today launching a statewide collaborative to reduce the incidence of hospital readmission for patients with heart failure. The collaborative – a multi-hospital, multi-disciplinary group committed to making practice changes to improve patient safety – will begin with an educational symposium featuring nationally recognized experts in reducing readmissions and the science of heart failure.

Each year, nearly five million people in the United States experience heart failure, the leading cause of hospitalization and hospital readmission among older Americans. The CHA collaborative will focus on the strong evidence that heart failure readmissions can be significantly reduced, and will help participating hospitals, long-term care facilities, and home health agencies standardize processes to ensure that fewer patients will need to return to the hospital following a heart procedure.

Speakers at the symposium include Jane Brock, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer, Colorado Foundation for Medical Care, Stephen Jencks, MD, MPH, Senior Fellow, Institute for Quality Improvement, and Jason Ryan, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Cardiology Division, University of Connecticut.

Following the day-long collaborative launch, teams from the participating healthcare facilities will begin meeting internally to test different ideas and practices until improvement is seen. On a statewide basis, the teams will participate in collaborative conference calls and share ideas through a Listserv, a project website, and on-site learning sessions.

“The heart failure readmission collaborative is going to make a difference for patients with heart failure in Connecticut,” commented Alison Hong, MD, Interim Vice President, Quality and Patient Safety, CHA. “Our goal is to reduce preventable heart failure-related re-hospitalizations by 20 percent by Valentine’s Day 2012, resulting in a significant improvement in the quality of care for these patients.”

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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.