



**Thursday,
January 5, 2012**

Senator Richard Blumenthal Addresses Drug Shortages in Connecticut

On Wednesday, January 4, Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) announced at a press conference at Hartford Hospital the results of a survey he conducted to explore the extent of drug shortages in the state and devise solutions to help patients and hospitals. He also called for strong remedies to address “price gouging and drug hoarding” practices that result from shortages.

The survey, conducted in 2011, examined the frequency of drug shortages and the effects of shortages on patients and hospital operations. Data provided to Senator Blumenthal’s office from Connecticut hospitals indicated that from 2008 to 2009, the number of drug shortages among hospitals surveyed increased by an average of 49.6%. From 2009 to 2010, this average increased by 76.1%. These statistics are on par with an alarming nationwide trend, as the number of reported drug shortages across the country nearly tripled between 2005 and 2010, according to the White House.

Connecticut has a unique network of hospital pharmacists through CHA’s Pharmacy Director’s Meeting Group and its communication channels, which enables them to work with each other when a hospital experiences a shortage.

Senator Blumenthal’s call for a Government Accountability Office (GAO) investigation into the nationwide drug shortage spike helped prompt an Executive Order by President Obama that formed a task force between the US Department of Justice (DOJ) and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to identify and address any possible market manipulation.

The Connecticut Hospital Association has been supporting Senator Blumenthal’s efforts to address this critical issue and is appreciative of the work he has done. Click [here](#) for a summary of Senator Blumenthal’s survey.

Governor Malloy’s Two Storm Panel to Release Report

Governor Dannel Malloy’s [Two Storm Panel](#) is expected to release a report of its findings on Monday, January 9, 2012. The panel was created to review and assess the state’s preparedness, response, and recovery to Tropical Storm Irene and the October 29, 2011 Nor’easter snowstorm. Connecticut hospitals provided [testimony](#) before the panel in November. It is expected that the Malloy Administration and the General Assembly will consider the panel’s recommendations during the upcoming 2012 Legislative Session.

Also related to the state’s response to the two storms, on January 3, 2012, Governor Malloy released an [action plan](#), created by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), which provides a roadmap for determining how the state can update and improve its “Master Plan” for a more unified response by state and local governments and utility companies during a disaster. The plan specifically calls for improved information-sharing during an emergency between state and local officials, and the state’s utility providers. The plan also urges the creation of clear, specific guidance on the interrelated roles and responsibilities of state and local officials, and the private sector, including utilities, in mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery, particularly in utility disruption events. Three goals outlined in the plan are to:

- Enhance the existing State Response Framework and local plans to create more comprehensive planning that identifies, in detail, multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional response and coordination actions, roles, and responsibilities;
- Improve the quality of communications between local and state governments and utilities during emergencies; and
- Increase utilities’ interface with Connecticut emergency management systems.

CHA will continue to work with the administration and members of the General Assembly during the 2012 Legislative Session to ensure hospitals are well positioned to meet the healthcare and community needs during both manmade and natural disasters and events.

In This Issue:

Senator Richard Blumenthal Addresses Drug Shortages in Connecticut

Governor Malloy’s Two Storm Panel to Release Report

NLRB Postpones Effective Date of Rights Posting Rule to April 30, 2012

On the CUSP: Stop HAI Project Hosts Special Call for All Teams

Education Updates

NLRB Postpones Effective Date of Rights Posting Rule to April 30, 2012

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has agreed to postpone the effective date of its employee rights notice-posting rule at the request of a federal court in Washington, DC hearing a legal challenge regarding the rule. This rule requires most private sector employers, including hospitals, to post an 11-by-17-inch notice that informs employees of their rights under the National Labor Relations Act. Amid legal challenges to the Board's authority to issue the regulation, the Board first postponed the original effective date of November 14, 2011 to January 31, 2012. On December 23, 2011, the Board further postponed the effective date to April 30, 2012, stating that "postponing the effective date of the rule would facilitate the resolution of the legal challenges that have been filed with respect to the rule."

On the CUSP: Stop HAI Project Hosts Special Call for All Teams

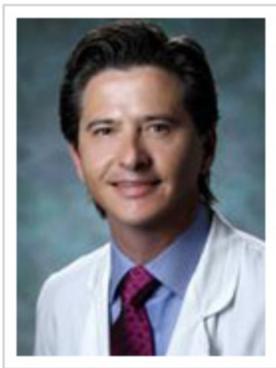
The Stop BSI and Stop CAUTI teams will meet on January 17, 2012 for a special national call devoted to further training on the Comprehensive Unit-based Safety Program (CUSP), a foundational component of the Stop HAI project aimed at eliminating hospital-acquired infections (HAIs).

On the CUSP: Stop HAI is a joint effort of the Health Research & Educational Trust, Johns Hopkins University Quality and Safety Research Group, and the Michigan Health and Hospital Association Keystone Center for Patient Safety and Quality, through a contract with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. The project will dramatically reduce hospital-acquired infections in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

The first part of the Stop BSI project, which began in 2009, aimed to eliminate central line-associated blood stream infections. The project then expanded its focus to eliminating catheter-associated urinary tract infections. Teams are trained on technical and adaptive interventions proven to reduce HAIs. Connecticut teams were members of the first cohort participating in the inaugural national quality improvement project.

CUSP was created by Peter Pronovost, MD, PhD, to improve the safety culture by integrating safety practices into the daily work of a unit or clinical area. CUSP is implemented at the unit level and provides a scalable intervention program that can be implemented throughout an organization. Dr. Pronovost is medical director of the Center for Innovation in Quality Patient Care, director of the Quality and Safety Research Group, and professor at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Sean Berenholtz, MD, associate professor at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Bloomberg School of Public Health, will host the national call that will focus on making the business case for implementing CUSP.



Sean M. Berenholtz, MD, MHS, FCCM

For more information on the CUSP: Stop HAI project, please contact Alison Hong MD, Interim VP, Quality and Patient Safety at hong@chime.org.

Education Updates

Changes in CPT/HCPCS for 2012

Wednesday, January 11, 2012, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

CPT and HCPCS codes are the primary codes that describe individual hospital services that are billed to all payers. These code sets go through annual revisions with codes that are added, deleted, or revised. There are 832 code changes for 2012: 480 new codes, 116 deleted codes, and 236 codes with revised descriptions.

This workshop, co-sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives, will emphasize coding changes in skin

replacement surgery, imaging guidance changes, and new preventive service HCPCS codes. Additionally, the workshop will provide any updates published by AMA or CMS since the actual files were posted. Each program participant will receive a comprehensive manual that outlines all the key code changes in 2012. The manual includes an itemized table that shows all added, deleted, or revised CPT or HCPCS codes for 2012. Deleted codes will list cross-reference codes where possible, and revised codes will list the content of the revision.

The program is being presented by Penny Brennan, Certified Massachusetts Patient Account Manager, and Director, Consulting Division at Medical Bureau/ROI.

For more information, click [here](#). To register, click [here](#).

Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) Final Rule for 2012 Wednesday, January 11, 2012, 12:45 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has published the Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) Final Rule for 2012, defining what CMS will be implementing for OPPS in 2012. The Final Rule documents changes in composite Ambulatory Payment Classifications (APCs), drug administration, visits, partial hospitalization, implantable biologicals, pulmonary rehabilitation, and new codes for 2012. In addition, the Final Rule continues to address quality reporting.

This program, co-provided with Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives (CAHE), provides an in-depth review of the OPPS Final Rule, and each program participant will receive a comprehensive manual that outlines the final changes for 2012, an itemized table that shows all the changes for each CPT/HCPCS code between 2011 and 2012, and detailed material and references for the other topics. The program is being presented by Penny Brennan, Certified Massachusetts Patient Account Manager and Director, Consulting Division at Medical Bureau/ROI.

For further information, please click [here](#). To register, click [here](#).

Leaping from Staff to Management: You're a Manager. Now What? Thursday, January 12, 2012, 8:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Making the transition from being a staff person one day to a supervisor/manager the next is a significant step for nearly everyone. Taking on a leadership role is far more challenging and complicated than ever before. Once you have met the challenge of simply getting oriented to what it means to be a manager/leader, you will discover that you carry the responsibility for meeting your organization's demands for high productivity combined with financial prudence and regulatory compliance. You will discover that those tasks must be balanced with an excellent grasp of human relations skills in order to work closely and collaboratively with others.

This program, co-sponsored by the CAHE, has been designed to get you started by exploring the basics of management and leadership in theory and applied practice, and to lay the groundwork for continued development of your leadership and management skills. It is presented by Victor Walton MA, a professional educator, speaker, trainer, and leadership consultant to organizations throughout the United States. Participants who have attended this program in the past routinely rate Mr. Walton as an outstanding speaker who offers practical approaches to effective leadership.

For more information, click [here](#). To register, click [here](#).

Connecticut Hospital Association is an Approved Provider of Continuing Nursing Education by the Connecticut Nurses' Association, an Accredited Approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation (6.25 contact hours).

This program has been approved for Continuing Education Credit Hours by the National Association of Social Workers, CT and meets the continuing education criteria for CT Social Work Licensure renewal (6.25 credit hours).

This program is pending approval of Category II credit through the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE).

Coaching Skills to Improve Performance Thursday, January 19, 2012, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Effective managers from all walks of life have discovered that some of the same skills successful coaches use to create winning athletic teams are also applicable in an organizational setting. In fact, the ability to have effective coaching conversations with colleagues and employees is a critical skill for leaders today. So what are the characteristics of a successful coach, and how do coaching skills help to develop a culture of excellence, reliability, and accountability? Building trust, appreciating differences, encouraging and mentoring growth, active listening, providing constructive feedback, asking insightful questions,

and overcoming roadblocks to goal achievement are all part of the process. In this highly interactive program, participants will learn from national faculty about how coaching is different from other developmental strategies, understand the coaching process, and practice coaching tools and techniques.

To register, click [here](#).