Hospitals Reduce Blood Stream Infections in Connecticut and Nationwide

Connecticut hospitals participating in the national “On the CUSP: Stop BSI” project reduced their central line-associated blood stream infection (CLABSI) rates significantly from baseline, on par with results from across the country. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the research arm of the Department of Health and Human Services, announced recently that U.S. hospitals demonstrated a 40 percent infection rate decrease over four years.

Preliminary findings from the national project involving more than 1,100 adult intensive care units (ICUs) in 44 states indicated that CLABSIs decreased from 1.903 infections per 1,000 central line days to 1.137 infections per 1,000 central line days. Based on an analysis of CHA data, the 14 Connecticut hospitals participating in the first cohort of the project reduced their rate of CLABSIs by a rate of nearly 50 percent, from 1.99 infections per 1,000 central line days to 1.05 infections per 1,000 central line days.

This reduction in infections was achieved through an approach focused on evidence-based care for the insertion, maintenance, and timely removal of central lines, as well as implementation of the Comprehensive Unit-based Safety Program (CUSP) that includes tools, checklists, and communications that foster the sharing of experiences, best practices, and results. Connecticut hospitals continue to make progress in decreasing CLABSI rates through the Partnership for Patients initiative.

Medicaid Growth Hurts State’s Fiscal Projections

State Comptroller Kevin Lembo issued his monthly financial statement to the Governor on Monday. The financial statement, in the form of a letter, is sent to Governor Malloy to help inform the administration about Connecticut’s current fiscal health. In his letter, the Comptroller agreed with the Office of Policy and Management’s budgetary deficit projection that shows a decline of $30 million from July 2012. Additionally, Mr. Lembo says the General Fund is predicted to end Fiscal Year 2013 with a $26.9 million deficit for budgetary accounting, with the biggest hit coming from increased Medicaid enrollment.

“The Medicaid account has continued to experience strong caseload growth,” Mr. Lembo wrote. “The department’s active assistance report for August indicates a jump of more than 1,700 participants. An upward trend has continued in Medicaid’s low income adult population.”

The higher expenditure is partially offset by $20 million in lower debt service payments resulting from a favorable interest rate environment.

Mr. Lembo also expressed budget concerns surrounding high unemployment figures, potential sequestration of federal funds, and the expiration of tax reductions in January – all of which will inhibit Connecticut’s economic recovery.

Special Democratic Primary Held in 5th General Assembly House Seat

On Tuesday, October 2, 2012, Brandon McGee (D-Hartford) was nominated by Democratic voters to serve as their party’s nominee for the 5th General Assembly seat in the House of Representatives. The special primary was held after two recounts and the courts determined that the election held on August 14 ended in a tie vote. Mr. McGee beat opponent Leo Canty (D-Windsor) by a vote of 1,095 to 942. The totals are unofficial until certified by the Secretary of
Brandon McGee (D-Hartford), Democratic Nominee, will face Paul Panos (R-Windsor) in the November 6 general election.

The newly redistricted 5th General Assembly seat includes the town of Windsor and part of the city of Hartford. The 5th General Assembly seat was previously held by Representative Marie Kirkley-Bey (D-Hartford), who decided not to seek reelection. The General Assembly will convene the 2013 Legislative Session on Wednesday, January 9, 2013.

CHA Offers Diversity Collaborative Anniversary Symposium and Cross Cultural Training

This October, as part of the CHA Diversity Collaborative: From Intent to Impact, CHA will offer programs to increase diversity in hospital governance and senior management, improve cultural competence in the delivery of care, and increase supplier diversity.

High-profile speaker Bernice J. Washington, MBA, will deliver the keynote addresses at the October 23, 2012, Diversity Collaborative Anniversary Symposium. The Symposium will present sessions on strategies and practices that hospitals can implement to achieve the goals of the collaborative.

Mrs. Washington, President and CEO of BJW Consulting Group, is a nationally acclaimed speaker, television and radio talk show commentator, and healthcare advocate. She has served as the Board Chair for Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Plano, as Vice Chair of Presbyterian Healthcare Resources, and as a member of the American Hospital Association's Regional Policy Board.

The Connecticut Hospital Association-CHA 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. The John D. Thompson Hospice Institute for Education, Training and Research, Inc., is pending designation of this educational activity for AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ for physicians. This program is pending approval of Category II credit through the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE).

The Symposium will be held on October 23, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. View the save-the-date flyer here. Register here.

On October 15, 2012, CHA presents the first of a four-part series: Cross Cultural & Diversity Inclusiveness Training. The program, designed and delivered by the Hispanic Health Council (HHC), establishes the foundation of knowledge, attitudes, and skills participants need to interact effectively with patients and clients of diverse backgrounds.

The program comprises four training sessions, each three hours in duration, delivered twice a week over a two-week period. Participants must attend all four sessions, and registration for the October 15 session will automatically register attendees for the entire program. The curriculum is highly interactive and will be limited to 20 participants. Clinical leaders, operational and administrative managers, and professional support staff are all encouraged to register.

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The program will be held on October 15, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Additional dates are October 17, October 22, and October 24. View the brochure here. Register for all four sessions here.

Education Updates

The Healthcare Environment
October 19, 2012  9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
The Healthcare Environment, presented by George Mills, Director of Engineering at The Joint Commission, will include an update on trends related to hospital survey experiences and lessons learned, as well as general interpretations related to the healthcare environment. This program will also include discussion related to risk assessments associated with behavioral healthcare units, fire safety (including the Life Safety Code), and equipment management.

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View the brochure by clicking here. Click here to register.

Lean Principles: Process Flow and Value Stream Mapping in Healthcare
October 24, 2012  9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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 eliminates roadblocks 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 will be held on Thursday, November 1, 2012.

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View the brochure here. Click here to register.

2012 Nurse Leadership Forum
October 26, 2012  8:45 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

CHA’s annual Nurse Leadership Forum will include a keynote presentation on the future of healthcare by Carl Hammerschlag, MD, psychiatrist, author, and nationally acclaimed speaker. The Forum will also include presentations on the financial aspects of delivering care, improving community health and population health management through collaboration with primary care, and developing culturally competent leadership.

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View the save-the-date flyer here. Click here to register.

OSHA Compliance: Is Your Organization Ready?
October 30, 2012  9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Two compliance assistance specialists from local OSHA offices will share the most common hazards found in a hospital setting in a routine OSHA enforcement inspection, and what corrective measures an employer can take to eliminate safety and health hazards.

The Connecticut Hospital Association-CHA 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 (2.25 Contact Hours). Compliance Certification Board (CCB) has approved this program for 2.7 Compliance Certification Board (CCB) Continuing Education Units. This program is pending approval for contact hours of continuing education credit toward fulfillment of the requirements of ASHRM designations of Fellow (FASHRM) and Distinguished Fellow (DFASHRM) and towards Certified Professional in Healthcare Risk Management (CPHRM) renewal, by the National Association for Healthcare Quality for CPHQ CE credits, and of Category II credit through the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). The John D. Thompson Hospice Institute for Education, Training and Research, Inc., is pending designation of this educational activity for AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ for physicians.

View the brochure here. Click here to register.