

Thursday, March 30, 2017

[Printer-Friendly Version](#)**In This Issue:**

CHA and Bayer Announce First Statewide Radiation Dose Management Repository

Public Health Committee Advances Certificate Of Need Bill

Join us for Hospital Day at the Capitol Next Week

Commerce and Human Services Committees Advance Legislation

CHA Hosts Kickoff Program for Care Decisions Connecticut

Department of Public Health Achieves National Public Health Accreditation

Education Updates

CHA and Bayer Announce First Statewide Radiation Dose Management Repository

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) and Bayer today announced an alliance to establish the United States' first-ever statewide radiation dose management repository for patients undergoing certain radiological procedures. The repository will use Radimetrics™, a radiation and contrast dose management and analytics tool which provides clinicians with data needed for them to help ensure their patients receive the lowest radiation dosage necessary. The goal is for clinicians to be able to share the data in order to benchmark radiation exposure.

Patients often undergo multiple diagnostic imaging procedures involving radiation – frequently in different provider locations – making it difficult to know the cumulative dose they have received.

While the amount of radiation to which each person is exposed depends on his or her specific medical condition, rare circumstances of prolonged, high-dose exposure to radiation could have adverse effects on patients. These risks include skin erythema (reddening), skin tissue injury and birth defects following in-utero exposure. Additionally, radiation can potentially increase the risk of longer term effects such as cancer. Keeping track of radiation dosage across procedures may help identify these risks and allow physicians to take steps to reduce patient exposure. By benchmarking radiation dosage throughout the CHA network of hospitals and the state of Connecticut, CHA and Bayer hope patients in the future will be empowered to track their own radiation exposure.

“Connecticut hospitals are national leaders in implementing innovative solutions to achieve patient safety,” said Jennifer Jackson, CEO, CHA. “This alliance with Bayer is another example of that leadership. We are very proud to be the first state in the nation to adopt a project that will allow patients and their doctors to measure and closely manage the levels of radiation required for effective imaging and diagnosis.”

Giving the lowest appropriate dose of radiation to make a diagnosis is important for patient safety. The repository will provide clinicians with a tool to assist in evaluating the optimal radiation dosage for patients.

“We are honored to be working with CHA to establish this unique repository, and hope this alliance will yield noticeable results for both clinicians and patients being treated in Connecticut,” said Dennis Durmis, Head of Commercial Operations, Radiology Americas at Bayer. “Bayer is committed to ensuring patients and physicians alike have access to the most innovative tools to facilitate an accurate diagnosis. We look forward to continuing to partner with the radiology community to help patients throughout the state benefit from this repository.”

In the coming months, hospitals in Connecticut will use Bayer’s Radimetrics Enterprise Platform to collect and analyze data at the statewide level. This information will allow providers to benchmark radiation dosage, pursue quality improvements and develop standard clinical practices.

“Connecticut hospitals are committed to improving patient safety, which includes promoting patients’ rights to understand their own medical records,” said Mary Cooper, MD, JD, Senior Vice President of Clinical Services, CHA. “The alliance with Bayer will empower patients.”

Utilizing data from certain imaging studies, the repository will maintain radiation dose information when patients visit participating CHA member institutions for diagnostic procedure.

Update Archives

Public Health Committee Advances Certificate Of Need Bill

On Monday, March 27, the Public Health Committee held a meeting and took action on a number of legislative proposals, including [SB 795, An Act Establishing The Office Of Health Strategy And Improving The Certificate Of Need Program](#), a bill that seeks to make several troublesome changes to the Certificate Of Need (CON) process. The bill was amended prior to being released, but the changes do not remove the problematic aspects of the bill for hospitals.

The Committee left intact Section 1 of the bill – a section supported by CHA that would create the Office of Health Strategy. The Committee made several changes in Sections 2-14 of the bill, the most significant of which was adding back cardiac services to the CON program. SB 795 still remains problematic, however, as it leaves an unequal playing field for hospitals in relation to other entities seeking to establish or reduce healthcare services in the state. As in the original draft, SB 795 also removes “public need” as a criteria in the CON process.



In debating the bill, Committee members emphasized the need to continue to refine the bill as it moves through the legislative process. CHA will continue to work with legislative leaders to ensure hospital concerns remain at the forefront.

Join us for Hospital Day at the Capitol Next Week



CHA has planned Hospital Day at the Capitol for Wednesday, April 5, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

This is an important day for discussions with legislators about issues that are critical to hospitals, including cuts and taxes in the proposed budget as well as regulatory burdens that would negatively affect hospitals. Of particular concern is the Malloy administration's budget proposal, which authorizes municipalities to impose a property tax on not-for-profit hospitals. The proposal also eliminates the hospital tax base year, increasing the hospital tax by nearly \$80 million a year; eliminates the separate budget line item for hospital supplemental payments; eliminates the small hospital pool; and reduces eligibility for HUSKY A adults. A press conference addressing these issues will be held at 10:30 a.m.

Hospital Day is an opportunity to reinforce the message that hospitals play a critical role in preserving, protecting, and improving the lives of all of the people in Connecticut. Hospital health systems contribute \$26.2 billion to the state and local economies. They employ 100,000 people and invest \$1.6 billion in community benefit initiatives each year.

In addition to encouraging providers to participate in Hospital Day at the Capitol, we continue to ask people to join our electronic letter writing campaign by clicking [here](#).

Commerce and Human Services Committees Advance Legislation

On March 21, the Commerce Committee met and advanced several legislative proposals of interest to hospitals. Specifically, the Committee released with a Joint Favorable (JF) report:

- **[SB 960](#), *An Act Concerning A Study Of The Bioscience Industry***, a bill [supported](#) by CHA that would require the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) to study issues relating to the state's bioscience industry.
- **[SB 962](#), *An Act Concerning The Development Of Evaluative Metrics For Bioscience Investments In The State***, a bill [supported](#) by CHA that would require Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated (CII) to develop metrics to evaluate the state's investments in bioscience.

SB 960 and SB 962 were referred to the Senate floor for further action.

The Committee released with a Joint Favorable Substitute (JFS):

- **[SB 959](#), *An Act Concerning An Inventory Of The State's Bioscience Education Pipeline***, a bill [supported](#) by CHA that would require DECD, CII, the Department of Education, the Board of Regents for Higher Education, and the University of Connecticut to conduct an inventory of the educational resources available in the state to prepare students for careers in the bioscience field.

SB 959 was referred to the Senate floor for further action.

Also on March 21, the Human Services Committee met and released with JFS reports:

- **[HB 7121](#), *An Act Concerning Revisions To The State's Safe Haven Laws***, a bill that would add certain protections for individuals caring for infants who are considered to be in the custody of the Department of Children and Families under the state's Safe Haven program. CHA's testimony can be found [here](#).
- **[HB 7040](#), *An Act Implementing The Governor's Budget Recommendations For Human Services Programs***, one of the Governor's budget bills that would curtail severely providers' rights to appeal decisions of the DSS Commissioner. CHA's testimony can be found [here](#).
- **[SB 874](#), *An Act Requiring Electronic Notification By The Department Of Social Services***, a bill that would require the Department of Social Services to disseminate program guidelines and/or bulletins widely to providers and the general public no later than 60-days prior to taking effect. CHA's testimony can be found [here](#).

HB 7121, HB 7040, and SB 874 were referred to the House and Senate floors for further action.

CHA Hosts Kickoff Program for Care Decisions Connecticut



On Wednesday, April 19, 2017, CHA will host the kickoff program for Care Decisions Connecticut, a collaboration with healthcare partners across the continuum of care and state government with the goal of integrating patient-directed care strategies to improve palliative/hospice care and quality of life for people in Connecticut with serious illnesses.

Susan Frampton, President of Planetree International, will be the keynote speaker. Dr. Frampton, a medical anthropologist, has authored numerous publications, including the three editions of [Putting Patients First](#) (Jossey-Bass 2004, 2008, 2013), and served as lead author on the National Academy of Medicine's "Harnessing Evidence and Experience to Change Culture," released in early 2017.

Dr. Frampton leads Planetree's advocacy efforts, chairs the National Quality Forum's National Quality Partners Leadership Consortium, and has co-chaired NQF Action Teams on Advanced Illness Care, Patient-Family Engagement, and Decreasing Hospital (Re)Admissions. She serves on the Governing Board of the WHO-CC International Network of Health Promoting Hospitals, and on the editorial board for the Journal of Compassionate Healthcare.

In addition to speaking internationally on culture change, quality, safety, and the patient experience, Dr. Frampton was honored in 2009, when she was named one of "20 People who Make Healthcare Better" by Health Leaders magazine.

The program will take place from 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., at CHA. Co-sponsors include CHA, the Health Research and Educational Trust (HRET), the Connecticut Healthcare Research and Education Foundation (CHREF), and The Conversation Project. Click [here](#) for the program announcement and [here](#) to register.

Department of Public Health Achieves National Public Health Accreditation



The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) has been awarded national accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). Earning this five-year accreditation status signifies that DPH has met or exceeded rigorous, nationally recognized, evidence-based public health standards, a distinction that only 20 other states have achieved.

PHAB, jointly supported by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is dedicated to improving and protecting the health of the public by advancing and transforming the quality and performance of public health departments. Agencies seeking accreditation undergo a comprehensive, peer-reviewed assessment process and must meet the requirements of over 100 measures that evaluate the health department's ability to carry out the [10 Essential Public Health Services](#) such as assessing the health of the public, responding to public health threats, investigating and preventing disease, and developing and implementing sound public health policies that assure the public's health. The accreditation standards also assure that health departments possess adequate administrative and management capacity, as well as strong relationships with its governing entity and local public health partners.

PHAB commended Connecticut DPH on a number of strengths, including its efforts to engage partners and establish strong relationships with a variety of local and state organizations, its formal commitment to health equity in the [State Health Improvement Plan](#) and agency [Strategic Plan](#), and the strides made in developing a performance management framework and [dashboard to measure performance](#).

"The Connecticut Department of Public Health joins the growing ranks of accredited health departments in a strong commitment to their public health mission," said PHAB President and CEO Kaye Bender, PhD, RN, FAAN. "The peer-review process provides valuable feedback to inform health departments of their strengths and areas for improvement, so that they can better protect and promote the health of the people they serve in their communities. Residents of a community served by a nationally accredited health department can be assured that their health department has demonstrated the capacity to protect and promote the health of that community."

Education Updates

HRO Worker Safety and Worker Engagement

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

This session supports CHA's efforts to take care of the staff who take care of patients. *Worker Safety and Worker Engagement: A High Reliability Approach* discusses behaviors, techniques, and measurement for worker safety, as used by other high reliability hospitals that are further along their journey.

Medicine, Nursing, and Quality continuing education credits are offered for this session.

HRO Safety Coach Training

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

1:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

Safety Coaches are peer mentors, designed to recognize and acknowledge good high reliability behavior and to remind people about opportunities to improve behavior that does not stay true to high reliability concepts.

Medicine, Nursing, and Quality continuing education credits are offered for this session.

HRO Train-the-Trainer

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

The model for sharing high reliability training with the rest of the staff is Train-the-Trainer. The training is scripted and requires an enthusiastic participant who is willing to make time to train others within the organization. Other hospitals in Connecticut have trained educators, front-line managers, and senior leaders, including the CEO, as part of their training contingent. Train-the-Trainer sessions are for hospitals and ambulatory practices.

Medicine, Nursing, Quality, and Radiology continuing education credits are offered for this session.

Lean Principles: Process Flow and Value Stream Mapping in Healthcare

Session I: Thursday, April 6, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Session II: Thursday, April 13, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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

As the demands of health reform drive change in all areas of healthcare delivery, hospital leaders are focused on transforming their organizations through strategies that simultaneously increase revenue and sharply reduce costs. Lean principles offer leaders a management system and methodology that improves team engagement, eliminates road blocks, and allows hospitals to improve the quality of care for patients by reducing errors and waste streams, including wait times. It is a systematic approach to reducing costs and risks, while simultaneously setting the stage for growth and expansion.

Continuing education credits will be provided. Please see the brochure for information.

Healthcare Financial Management - An Overview

Tuesday, April 18, 2017

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 contribute to "bottom line" results. Bill Ward, a popular and dynamic lecturer on financial management in healthcare, is back by member request to present the program.

Continuing education credits will be provided.

The Basics of Budgeting

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

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

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

Many healthcare department managers have traditionally risen from the professional ranks as successful clinicians or technicians but with little or no formal business financial training. As a result, many are thrust into a chaotic environment without the necessary knowledge or tools in financial management. Skills in planning and budgeting are essential if they are to achieve the institution's mission and contribute to "bottom line" results, particularly in an environment of chronic federal and state underfunding. In a very real sense, these represent survival skills for both managers and organizations. This management development program, part one of a two-part series, provides 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, returns at member request to present the program.

Continuing education credits will be provided.

Promoting Safety and Connectedness: A Philosophy of Care for the High-Risk Infant and Family

Friday, April 21, 2017

8:45 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

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

Join us on April 21 for a conference on *Promoting Safety and Connectedness: A Philosophy of Care for the High-Risk Infant and Family*. Stephen W. Porges, PhD, Scientist and Professor, will provide the keynote for this conference.

Continuing education credits will be provided.

2017 CHA Regulatory Compliance Conference

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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

Join us for CHA's Regulatory Compliance Conference, which will feature a keynote presentation on the new administration's impact on compliance enforcement. This presentation by Jonathan Diesenhaus and Gejaa Gobena, Partners at Hogan Lovells, will describe "hot topics" in compliance enforcement as the transition to a new administration evolves, and will provide up-to-date information and best practices for handling these changes. Hogan Lovells is a legal firm that offers extensive experience and insights gained from working in healthcare and other complex legal environments. The firm provides counsel to the American Hospital Association on compliance issues.

Following the keynote address, attorneys from Wiggin and Dana will present two sessions on Stark and Anti-kickback, and what to do when the government shows up at your hospital with a search warrant. Additionally, Jennifer Cox, from Cox & Osowiecki, will present—alongside

an IT specialist—a session on privacy and security in health IT, sharing information on the “Top 10” things you should be thinking about in this arena.

This conference is specifically designed for compliance officers, risk managers, in-house legal counsel, health information managers, IT specialists, and others interested in privacy, security, and the impact of the new administration’s policies on compliance enforcement.

Continuing education credits will be provided.

