



Thursday, October 15, 2020

Printer-Friendly Version

In This Issue:

CHA Submits Comments to OHS on the Preliminary Recommendations of the Cost Growth Benchmark Technical Team

Governor Lamont Announces Membership of the COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Group; Advisory Group to Hold First Meeting Tonight

DPH Flu Vaccine Campaign Launches

AHA, AMA, and ANA Send Letter to President Urging Rescission of Executive Order 13950

Education Updates

Update Archives

CHA Submits Comments to OHS on the Preliminary Recommendations of the Cost Growth Benchmark Technical Team

In January 2020, Governor Ned Lamont issued Executive Order No. 5 (EO 5), which requires the Office of Health Strategy (OHS) to implement a cost growth benchmark, create associated quality benchmarks, and work to ensure that spending on primary care is at least 10 percent of total healthcare spending. In setting a cost growth benchmark, the state is interested in limiting the annual rate of healthcare spending growth. EO 5 requires the spending targets to be in place for calendar year 2021.



In order to assist in the implementation of EO 5, OHS created a Technical Team to advise the agency and make recommendations on how the provisions of the executive order should be implemented. In late September, the Technical Team made a series of preliminary recommendations to OHS and OHS subsequently sought public comment on the recommendations.

CHA and its member hospitals and health systems have been actively engaged in advocating for an inclusive implementation process that fundamentally values the important role healthcare plays in the lives of Connecticut residents and the state's economy. In furtherance of this work, CHA submitted comments to OHS on the preliminary recommendations. Among the points made in those comments, CHA advocates for more appropriate spending targets, additional transparency and public engagement related to implementation of the spending targets and data strategy, and a more holistic view of the primary care spending target. CHA's comments can be read [here](#).

The [preliminary recommendations](#) are open for comment until October 16. Information on how to submit comments can be found [here](#).

Governor Lamont Announces Membership of the COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Group; Advisory Group to Hold First Meeting Tonight



The advisory group tasked by Governor Ned Lamont to organize a statewide COVID-19 vaccine distribution strategy will hold its [first meeting](#) tonight, Thursday, October 15. The advisory group is led by Reginald Eadie, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer of Trinity Health Of New England and Deidre Gifford, MD, Department of Public Health acting Commissioner. The advisory group will advise the Governor on preparations for a COVID-19 vaccine, including the optimization of a statewide vaccine distribution strategy, and communicating critical medical information about the vaccine with the state's residents. Last Friday, Governor Lamont identified the members of the advisory group. Hospital representatives on the advisory group include:

Jessica Abrantes-Figueiredo, MD, Chief of Infectious Diseases, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center
Keith Grant, MSN, APRN, FNP-C, CIC, Senior System Director for Infection Prevention, Hartford HealthCare
Richard Martinello, MD, Medical Director of Infection Prevention, Yale New Haven Hospital and Yale New Haven Health

Additional hospital and health system members named to subgroups include:

- Kerry Clark, Emergency Management Specialist, Division of Public Safety, UConn Health
- Zita Lazzarini, JD, MPH, Associate Professor, Public Health Sciences, UConn Health
- Danyal Ibrahim, MD, Regional Chief Quality Officer and Chief of Toxicology, Trinity Health Of New England
- David Banach, MD, MPH, Head of Infection Prevention and Hospital Epidemiologist, UConn Health
- Michael Carius, MD, FACEP, American College of Emergency Physicians

The group's first meeting will be covered by CT-N. More information on the advisory group can be found [here](#).

DPH Flu Vaccine Campaign Launches



The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) has launched a public education campaign encouraging residents to get their annual flu vaccination. The state has secured extra vaccine supplies, with the intention of increasing the uptake of vaccine this year, in light of the parallel infection risk of COVID-19. The concern is that a normal flu season, combined with a potential fall and winter uptick in COVID-19 patients could stress hospital capacity. Experts stress that the vaccine is a proven way to prevent or lessen the severity of influenza cases, lessening potential pressure on hospitals. Here is the [campaign overview](#).

DPH is encouraging everyone, but especially healthcare providers, to share the campaign on their own social media channels in the coming weeks and months to help increase flu immunization compliance across the state. The campaign will be running through March in both English and Spanish, and will be periodically updated. The campaign components can be accessed [here](#).

AHA, AMA, and ANA Send Letter to President Urging Rescission of Executive Order 13950

In a letter to President Trump, the American Hospital Association, American Medical Association, and the



American Nurses Association urged the President to rescind Executive Order 13950, which the three associations argued, if not rescinded, will, “effectively reverse decades of progress in combating racial inequality.”

Highlighting that social determinants of health, implicit bias and historical systems have led to unequal access to care, the associations point to the need to fully understand and address these factors. The associations express concern that, left unaddressed, these factors will stifle the work of inclusion and equity.

The joint letter can be viewed [here](#).

Education Updates

Cyber Threat Update and Cyber Risk as Enterprise Risk Webinar

Tuesday, October 27, 2020
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Virtual Program

Cybersecurity continues to be a dangerous threat and growing concern to hospitals and health systems. Add to data-breaches, ransomware and other typical threats the concerns associated with a world-wide pandemic and the picture is complex and changing. CHA is pleased to host a webinar featuring John Riggi, Senior Advisor for Cybersecurity and Risk at the American Hospital Association, to keep members up to date and prepared. [Learn more](#) about the program and [register here](#).

De-escalation 101

Tuesday, October 27, 2020
Wednesday, October 28, 2020
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Virtual Program

This two-hour virtual class has been converted from the three-hour in-person De-escalation 101 class held at CHA for the past two years as part of the Safer Hospitals Initiative. The material will focus on Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) concepts and approaches to de-escalation; please note that the program does not address restraints or physical hold training. [Click here](#) to register online for Tuesday, October 27, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. [Click here](#) to register online for Wednesday, October 28, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There is no cost for this program and continuing education credits are not being offered.

Best Practices for Nonhazardous and Hazardous Sterile-to-Sterile Compounding

(Rescheduled to November from May 2020)

Virtual Training Sessions for Different Professional Groups

During the weeks of November 2 and November 9, CHA is offering three separate opportunities for training by industry expert CriticalPoint on USP Chapters <797> and <800>. These virtual training sessions will provide CHA members with additional knowledge and skills necessary to perform best practice nonhazardous and hazardous sterile-to-sterile compounding. Click [here](#) for full event information. Click [here](#) to register for the [hospital pharmacists and pharmacy technicians](#) session; [here](#) for the hospital engineers, architects, and facilities personnel session; and [here](#) for the quality professionals and infection preventionists session.