Readmissions Collaborative Holds Second Learning Session

CHA’s Patient Safety Organization, in partnership with Qualidigm, held its second learning session for the Reducing Heart Failure Readmissions Collaborative on Friday, June 4. More than 120 participants gathered for the day-long program, which included a poster session and opportunities for networking. Alison Hong, MD, CHA’s Interim Vice President for Quality and Safety, opened the learning session noting that the energy and enthusiasm of the collaborative was evident in the sharing and networking in the meeting room, the informative posters set up by hospital teams, and the ongoing progress the teams are making. Since the collaborative kicked off in February, nine webinars have been held, including one last week featuring Adrian Hernandez, the lead author of a study on preventing heart failure readmissions that was published in the May 5 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Speakers for the learning session included Eric Coleman, MD, MPH, who spoke about “The Care Transitions Program: Improving Quality and Safety During Care Hand-Offs;” and Frank Federico, RPh, Executive Director, Institute for Healthcare Improvement, who addressed “Medication Reconciliation in the Prevention of Readmissions.” Dr. Coleman shared strategies for improving patient hand-offs, focusing on engaging the patient as much as possible; and Dr. Federico de-mystified medication reconciliation, identifying systems issues and opportunities. In addition, Zainab Magdon-Ismail, EdM, MPH, spoke on “Heart Failure Beyond the Core Measures,” elaborating on how to drill down into a hospital’s core measurement data to seek additional opportunities for improvement.

Several participating hospitals also presented results and strategies, including Bristol Hospital, Stamford Hospital, and Middlesex Hospital. Drs. Coleman and Federico enhanced each session by commenting on each team’s individual progress and offering specific suggestions. The day concluded with Jane Deane Clark, PhD, CHA’s Vice President for Data Services, providing a brief overview of the available data reports for the teams, and reminding them how to use these data to support their efforts.

The next Readmissions Collaborative Learning Session will be held in the fall. For more information about CHA’s Reducing Heart Failure Readmissions Collaborative, contact Alison Hong, MD at hong@chime.org.
The CHA Executive Committee has developed the 2010 slate of candidates for officers and trustees of the CHA Board of Trustees. The Assembly will vote on this slate of candidates at the CHA Annual Meeting on June 30, 2010.

Chris Dadlez (current Vice Chairman) has been nominated as Chairman. President and Chief Executive Officer of Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, Mr. Dadlez assumed leadership of Saint Francis in August 2004.

His prior experience includes serving as the President/CEO of the 476-bed Mercy Medical Center in Canton, Ohio. Prior to his tenure at Mercy Medical Center, Mr. Dadlez was Executive Vice President of the Saint Barnabas Healthcare System, the largest healthcare provider in New Jersey. He also previously served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Mid-Atlantic Health Group, parent company of Monmouth Medical Center, where he served as CEO.

Mr. Dadlez completed his bachelor's degree in biology at the University of New Hampshire and his master's degree in hospital administration at the Medical College of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University. He is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, and has been active in leadership roles in the Ohio and New Jersey Hospital Associations, as well as the American Hospital Association, and the Council of Teaching Hospitals. Mr. Dadlez is also Chairman of CHA's Committee on Hospital Finance.

Susan Davis, EdD, President and Chief Executive Officer, St. Vincent’s Medical Center, has been nominated as Vice Chairman. Dr. Davis came to St. Vincent’s from an 18-year career at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, NY. Since taking over as St. Vincent’s CEO in 2004, Dr. Davis has presided over the opening of the region’s most advanced operating suites and intensive care units, and has launched the most ambitious technology upgrade in the medical center’s history.

Dr. Davis is currently overseeing a $142 million master facility plan, which is being supported by more than $42 million from an ongoing capital campaign. As the first phase of the project nears completion, St. Vincent’s opened its new Elizabeth M. Pfriem SWIM Center for Cancer Care in early 2010, and facilities that will triple the size of its emergency department. In addition to leading the medical center, Dr. Davis, as President of the St. Vincent’s system, also oversees the operations of Southern Connecticut’s largest behavioral health hospital, an associate degree granting college of healthcare studies, and the state’s largest center for the disabled. She received her BS in nursing from Mt. Saint Mary College, Newburgh, NY, and her MA in nursing administration and EdD from Columbia University, with an emphasis in management. She is a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

The rest of the 2010 slate of candidates will be profiled in next week’s edition of Update.

General Assembly to Meet in Special Session

Members of the General Assembly were informed this week that veto and special sessions are scheduled for Monday, June 21. It is expected that members will be asked to consider overriding several vetoes issued by Governor M. Jodi Rell and will then convene in a special session to consider the extension of the conveyance tax and a number of legislative items yet to be determined. The session scheduled for June 21 is the first time members of the General Assembly have met since the end of the regular session on May 5.

2010 Legislative Highlights

This is the last in a series of updates highlighting items of interest to hospitals acted on by the General Assembly during the 2010 regular session.

On Wednesday, May 5, the Senate and House amended and passed the CHA-supported SB 428, An Act Concerning Revisions To The Public Health Related Statutes, an annual agency bill that makes revisions to various public health-related statutes. Of interest to hospitals are provisions that: reassign the designation of lead health information exchange organizations from DPH to the Health Information Technology Exchange of Connecticut; require the Department of Consumer Protection, in consultation with DPH, to create regulations regarding collaborative drug management therapies without regard to the healthcare practice setting or the condition being treated; require each pharmaceutical or medical device manufacturing company to adopt and implement a code that is consistent with, and minimally contains, all of the requirements prescribed in their respective industry's policies as it relates to providing gifts to healthcare providers; clarify that certain professionals who have the appropriate training may transport hospital patients on oxygen and take the actions necessary, for example, to ensure their safety while getting physical therapy or an MRI in the hospital.
The House and Senate also amended and passed HB 5398, An Act Concerning A Pilot Program To Transfer Hospital Patients Who Receive Medicaid Benefits To Nursing Homes In A Timely Manner, a bill that CHA supported. The bill was amended to create a task force to study the period of time Medicaid recipients remain in acute care hospitals before they are transferred to a long-term care facility.

Both bills were signed by the Governor: SB 428 on Tuesday, June 8; and HB 5398 on Wednesday, June 7.

**CHA Nurse Preceptorship Program Back by Popular Demand**

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. The 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.

To be held on Tuesday, June 15, this one-day program includes presentations and interactive sessions that include 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 RN preceptors who have not had this content, or would like to be refreshed on these concepts.

Speakers for the program include: Janice Costello, RN, Chairperson, Department of Nursing, Goodwin College; Anna McGuirk, RN, Clinical Educator and Consultant; and Justin Sleeper, RN, Clinical Director of Inpatient Psychiatry, The William W. Backus Hospital.

*The Connecticut Hospital Association is an Approved Provider of Continuing Nursing Education by the Connecticut Nurses’ Association, an Accredited Approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation.*

Registration and breakfast are 8:00 – 8:30 a.m.; the program is 8:30 – 4:15 p.m. [Click here](#) to register. For more information, please contact Christine Prestiano, Coordinator, Education and Sponsorship Services at (203) 294-7257 or prestiano@chime.org.

**CHA to Host Medical Records Law on Tuesday, June 22, 2010**

This program will offer health information administrators, compliance/risk managers, and clinicians a comprehensive review of Connecticut-specific laws governing medical records management. Understanding necessary elements of medical records and retention requirements, responding to subpoenas, requirements for special populations (e.g., minors, mental health patients, HIV) will all be discussed.

Strategies and options for meeting state laws, and concurrently maintaining compliance with HIPAA, accreditation standards, and payer participation conditions will all be explored, along with a review of various ethical obligations for providers relating to record use and release. The program will also provide a timely update on the status of HITECH changes to records laws, business associate relationships, and breach notification rules. The session will be presented by Jennifer Cox of Cox & Osowiecki, LLC, a Hartford law firm representing healthcare institutions and providers in regulatory, litigation, licensing, and business matters.

Registration and breakfast are 8:30 – 9:00 a.m.; the program is 9:00 – 1:30 p.m. [Click here](#) to register. For more information, please contact Christine Prestiano, Coordinator, Education and Sponsorship Services at (203) 294-7257 or prestiano@chime.org.

**Workforce Compliance Update—Preparing for New Risks and Financial Exposure to be Held at CHA on Thursday, June 24, 2010**

Two recent compliance and labor-related developments will raise the legal stakes and risk of financial exposure for healthcare employers: pro-labor appointments to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB); and a stepped-up regulatory focus on hospitals’ classification and use of the contingent workforce to meet staffing needs. With two Obama appointees now on the NLRB, employers should prepare for possible changes in administrative rulings and various labor law interpretations such as the expanded definition of supervisor under the 2006 Oakwood Health Care, Inc. case.

The June 24 program on Workforce Compliance will also address new laws and regulations to prevent misclassification of workers. Hospitals make substantial use of contingent workers, including independent contractors, per diems, on-call workers, and use of temporary staffing firms to provide ancillary services such as security, janitorial services, and dietary functions.
Given the nature of healthcare delivery, many of these contingent workers are closely supervised by hospital personnel, and that blurs the line between hospital employee and non-employee. The FY 2011 Department of Labor (DOL) budget allocates $25M to a joint DOL—Department of Treasury misclassification initiative, with the goal of coordinating federal and state efforts to enforce laws and regulations, and a secondary goal of revenue collection.

This program is designed for patient care and human resources executives, in-house counsel, risk managers, and compliance officers. John G. Zandy, a partner at Wiggin and Dana and chair of its Labor, Employment and Benefits Department, will present the program.

Registration and light lunch are 12:30 – 1:00 p.m.; the program is 1:00 – 4:15 p.m. Click here to register. For more information, please contact Christine Prestiano, Coordinator, Education and Sponsorship Services at (203) 294-7257 or prestiano@chime.org.

**CHA’s Annual Meeting – Wednesday, June 30, 2010**

Come celebrate the many accomplishments of Connecticut hospitals at the 92nd CHA Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 30, 2010, at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington. Attendees will have the opportunity to discuss the challenges of the future, while networking with fellow colleagues.

Highlights of this year’s meeting will include the presentation of the 2010 Connecticut’s Hospital Community Service Award and the 2010 John D. Thompson Award for Excellence in the Delivery of Healthcare Through the Use of Data. Look for the announcement of those winners in next week’s Update. The winners of CHA’s annual “Healthcare Heroes” Contest will also be recognized. The meeting will also feature the annual business meeting and election of the CHA Board of Trustees, along with a special tribute to retiring hospital CEOs.

This year’s keynote speaker is Peggy Noonan, a columnist for The Wall Street Journal and frequent guest on national news programs. Ms. Noonan is the bestselling author of eight books on American politics, history, and culture. Click here for more on this year’s keynote speaker.

The 92nd CHA Annual Meeting is made possible in part by Platinum Sponsor Credit Suisse. For more information, contact Christine Prestiano at (203) 294-7257 or prestiano@chime.org.