CHA Annual Meeting: Save the Date

SAVE THE DATE

The 96th Annual Meeting
of the Connecticut Hospital Association
Wednesday, June 18, 2014

CT Supreme Court Rules in Favor of Defendants – CHA Filed Amicus Brief

This week, the Connecticut Supreme Court unanimously decided the case of Robbins v. Physicians for Women’s Health in favor of the defendants. CHA and the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA) filed an amicus brief in this case urging the court to reject the plaintiff’s efforts to expand successor liability in Connecticut.

The case centered on whether a medical practice that had been sold was liable for alleged negligence that occurred prior to its sale, even though the acquiring entity was not directly involved in the alleged negligence, and despite the fact that the plaintiff settled with the predecessor entity.

The defendants argued that the settlement with the practice’s previous owner extinguished the potential for a claim against the new owner. The Supreme Court decided all issues in favor of the defendants. Although the CHA amicus was not cited specifically, the court agreed with CHA’s reasoning.

The outcome protects the well-established principles in Connecticut law regarding when and how liabilities may be transferred to the purchaser of a business entity. Had the case been decided for the plaintiffs, it would have subjected medical practices and entities that had been acquired through any ownership or asset change to potential claims and exposure for medical liability damages – even those claims already settled by the predecessor entities.

Connecticut to Apply for Additional State Innovation Model Grant Funding

This week, The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that it will offer a second round of grant funding opportunities for the development of State Innovation Models (SIM). Connecticut intends to apply for this second round of funding in which CMS will fund up to 12 model test states at funding levels between $20 and $100 million per state. Funding levels will be based in part on the size of the state population and the full scope of the transformation proposal. Grant applications are due on July 21, 2014.

Connecticut was among the states that received first-round grant funding to create a proposal document, and CHA provided input to state officials as they developed the document that they consider a roadmap for the future delivery and payment of healthcare services in the state. The plan incorporates promotion of integrated care models; use of the Health Insurance Exchange to inform and connect consumers to coverage; expanded supply of primary care physicians and other professionals; and increased engagement among regulators, providers, and consumers. The resulting payment and delivery system model will advance greater alignment across multiple payers on contracting and payment strategies that promote value over volume, greater consistency in quality and other performance metrics, and expanded primary care.
The SIM initiative is one of a number of efforts started by the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation, which was created through healthcare reform to test payment and service delivery models that will reduce program expenditures while preserving or enhancing the quality of care.

The Connecticut proposal, if accepted, will provide the basis for a new healthcare delivery and payment model that will impact 80 percent of Connecticut residents.

**AHA Requests Summary Judgment in Two-Midnight Rule Lawsuit**

On May 23, the American Hospital Association, along with hospital associations in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, and a number of individual hospitals, asked a federal court to grant an immediate favorable ruling in their lawsuit that challenges a Medicare payment cut imposed on hospitals by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in response to alleged increased costs from the agency’s two-midnight rule. The lawsuit, filed in April, contends that the CMS 0.2 percent Medicare payment offset in the FY 2014 final inpatient payment rule violates federal law and regulation, is arbitrary, and should be revoked. The 0.2 percent reduction equates to approximately $3.4 million in reimbursement for Connecticut hospitals.

The motion for summary judgment states “CMS’s 0.2 percent payment cut is based on the premise that a policy that makes it more difficult for a Medicare beneficiary to qualify as an inpatient will produce an increase in the number of inpatient cases... That premise is both highly implausible and wholly unexplained. And the resulting policy is unlawful.”

The groups are asking the court to invalidate the payment cut and order CMS to recalculate the Medicare inpatient prospective payment system amounts for federal fiscal year 2014 accordingly.

CHA opposes the two-midnight policy, which has faced wide opposition from the hospital community. AHA President Rich Umbdenstock said previously that it undermines medical judgment and disregards the level of care needed to treat patients safely. In January, CMS extended the partial enforcement delay of its two-midnight policy for inpatient admission and medical review criteria for six months.

**Education Updates**

**HRO Level 3: Safety Coach Training**
Friday, May 30, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Safety Coaches are peer mentors, trained 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.

**Event Registration**

**HRO Level 3: Safety Coach Training**
Friday, May 30, 2014
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Safety Coaches are peer mentors, trained 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.

**Event Registration**

**Using High Reliability to Improve the Patients’ Experience**
Monday, June 2, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Each level three hospital may register up to 15 staff members for that session. Lynn Pierce of HPI, an alumna of Baptist Hospital in Pensacola FL (home of the 2003 Malcolm Baldridge Quality Award), will be our instructor.

**Event Registration**

**Using High Reliability to Improve the Patients’ Experience**
Monday, June 2, 2014
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Each level three hospital may register up to 15 staff members for that session. Lynn Pierce of HPI, an alumna of Baptist Hospital in Pensacola FL (home of the 2003 Malcolm Baldridge Quality Award), will be our instructor.

**Event Registration**

**HRO Level 3: Creating Sustainability for High Reliability Organizations**
Tuesday, June 3, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

This session is designed for drivers of change in your organization and includes concepts and tips to prevent High Reliability from becoming a “flavor of the month.”

**Event Registration**

**HRO Level 3: Rounding to Influence**
Tuesday, June 3, 2014
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Rounding to Influence teaches leaders how to go out on the units to coach, to mentor, and to sustain High Reliability habits and practices.
Event Registration

HRO Level 3: Safety Coach Training
Wednesday, June 4, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Safety Coaches are peer mentors, trained 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.

Event Registration

HRO Level 3: Safety Coach Training
Wednesday, June 4, 2014
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Safety Coaches are peer mentors, trained 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.

Event Registration

HRO Root Cause Analysis
Monday, June 9, 2014
10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

This workshop on Root Cause Analysis (RCA) is designed for any safety, quality, risk, or other operational leader facilitating or leading RCA investigations. This workshop will provide information on how to do a good investigation, with participants learning by doing with sample case studies. Participants will learn to enhance the cause analysis process using tools and techniques from high reliability organizations to find and fix causes to prevent recurrence.

Please note that attendance at the RCA workshop will be limited to ensure enough hands-on discussion and facilitation of the various scenarios and examples used during the training. Participation will be limited to 5 participants per hospital.

Event Registration

HRO Level 3: Leadership Method Training
Tuesday, June 10, 2014
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

This eight-hour Leadership session is designed to teach your hospital leaders the concepts of high reliability science and behaviors. The session is structured for leaders at the manager level and above. Continuing education credits will be awarded for these sessions. Breakfast and lunch are provided.

Event Registration

Physicians as Employees: Legal Issues and Best Practices to Achieve Organizational Alignment
Wednesday, June 11, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Hospitals have significantly increased the use of employed physicians to respond to the changing healthcare landscape and now face many workplace law requirements and risks dealing with this new category of "employee." Physician employees have rights under employment laws that range from governing on call time to physician unionization and other "protected concerted activity." Unlike most other hospital employees, employed physicians typically have employment contracts that can lead to costly and prolonged disputes over compensation, discharge, and the raiding of other staff by departing physicians. The program will cover employment and contract law issues, the interplay with medical bylaws, and identify best practices to minimize these disputes and promote physician engagement and alignment with the organization’s goals.

Target Audience: Direct reports to hospital CEOs, including CFOs, CMOs, COOs, in-house counsel, and human resources executives will benefit from this session.

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

View Brochure | Event Registration

CHA’s 5th Annual Supplier Diversity Forum
Wednesday, June 18, 2014
12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Aqua Turf

Connecticut hospitals are improving health equity and working to eliminate disparities through a first in the nation Diversity Collaborative. Now in its fourth year, the teams continue to work on three goals in support of the objective to achieve health equity:

- Increase diversity of hospital governance and management
- Improve cultural competence in the delivery of care
- Increase supplier diversity

As part of its 96th Annual Meeting CHA, in collaboration with the Connecticut Association of Healthcare Executives (CAHE), invites senior leadership teams, diversity collaborative teams, and our community health partners, to join us for a special education session that will be presented in conjunction with the fifth annual Supplier Diversity Forum.

Over the years, CHA has expanded the number and scope of minority business enterprises (MBE partners), and this year’s forum will provide senior executives and purchasing decision makers from member hospitals the opportunity to learn about the products and services of these enterprises.

In addition to the vendor fair, CHA is pleased to announce that Brenda and Carlton Oneal, managing partners at LightSpeed an executive consulting firm specializing in leadership dynamics and effective communication strategies, will join us again for an education session focused on how organizations can accelerate progress on all three goals. The forum underscores how the future of healthcare organizations will depend on a new vision and new strategies.
for delivering quality, safe, equitable patient-centered care in a constantly accelerating diverse environment.

**CHA Nurse Preceptorship Program**
Wednesday, June 25, 2014
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 hospitals and schools of nursing and is designed to provide core content that is foundational for the role of nurse preceptor. This one-day 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, and delegating effectively. 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 more details.

**Building and Sustaining an Integrated Clinical Documentation Program**
Friday, June 27, 2014
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

A commitment to patient safety and quality care, and ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements has led hospital leaders nationwide to recognize that a robust, clinical documentation improvement (CDI) program is an essential part of a continuous improvement strategy. CDI programs aren’t simply about more documentation—but more effective, timely, clinically accurate documentation, which ultimately leads to better patient care, and simultaneously contributes to the financial health of the organization.

While Medicare guidelines provide general principles of clinical documentation as a standard for Evaluation and Management (E&M) coding and billing, the implementation of the principles calls for collaborative multidisciplinary staff engagement.

The objective of this full day course is to bring coders, clinicians, utilization/case managers, IT professionals, and CDI experts together as an interdisciplinary team (ideally, two to four from a hospital), to break down silos and work on this challenge in a deliberative manner to make a lasting impact on better patient care and financial viability of the hospital.

Continuing education credits will be awarded.

**Update Summer Schedule**

CHA Update will be published on a bi-weekly schedule throughout the summer, returning after Labor Day to a regular weekly schedule on September 4, 2014.