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Connecticut Hospitals Celebrate Hospital Week

Each year, Connecticut hospitals care for more than 426,000 patients admitted to their facilities, accounting for nearly two million days of inpatient care; treat more than 1.6 million patients in their emergency rooms; provide an additional 7.5 million episodes of outpatient services; serve people nearly 3.5 million times through community benefit programs and activities; and welcome more than 38,000 babies into the world. During National Hospital Week, CHA salutes the 24/7 care provided by Connecticut hospitals and their dedicated staff every day on behalf of patients and communities.

Hospitals began celebrating National Hospital Week in 1921 to highlight the history, technology, and dedicated professionals that make hospitals beacons of confidence and care. We invite you to watch the American Hospital Association's video, [Prepared to Care](#), which focuses on the essential role of hospital caregivers.

Here are just some of the ways in which Connecticut Hospitals are celebrating.

On Monday, May 13, **Windham Hospital** leadership served ice cream to the staff at an ice cream social to celebrate Hospital Week. Staff members made their own special confections with nuts, whipped cream, bananas, and sauces.

Meteorologist Gil Simmons from News 8 WTNH broadcast live from **Waterbury Hospital** to kick off the week. Mr. Simmons interviewed several members of the hospital staff who gathered outside his news van. Click [here](#) to watch the video. **Saint Mary's Hospital's** celebration of National Hospital Week included the hospital's annual, live broadcast on WATR 1320 AM from Saint Mary's main lobby on May 13 with host Larry Rifkin. Mr. Rifkin interviewed hospital administrators, board members, physicians, nurses, and staff about the many great programs and services available at Saint Mary's and its affiliates throughout Greater Waterbury. Read more on the hospital's [Facebook](#) page.

Bristol Hospital held several events recognizing its 1,600-plus employees and medical staff members. The hospital's annual Employee Service Awards event took place Wednesday night, and a special Thursday barbecue featured a Hospital Week proclamation by Bristol Mayor Art Ward. Staff was treated to a week-long array of desserts including ice cream sundaes, funnel cakes, and pretzels that were served by members of the hospital's leadership team. Every year, gift baskets are donated and raffled off; this year, proceeds from the raffle ticket sales will help purchase rollaway beds for families of inpatients. Bristol Hospital also held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new Beekley Center for Breast Health and Wellness.

On May 14, **Stamford Hospital** broke ground for its new hospital. The new facility will meet the needs of today's patient-centered, continuously advancing, high-tech medicine. Scheduled for completion in 2016, the new hospital will accommodate and adapt to the very latest in medical technology, while also delivering care in a patient-centered environment. Read more [here](#). Hospital Week activities also included barbecues and a vendor fair for staff.

Nearly 400 **Bridgeport Hospital** employees were recognized for achieving service milestones during Bridgeport Hospital's annual Joseph E. Janell Employee Recognition Dinner on May 14. Critical Care Resource Support Unit nurse Shawna Hall was named the hospital's outstanding employee of the year, and Surgical Intensive Care Unit nurse Kathy Bellucci received the George B. and Alice P. Longstreth Humanness Award for her compassionate patient care. "When one thinks of Shawna, what comes to mind is a smile that warms the hearts of others, her can-do approach, and her dedication to patients," said Gini Neglia, Director of Cardiovascular Services and the Stroke Center. Of Ms. Bellucci, Bridgeport Hospital Foundation President Steve Jakab said, "Kathy is the kind of nurse you want to care for your family. She has a natural calming effect that is very comforting to patients and their families. Her nursing knowledge and expertise are second to none."

During Hospital Week and throughout the year, the Connecticut Hospital Association is honored to work with hospitals and caregivers.



CHA Congratulates Nightingale Award Winners



The Connecticut Hospital Association congratulates the 340 outstanding nurses across Connecticut who won 2013 *Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing*.

Four *Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing* celebrations were held over the past week, which was National Nurses Week. The *Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing*, Connecticut's largest statewide nursing recognition program, is a collaborative effort to celebrate outstanding nurses and elevate the nursing profession.

Winning nurses have demonstrated excellence and a commitment to community, and have made a significant impact on patients and the nursing profession.

Click here to view the 89 winners from the [New Haven](#) area.

Click here to view the 50 winners from [Eastern Connecticut](#).

Click here to view the 87 winners from [Fairfield County](#).

Click here to view the 114 winners from the [Hartford](#) area.

Each of the four regions also awarded scholarships to local nursing students who were honored during the events as well.

Congratulations to this year's *Nightingale Award* winners!



House and Senate Meet in Session

The Connecticut House of Representatives and the State Senate met in session this Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday to debate and vote on many bills.

On Tuesday, May 13, the Senate debated and passed several bills of interest to Connecticut hospitals. Specifically, the Senate unanimously passed in concurrence with the House [HB 6392](#), *An Act Concerning The Department Of Mental Health And Addiction Services' Reporting Requirements*, a bill strongly supported by CHA. HB 6392 will eliminate a hospital reporting requirement regarding protocols for screening patients for alcohol and substance abuse. HB 6392 will be transmitted to the Governor for further action. Also passed unanimously by the Senate was another [CHA-supported](#) bill, [SB 1026](#), *An Act Concerning An Adequate Provider Network To Ensure Positive Health Outcomes For Low Income Residents*. SB 1026 will establish a commission to study obstacles to achieving an adequate healthcare provider network for Medicaid recipients and recommend strategies to improve access and health outcomes. During the debate,



Senate Republicans, citing the low Medicaid reimbursement rates to hospitals, the hospital tax, and the proposed cuts to hospitals, attempted to amend the bill by requiring a study of these issues. The amendment was defeated as it was argued that the bill currently permits a study of the issues impacting hospitals. SB 1026 was transmitted to the House for further action.

Also of interest, the Senate passed and transmitted to the House [SB 1007](#), *An Act Concerning Revisions To The Paid Sick Leave Statutes*, a bill supported by the business community. SB 1007 will make several changes to the current law, including the method for determining whether an employer must provide such leave, the timeframe for accruing such leave, and how employees may use such leave. The Senate also passed [SB 903](#), *An Act Increasing The Membership Of The Commission Of Pharmacy*. SB 903 increases from six to seven the Commission of Pharmacy's membership by adding a fifth pharmacist. It specifies that the commission must include one pharmacist from an independent retail setting and one from a chain retail setting.

The House met and passed [HB 6553](#), *An Act Establishing A Task Force To Study Family Medical Leave Insurance*, a bill that will establish a Task Force on Family Medical Leave Insurance. The Task Force shall study the feasibility of establishing an insurance program to provide short-term benefits to workers who are unable to work due to (1) pregnancy or the birth of a child, (2) a non-work-related illness or injury, or (3) the need to care for a seriously ill child, spouse, or parent.

On Wednesday, May 15, the Senate debated, amended, and passed on consent [SB 992](#), *An Act Concerning Various Revisions To The Office Of Health Care Access Statutes*. SB 992 makes changes to the OHCA statutes, codifying in statutes certain regulatory requirements. It requires not-for-profit hospitals to provide certain information to the Office of Health Care Access with respect to their community needs assessments. The bill provides a definition of a "detailed patient bill." The bill was amended by the Senate to address the concerns expressed by CHA in its [testimony](#).

The House also met in session on Wednesday, but did not take action on any bills of interest to Connecticut hospitals. At the time of publication, both chambers were meeting in session and any items of interest to hospitals will be reported on in the next edition of Update. Both chambers of the General Assembly are expected to be in session next week on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Urge Legislators to Protect Hospitals



As we enter the final weeks of the 2013 Legislative Session, we ask that you take a moment once more to ask legislative leaders to protect hospital funding.

As you know, Connecticut hospitals face \$550 million in cuts over the next two years if the state budget, now moving through the legislature, passes. At risk are hospital programs, services, and jobs relied on by Connecticut families and communities.

Your voice is critically important. Click [here](#) to be taken to an electronic advocacy page that will allow you to simply and easily compose a message to legislators and the Governor. We are asking legislative leaders to protect patients, preserve critical services, and save jobs by maintaining hospital funding.

CHA Annual Meeting - Connecticut Hospitals: Caring for People, Serving Our Communities



CHA will hold its 95th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 25, at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington. The premier annual healthcare gathering in Connecticut brings together nearly 600 hospital CEOs, CFOs, physicians, and other key hospital and healthcare decision makers. The meeting provides an exclusive setting for the state's most influential healthcare leaders to celebrate Connecticut hospitals' accomplishments, discuss the challenges of the future, enjoy first-rate entertainment, and network with each other.

This year's theme, *Connecticut Hospitals: Caring for People, Serving Our Communities*, reflects a message that Connecticut's hospitals will continue to play a leadership role in transforming healthcare, while ensuring the safety net remains viable through a focus on safe, accessible, affordable, patient-centered care for all.

The meeting will feature CHA's annual awards, including the Healthcare Heroes awards, the Community Service award, the John D. Thompson award, and the prestigious T. Stewart Hamilton award, which recognizes an individual for outstanding contributions to Connecticut healthcare and service to

CHA.

The program will feature award-winning presidential historian Michael Beschloss. He is the author of nine bestsellers and is a regular TV commentator. Called "the nation's leading presidential historian" by *Newsweek*, Beschloss is the presidential historian for NBC News, as well as a regular contributor on Meet the Press and the PBS NewsHour. In 2005, he won an Emmy Award for his role in creating the Discovery Channel series, *Decisions that Shook the World*. He is currently working on a history of American Presidents in wartime, from James Madison to George W. Bush, slated for publication in 2015.

The Annual Meeting is open to members, invited guests, and sponsors. Read more [here](#).

Education Updates

Partnership for Patients - Prevention of Perinatal Harm

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

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

Please join us for this full-day session with national and local subject matter experts who will share the latest scientific research and standards related to the prevention and management of pregnancy-related complications. Participants will learn strategies and practices that can assist them in improving maternal unit readiness, recognition, and response to pregnancy-related complications and obstetrical emergencies.

Session faculty: Institute for Healthcare Improvement; Cynosure Health; American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG); Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nursing (AWHONN); and experts from Connecticut hospitals.

[Event Registration](#)

Partnership for Patients - Prevention of Venous Thromboembolic Events

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality calls thromboprophylaxis against Venous Thromboembolic Event (VTE) the number one patient safety practice.

Please join us for this half-day session with subject matter experts who will share with participants a package of change strategies that highlight risk stratification, standardizing care, decision support, and use of technology.

[Event Registration](#)

CHA Nurse Preceptorship Program

Thursday, May 23, 2013

8:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Supporting and strengthening the work of nurse preceptors is critical to the development of new nurses and retention of the highly skilled staff registered nurses who teach them at the bedside. Curriculum for the Nurse Preceptorship Program was developed by a team of educators from area hospitals and schools of nursing and is designed to provide core content that is foundational for the role of nurse preceptor. The program includes presentations and interactive sessions that cover topics such as roles and responsibilities, characteristics of a professional role model, basics of teaching and learning, tools and strategies for effective communication, principles of constructive feedback delivery, evaluating competence, delegating effectively, and more. The Nurse Preceptorship Program will serve to start new nurse preceptors off with critical information and also may be of interest to nurse preceptors that have not had this content, or would like to be refreshed on these concepts.

Continuing education credits will be awarded. Please see the brochure for details.

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

Partnership for Patients - Overview of the New Ventilator-Associated Event Definition for Quality and Patient Safety Professionals

Thursday, May 30, 2013

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Live Webinar, Presented at your Facility

The National Healthcare Safety Network has changed the surveillance definition from Ventilator Associated Pneumonia to Ventilator-Associated Events. Data indicate that streamlined, objective algorithms to detect Ventilator-Associated Events (VAE) are easily implemented, can make use of electronic health record systems to automate event detection, and identify events that are clinically important and associated with outcomes such as length of stay and mortality.

Join us for a webinar with Lauren Backman, Epidemiologist III, Healthcare Associated Infections Program, Connecticut Department of Health, who will

provide an overview of the new VAE definition and algorithm that can assist quality and patient safety professionals in designing reliable processes to detect ventilator-associated complications.

[Event Registration](#)

Lean Principles: Process Flow and Value Stream Mapping in Healthcare

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

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

As the demands of health reform and the challenges of reimbursement cuts 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 eliminates road blocks and allows hospitals to improve the quality of care for patients by reducing errors and waiting times. It is a systematic approach to reducing costs and risks, while simultaneously setting the stage for growth and expansion. Please note: this is a two-session program--the second session is being held on Wednesday, June 19. Participants should plan to attend both sessions.

[View the Save the Date](#) | [Event Registration](#)

Engaging Patients and Family in Quality and Patient Safety

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

8:30 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

One of the goals of the CMS initiative, Partnership for Patients, is to enhance the relationship between healthcare professionals and their patients and families. This is supported by research, which indicates that when patients and families are engaged in their healthcare, it leads to measurable improvements in safety and quality. To achieve this goal, the organization's administrative team, managers, and clinicians must lead the way toward creating partnership opportunities for patients and family members. Successful involvement of consumers in quality and patient safety requires changes in organizational policies, practices, and the attitudes and actions of all stakeholders, including caregivers. Improving communication with patients, listening to their concerns, and using tools to facilitate active partnerships should be a major element in an organization's quality and patient safety improvement strategy.

[View the Save the Date](#) | [Event Registration](#)

Basics of Budgeting for Healthcare Managers

Thursday, June 13, 2013

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

Many healthcare department managers have traditionally risen from the professional ranks as successful clinicians or technicians but with little or no formal business training. As a result, many are thrust into a chaotic environment without the necessary business 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. In a very real sense, these represent survival skills for both managers and institutions. This member-requested management development program provides managers with the skills and tools they need to prepare better budgets, identify problems and solutions, achieve the mission, and succeed in today's chaotic healthcare environment. Participants will gain a working knowledge of operating and capital budgets, as part of developing performance planning skills.

[View the Save the Date](#) | [Event Registration](#)

