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Update Archives

CHA Program Highlights the Physician Payments Sunshine Act

On Tuesday, March 12, CHA hosted a program to help physicians and physician leaders, compliance officers, medical staff office personnel, supply chain/materials management, and quality, legal, and risk professionals understand the Physician Payments Sunshine Act.

The program was led by Patrick Kenney, MD, Medical Director of Corporate Supply Chain at Yale New Haven Health, Clinical Vice Chair of the Yale Department of Urology, and Clinical Program Leader for Genitourinary Oncology at the Smilow Cancer Hospital, and Tanya White, MBA, CHC, System Compliance Operations Officer for Yale New Haven Health and the L+M Health Compliance and Privacy Officer. They provided tips and resources to help physicians and teaching hospitals review their Open Payments data, and discussed issues related to physician preference items. They also provided examples from recent conflict of interest cases.



The Physician Payments Sunshine Act, part of the Affordable Care Act, was established as a national disclosure program requiring medical product manufacturers to disclose to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services any payments or other transfers of value made to physicians or teaching hospitals.

According to Dr. Kenney, in 2017, physicians and teaching hospitals in the U.S. received more than \$8.4 billion from more than 1,500 businesses. The payments were made to more than 628,000 physicians and more than 1,100 teaching hospitals across the country. In Connecticut, medical manufacturers of devices and pharmaceuticals made payments totaling more than \$27 million.



Ms. White urged participants to review and confirm reported payments and to have policies in place to avoid potential conflicts of interest.

CMS oversees the annual release of these data, which have been collected since 2013. A 45-day review and refute period begins on April 1, 2019, with the information being made public on June 30, 2019.

State Provides Hospital Emergency Departments with Naloxone



The Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), with assistance from the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) and CHA, announced on March 13 that all hospital EDs in Connecticut now have naloxone available for distribution to patients and loved ones upon discharge through a federal grant. Naloxone, commonly known by the brand name Narcan, is a life-saving medication used in the event of an opioid overdose.

“Naloxone has saved countless lives not only in our state, but across the country,” said DMHAS Commissioner Miriam Delphin-Rittmon. “Getting this life-saving medication into the hands of those most at risk for an opioid overdose is crucial to not only reducing the number of fatal overdoses, but giving individuals another chance so they may begin treatment for opioid use disorder and start their path of recovery.”

“We know there’s no one solution to the opioid crisis, and naloxone is just one part of the bigger picture,” said Consumer Protection Commissioner Michelle H. Seagull, “EDs are places where patients may be in critical need of naloxone. It can save patient lives, and ensure that patients are able to enter treatment programs. We’re proud of the work we’ve done with our partners and sister agencies to make this possible.”

“Connecticut hospitals play an important role in helping to stem the tide of opioid abuse. We are pleased to partner with the state on this important initiative, which will save lives and help people get started with their recovery,” said Carl Schiessl, Senior Director, Regulatory Advocacy, CHA.

The naloxone, funded by DMHAS through federal funds from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) through the State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant, is provided to hospital EDs at no cost. The medication obtained through this initiative is for providing to patients and their loved ones upon discharge, not for administration in the ED. The medication may also be offered to individuals who may be at risk for an opioid overdose even if that is not their presenting problem at the time of admission to the ED.

In addition to the naloxone, patients and loved ones receiving the medication will also be provided information on how to recognize an opioid overdose, how to use the medication in the event of an overdose, and how to proceed if the person regains consciousness.

DMHAS has allocated approximately \$400,000 in federal SOR funding over the next two years to supply the hospital EDs with naloxone. Nearly 6,000 doses of naloxone have been ordered and are being delivered to the EDs throughout the state.

In Connecticut, legislation was passed in 2015 allowing pharmacists who have been certified to prescribe and dispense naloxone directly to customers requesting it. Since 2015, thousands of pharmacists at hundreds of pharmacies in Connecticut have been certified to prescribe and dispense naloxone.

Fourth Municipality Passes Tobacco 21 Ordinance



On Monday, March 11, Southington became the 4th municipality in the state to pass an ordinance to increase the age to purchase tobacco products from 18 to 21. The ordinance will go into effect no more than 20 days from its passage. Southington follows the cities of Hartford, South Windsor, and Bridgeport in passing local ordinances



making it more difficult for teenagers to buy tobacco products. The ordinance, which includes the purchase of electronic cigarettes as well as traditional tobacco products, passed with an 8-1 vote.

CHA and member hospitals have long advocated on the local and statewide levels for stricter tobacco control measures, including raising the age to purchase products from 18 to 21. Other municipalities are in various stages of proposing T-21 ordinances as is the state's General Assembly. Please click [here](#) for public testimony in support of a statewide T-21 law.

Patient Safety Awareness Week Advances Safety Culture

This is Patient Safety Awareness Week (PSAW), a designated time for hospitals and other healthcare providers to increase awareness and share the work they do to advance patient safety, safety culture, and patient engagement. PSAW is led by the National Patient Safety Foundation and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement.

Connecticut hospitals and health systems are committed to improving patient safety through CHA's statewide initiative to eliminate all cause preventable harm using high reliability science to create a culture of safety.

As part of its ongoing efforts to advance patient safety and awareness, CHA will hold its *17th Annual Patient Safety Summit: Leading Safety into the Next Decade* on Wednesday, April 24, 2019, from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The program, which is co-sponsored with Qualidigm, will include multiple presentations on human factors and a panel discussion on simulation. The morning program will include a keynote presentation from Jeff Thompson, MD, former CEO of Gundersen Healthcare, on values-based leadership.

In addition to Dr. Thompson, Calie Santana, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer, WESTMED Practice Partners, will discuss building quality leaders. Vicki Lewis, PhD, Principal Consultant at Healthcare Safety, will present on the topic of human factors engineering. Joseph Keebler, PhD, Associate Professor, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, will discuss human factors in healthcare.

[View Brochure](#) | [Event Registration](#)



CHA Annual Meeting Awards – Deadline Approaching



The deadline is approaching for nominations for CHA's Annual Meeting awards. They must be received by Friday, March 22, 2019. The awards are an important part of the CHA Annual Meeting and a valuable opportunity to showcase Connecticut hospital and staff achievements

The *2019 John D. Thompson Award for Excellence in the Delivery of Healthcare Through the Use of Data* recognizes outstanding achievement in patient care quality initiatives. It is sponsored by CHA's education and research affiliate, the Connecticut Healthcare Research and Education Foundation (CHREF). All CHA members are encouraged to apply. Click [here](#) for an application.

The *2019 Connecticut's Hospital Community Service Award* is an excellent opportunity for recognition of outstanding achievements in community service. The award is sponsored jointly by CHA and the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Click [here](#) for an application.

CHA's *Healthcare Heroes Awards* celebrate the invaluable contributions of healthcare workers, both to their field and to the community at large. CHA is seeking nominations from both direct patient care and non-clinical areas of CHA member facilities. Ten healthcare heroes, selected by a panel of judges, will be awarded a \$100 cash prize. Click [here](#) for an application.

CHA will hold its 101st Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 20, 2019.

Safer Hospitals Initiative Programs Offered

Through CHA's *Safer Hospitals Initiative*, Connecticut hospitals and health systems are taking action to address worker safety and incidents of workplace violence by providing education programs that focus on de-escalation and non-violent intervention strategies. Opportunities are detailed below:

- **CHA's De-Escalation 101 Program at Healthcare Facilities**

This three-hour education program will help employees identify and intervene in what can become potentially volatile situations. CHA presenters will conduct the training, which includes volunteer participation in demonstrating de-escalation techniques. Learn more about the program [here](#).

- **CPI Nonviolent Crisis Intervention® Certification Training Program at CHA**

The Crisis Prevention Institute's (CPI) Nonviolent Crisis Intervention foundation course uses a blend of online and classroom learning that provides proven strategies for safely defusing anxious, hostile, or violent behavior at the earliest possible stage. To learn more and to register for training on Thursday, April 11, 2019 please view the [brochure](#) and [register](#) for the program.

The *Safer Hospitals Initiative* is a statewide effort to foster a safer and more supportive workplace. It is a top priority of Connecticut hospitals and an extension of high reliability. The initiative uses high reliability strategies to enhance worker safety, minimize workplace violence, and support workers.

Education Updates

Staff to Management: Starting the Transition

Monday, March 25, 2019

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

[View Brochure](#) | [Event Registration](#)

This program will provide guidance for staff transitioning to supervisor/manager. This significant step requires the ability to use diplomacy, negotiation, persuasion, and alliance-building skills. Managing the demands of an organization for high productivity and quality, combined with financial prudence and regulatory compliance, are only part of the equation. Participants will discover that those tasks must be balanced with an excellent grasp of human relations skills in working closely and collaboratively with others and managing change.

Conflict Management: Engaging the Difficult Employee

Tuesday, March 26, 2019

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

[View Brochure](#) | [Event Registration](#)

This full-day, interactive program, based on best practices in leadership theory, will provide communication methods and tools for navigating the challenging maze of different personalities and communication styles to better manage conflict. Different personalities, different work styles, cultural/ethnic norms, and differences in generational mix lead to the possibility of conflict surfacing at work. The program will explore the role conflict plays in the process of change and effective team problem solving— both major factors in improving organization performance.

The Basics of Budgeting

Thursday, April 4, 2019

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

[View Brochure](#) | [Event Registration](#)

Basics of Budgeting is a member-requested management development program, the first of a two-part series, to provide managers with an introduction to budgeting concepts, including calculating the volume budget and a revenue budget, tools to develop staffing plans, and salary and supply budgets, as well as information on how best to handle capital and equipment requests. Bill Ward, a popular and dynamic lecturer on financial management in healthcare, will present the program.

Healthcare Financial Management—an Overview

Friday, April 5, 2019

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

[View Brochure](#) | [Event Registration](#)

Because healthcare delivery methods and payment systems are changing rapidly, carefully managing the financial health of the organization is more important than ever. Resources are scarce and stretched to the breaking point. Doing more with less is routine. The need for sound business and financial management tools—survival skills—is paramount for all managers. These include planning and budgeting, financial analysis, and maximizing resources, all of which are essential if managers are to achieve the institution's mission and financial results. Bill Ward will present the program.

Please note: this program was previously called Financial Skills for Managers and is targeted to those with limited exposure to financial management concepts.

HIPAA Rules of the Road: Public Relations, Communications, and the Media

Monday, April 8, 2019

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

[View Brochure](#) | [Event Registration](#)

This program will cover HIPAA requirements and restrictions that apply to use of, or sharing (and/or exposing) patient identifiers and patient information: through filming and photography; with media-related entities; in connection with social media platforms; with law enforcement; or in the context of advertising or public relations outreach. The program will review guidance, as well as HIPAA enforcement penalties, from the Office for Civil Rights.