Renowned National Patient Safety Leader Donald Berwick, MD, to Headline CHA’s 2012 Patient Safety Summit

CHA is pleased to announce that Donald Berwick, MD, former Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), will provide the keynote address at CHA’s 2012 Patient Safety Summit, to be held on March 23, 2012, from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Dr. Berwick is one of the country's foremost advocates for patient-centered high-quality healthcare. A pediatrician by background, he has also served on the faculty of Harvard Medical School.

While leading CMS, Dr. Berwick initiated Partnership for Patients, a national project designed to reduce preventable inpatient harm by 40% and readmissions by 20% over a three-year period. In Connecticut, the Partnership for Patients initiative is provided to acute care hospitals through a partnership between CHA and the Health Research and Educational Trust (HRET), the non-profit research and educational arm of American Hospital Association.

This is the tenth anniversary of CHA’s annual Patient Safety Summit, which over the past decade has featured a who’s who list of renowned national patient safety leaders. This year’s program will officially mark the start of CHA’s statewide initiative to eliminate all-cause preventable harm using high reliability science to create a culture of safety. It also marks the beginning of CHA’s engagement in the Partnership for Patients initiative.

Before being appointed by President Barack Obama as the head of CMS, Dr. Berwick was president and chief executive officer of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), a Massachusetts-based non-profit dedicated to improving the quality of healthcare systems through education, research, and demonstration projects, and through fostering collaboration among healthcare organizations and their leaders. IHI projects extend throughout the U.S. and around the world.

Dr. Berwick has published more than 130 articles in professional journals on subjects relating to healthcare policy, decision analysis, technology assessment, and healthcare quality management. He is the co-author of Curing Health Care, and New Rules: Regulation, Markets and the Quality of American Health Care.

For more information about CHA’s 2012 Patient Safety Summit, click here. To register, click here.

Sixth Annual Smart Moves Forum on Safe Patient Handling Draws Crowd

On Tuesday, more than 80 nurses, administrators, occupational health professionals, physical therapists, nursing assistants, and others attended CHA’s 6th annual Smart Moves Forum on Safe Patient Handling. Participants enjoyed presentations from national safe patient handling experts, followed by lively discussions.

In the keynote address, Esther Murray, RN, MSN, COHNs, CSPHP, Assistant Director of Prism Medical Clinical Services, discussed how consistent small steps add up to a tipping point, increasing patient safety and satisfaction, cost savings, and staff recruitment.

“Commit to putting programs together that bring success to everybody,” Ms. Murray urged the audience. She encouraged positive reinforcement for observed proper usage of patient-handling devices.

Kathleen Nelson, PT, Regional Ergonomic Team Leader of Southcoast Hospitals Group, discussed new equipment available to assist in patient handling, how to assess needs and requirements, and equipment choices for unique care settings.
“Be ingenious,” Ms. Nelson said. “Think outside the box to see how you can innovate to safely lift patients.”

Participants also heard from Gail Powell-Cope, PhD, ARNP, FAAN, Associate Director for Translation and Training at the Health Services Research & Development/Rehabilitation Research & Development Center of Excellence in Rehabilitation Outcomes at the James A. Haley VA Medical Center. Powell-Cope discussed the intersection of patient and staff safety, and how to increase safety for all by applying a systems perspective.

In addition to the discussion, participants enjoyed a sponsor fair featuring the latest technology in patient lifts, slide sheets, air-assisted devices, and other patient mobility tools.

*Smart Moves: Connecticut’s Campaign for Safe Patient Handling* is a statewide initiative on safe patient handling that aims to improve the health and safety of nurses and other healthcare workers, increase patient safety, and reduce healthcare costs. The campaign focuses on increasing awareness and education regarding safe patient handling; promoting the use of evidence-based curricula; encouraging implementation of safe patient handling programs; and increasing the use of assistive equipment and patient-handling devices.

The program is presented through collaboration among CHA, the Connecticut Nurses’ Association, LeadingAge Connecticut, the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities, and the Connecticut Association for Home Care & Hospice.

**CHA Provides Testimony on Two Bills**

CHA provided testimony this week before the Public Safety and Security Committee and the Human Services Committee, on bills of interest to hospitals and the healthcare community.

On Thursday, March 1, CHA provided testimony on **SB 30, An Act Implementing Provisions Of The Budget Concerning Human Services**. The bill implements the Governor’s budget recommendations as it relates to the various human services agencies and programs. CHA’s testimony focused on sections of the bill that propose to make changes to the hospital tax and DSH program adopted by the legislature, and signed into law by the Governor.

On Tuesday, February 28, CHA provided testimony on **SB 200, An Act Concerning The Membership Of The Coordinating Advisory Board To The Department Of Emergency Services And Public Protection**. In written testimony, CHA reminded members of the Public Safety and Security Committee of the critical role hospitals play in times of natural and manmade disasters. As part of the infrastructure of the emergency medical services system, CHA requested that the bill be amended to add the president of the Connecticut Hospital Association or a designee as a member of the coordinating advisory board.

Next week, the Public Health Committee is scheduled to hold a public hearing on a number of legislative proposals of interest to hospitals. CHA will provide testimony on bills impacting the healthcare community. A full report of testimony provided will be published in next week’s edition of *Update*. 
Stage 2 Meaningful Use Proposed Rule Released

Next Wednesday, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will publish in the Federal Register a proposed rule specifying the Stage 2 criteria that hospitals must meet in order to qualify for Medicare and/or Medicaid electronic health record (EHR) incentive payments. Comments on the proposed rule are due May 7, 2012. Notably, the proposal pushes the start date back from 2013 to 2014, in order to provide enough time for compliance.

The proposed Stage 2 criteria for meaningful use includes using standardized terminology for clinical information; streamlining transitions of care by allowing patients to view, download, and transfer electronic copies of their own medical records; and encouraging providers to exchange information to improve quality.

A pre-publication display version is currently available, as is a fact sheet for providers. The rule will be finalized during the summer, after CMS has had time to review the public comments submitted during the comment period. CHA will be coordinating with AHA on advocacy efforts related to Stage 2 Meaningful Use.

FDA Addresses Cancer Drug Shortage

To address ongoing drug shortages, the FDA has announced that it will increase the supply of critically needed cancer drugs. It is working with industry to bolster production, find alternatives, or import drugs that are in short supply.

Connecticut's hospitals worked on this issue with Senator Richard Blumenthal last year, after he requested that hospitals inform him of the impact drug shortages were having on patient care. He found that drug shortages were on the rise. Last May, members of Senator Blumenthal’s staff met with pharmacy directors at CHA and discussed the issues.

Senator Blumenthal continues to advocate for measures to ease prescription drug shortages. On February 16, he, along with Senators Tom Harkin (D-IA), Mike Enzi (R-WY), Lamar Alexander (R-TN), and Bob Casey (D-PA), sought answers about the shortage of a drug used to treat children’s leukemia and rheumatoid arthritis.

Dr. Stuart Marcus Named President of St. Vincent's Medical Center

Stuart G. Marcus, MD, FACS, has been named president of St. Vincent's Medical Center. He succeeds Susan L. Davis, RN, EdD, who remains CEO of the Medical Center and president/CEO of St. Vincent’s Health Services, and who has assumed additional regional responsibilities within Ascension Health, the nation’s largest Catholic and non-profit healthcare system. Dr. Marcus most recently served as senior vice president, chief medical officer and chairman of oncology at St. Vincent’s.

“This transition should be seamless as Dr. Marcus has played a vital role at the Medical Center, by leading the development of our new cancer center and oncology program, and helping to forge an exciting new relationship with the new Frank H. Netter School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University,” said St. Vincent’s CEO and Ascension Health Market Ministry Leader Susan L. Davis, RN, EdD.

“He is an outstanding clinician and a proven leader. He will bring fresh ideas and new energy to the Medical Center. We are thrilled to welcome him and we know that he will be an essential part of our continued growth and success.”

With this appointment, Dr. Marcus will be responsible for implementing the strategic direction for St. Vincent's Medical Center, and will also assume the role of chief academic officer and professor of surgery for the Frank H. Netter School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University. He was instrumental in establishing St. Vincent’s as the principal clinical partner for the school.

The Connecticut Hospice Among First to Receive Advanced Certification for Palliative Care

The Connecticut Hospice is among the first in the nation to receive advanced certifications for palliative care from the Joint Commission.

“The Connecticut Hospice is extraordinarily happy to receive the coveted Gold Seal of Approval® for Advanced Certification for Palliative Care from The Joint Commission,” said Marc Alphons Hurzeler, RN, MPH, President and CEO, The Connecticut Hospice, and Joseph F. Andrews, Jr., MD, Chairman, The Connecticut Palliative Physicians GroupSM. “We are proud to be the first hospital to receive this distinction and to do so without a single requirement for improvement. The Connecticut Hospice promises to continue to offer our patients and families the richest mixture of charity, kindness, and science we can attain; and never to compromise our mission for any reason whatsoever.”

The Joint Commission certification program was developed under the guidance of a national task force of experts on palliative care.

Certification is recognition that The Connecticut Hospice provides high quality, family-centered care to effectively meet the unique and specialized needs of patients, and optimize quality of life for seriously ill patients. Hospitals in Minnesota, Michigan, and New York also received advanced certification.

**Education Updates**

**CHA Regulatory Series – Wage and Hour Law Review**  
**March 12, 2012, 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

This practical and informative program, a perennial favorite of members, will clarify the laws and address real or hypothetical participant questions on regulatory interpretation to ensure wage and hour compliance. The program will serve as a refresher for those generally familiar with wage and hour compliance issues—and as an introduction to key issues for those with new responsibilities in this area.

This program is designed to provide participants with a working knowledge of key provisions of the law:
- Making the determination of exempt versus non-exempt positions.
- Developing policies related to defining, counting, calculating, and recording hours worked to ensure a fair and consistent system. This will include a discussion of punching in early/late, compensatory time, overtime, travel time, on call, etc.
- Managing non-traditional employment situations e.g., temporary employees, independent contractors, telecommuters, etc.

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

**Eliminating Preventable Harm Through FMEA**  
**March 19, 2012, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

Failure mode and effects analysis (FMEA) is a proven tool in today’s proactive patient safety improvement initiatives. Beyond meeting Joint Commission standards, FMEA has turned out to be a very effective process improvement strategy. In this workshop, participants learn how to harness the power and benefits of FMEA for their organization by concentrating efforts on identifying and addressing potential high-risk processes, and avoiding common pitfalls.

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

**Leaping From Staff to Management: The Next Steps**  
**March 20, 2012, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

Whether recently assigned to the role of manager or a seasoned veteran, it is important to determine how well your problem-solving and decision-making skills are keeping pace with the ever-changing healthcare environment. For those who attended the first program – “Leaping from Staff to Management: You’re a Manager – Now What?” – in June 2011 or January 2012, this follow-up course is ideal for all managers who want to continually improve their skills.

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

**From Difficult to Dynamic: Engaging Our Most Challenging Employees!**  
**March 26, 2012  8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

Managing staff to achieve organizational goals is a basic responsibility for all leaders. Personality and communication differences can make this a difficult task and consume hours of your time and energy. This highly interactive program, based on best practices in leadership theory, will present communication methods and tools for navigating the difficult maze of different personalities and communication styles.

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