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Connecticut Hospital Association Statement on Ebola

We are pleased to hear that the preliminary test was negative for the Yale-New Haven Hospital patient who is being treated for Ebola-like symptoms. We support our doctors, nurses, and staff at hospitals across our state who treat everyone who comes through their doors 24 hours a day.

Ensuring the safety of patients and caregivers is the number one priority of Connecticut hospitals. Our hospitals are deeply committed to maintaining the highest standards of infection control and minimizing the risk of contracting any infectious diseases including Ebola. In a press conference this afternoon, Governor Dannel Malloy ordered all Connecticut hospitals and Emergency Medical Services staff to conduct a drill of emergency protocol within the next seven days, but preferably within the next 48 hours, to determine whether there are any gaps in readiness for Ebola. Governor Malloy's order reinforces the importance of drills and exercises; Connecticut hospitals train constantly to respond to emergency situations, and they have been preparing for a potential Ebola occurrence, including holding drills, since it first became a possibility in the U.S.

Hospitals are in regular contact with the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) and other agencies to ensure they are up to date on the evolving guidelines and have a coordinated response plan in place. CHA is working with DPH to manage critical communications among hospitals and to share materials and resources related to Ebola detection, treatment, and response. CHA and hospitals began regular emergency preparedness coordination calls last week to share tools and resources, as well as best practices and lessons learned, particularly from hospital drills. As long as Ebola is a threat, we will continue to monitor the situation and share information to keep everyone in Connecticut safe.

Connecticut Healthcare Community Preparing for Ebola



On October 14, more than 120 healthcare providers attended a statewide briefing at the Connecticut Hospital Association on Ebola and Enterovirus D68. Hospitals, community health providers, public health leaders, emergency medical services personnel, and other first responders attended the meeting, which is one of many ongoing activities around Ebola preparedness and public safety in Connecticut. CHA hosted the briefing in concert with the Yale New Haven Health System Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response and the Milford Health Department.

Dr. A. Dennis McBride, Milford Health Director, introduced featured speaker Louise Marie Dembry, MD. Dr. Dembry is Associate Director, Yale-New Haven Hospital Epidemiology, Professor of Medicine (Infectious Diseases) and Epidemiology, Yale University, and Co-Medical Director, Yale New Haven Health System Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response. Dr. Dembry, a recognized expert on hospital epidemiology and infectious diseases, provided a clinical overview of Enterovirus D68, including infection prevention recommendations, recommendations to ensure the protection of healthcare workers, and reporting guidance.

Additionally, Dr. Dembry provided background on Ebola, including signs and symptoms, infection timeline, screening protocol, and diagnostic testing. She focused on the ways in which healthcare workers can prepare to detect patients with Ebola, protect themselves and others, and respond appropriately. Following her presentation, a detailed discussion highlighted specific screening and operational protocols, testing, and personal protective equipment. Dr. Dembry offered practical advice and responded to questions from healthcare providers and emergency response personnel.

CHA was pleased to host the briefing as part of hospitals' statewide effort to ensure a coordinated response to Ebola from hospitals and healthcare providers.

Governor Dannel Malloy Discusses Future of Healthcare in Connecticut



On October 15, more than 100 people from across the continuum of care participated in a conversation with Governor Dannel Malloy. The program, hosted by the Collaborations of Care Partners, was the second in a series of discussions with candidates for Governor.

Governor Malloy began by describing how the complex fiscal challenges faced by the state mirror those in healthcare. "We're still going to see the recession in our rearview mirror for years to come," he said. "I'm hopeful but I also want to be realistic."

He said he wanted to work with the healthcare community to find a road to progress that links better outcomes for patients to better reimbursement for providers. Jim Iacobellis, Senior Vice President, Government and Regulatory Affairs, echoed the sentiment. "We want stronger, stable hospitals and better care for patients," Mr. Iacobellis told Governor Malloy. "We are willing to sit down and have those conversations with you."

Governor Malloy praised hospitals for out-of-the-box thinking on issues like consolidation, and said that his administration is trying to understand the needs of the industry to develop policies that support those needs. He lauded the recent creation of the Value Care Alliance, a collaboration of hospitals and physicians working together to provide efficient, coordinated, high-quality care for the communities they serve.

Governor Malloy also said he appreciated the value of homecare and hospice in Connecticut.

He discussed his focus on mental health and improving care by working with partners across the continuum. Governor Malloy also described how healthcare reform implementation in Connecticut exceeded his expectations, and he expressed optimism about the State Innovation Model grant application that is being evaluated in Washington, DC.

In addition to CHA, the Collaborations of Care Partners include the Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home, the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities, the Connecticut State Medical Society, and LeadingAge Connecticut.

Since October 2011, the Collaborations of Care Partners have been working on a shared goal of enhancing the quality of healthcare provided to every Connecticut resident. The collaboration has focused on improving and coordinating the transitions of care provided by our hospitals, home care and hospice, skilled nursing facilities, and the physician community.



Safety Absolute Video Filmed at Bristol Hospital



On October 13, CHA filmed a patient safety video at Bristol Hospital. The video will be provided to hospitals across the state as part of the January 1, 2015 rollout of the statewide Safety Absolute.

A Safety Absolute is a flag on an existing rule that reinforces the rule as critical to patient safety. The Safety Absolute that hospitals are adopting on January 1, 2015, is about patient identification. Hospital staff will reinforce the rule of checking two forms of identification when they provide care, collect specimens, transfer patients for procedures or studies, prescribe or offer medication, and when they offer food. Staff will ask for a patient's name, and then validate his or her identity by asking for a date of birth, checking the medical record number, or scanning the barcode on a patient's ID bracelet.

The rollout will include education and training for hospital staff, managers, and physicians. The video, which is intended to be used by hospitals on their internal TV channels, will describe the Safety Absolute to patients and show them what they can expect during their stay.

The Safety Absolute is part of Connecticut hospitals' mission of reducing all-cause preventable harm through CHA's statewide collaborative to empower hospitals to become high reliability organizations, creating cultures with a relentless focus on safety. To date, more than 10,000 hospital staff and physicians have been trained in high reliability safety behaviors.



Hospitals Celebrate the Third Anniversary of the CHA Diversity Collaborative



On Thursday, October 23, 2014, CHA will celebrate with a symposium the third year of the CHA Diversity Collaborative. The Collaborative is a multi-year, statewide initiative designed to address health disparities, increase diversity, and improve cultural competence in the delivery of care.

The Third Annual Diversity Collaborative Symposium will feature a discussion of race and ethnic disparities in preventable hospitalizations, as well as an analysis of healthcare quality among priority patient populations.

Colleen O'Toole, PhD, will provide the keynote address. Dr. O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer of the Greater Cincinnati Health Council, the Health Improvement Collaborative, and HealthBridge, will discuss The Greater Cincinnati Health Council's continuing efforts to strengthen race, ethnicity, and language (REAL) data collection methodology and data integrity in pursuit of reducing disparities in care.

Other speakers include Christopher Dadlez, President and CEO, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center; J. Suzanne Wilson, RN, Director of Resource Management, AnMed Health System; Troy Cicero, President of MulticultuReal Communications; Robert Aseltine Jr, PhD, Professor and Interim Chair, Division of Behavioral Science and Community Health Deputy Director, Center for Public Health and Health Policy UCONN Health.

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

CHA would like to thank our contributing sponsors, Qualidigm and Wiggin and Dana.

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

CT Hospitals Participate in Antimicrobial Study Published in JAMA



Thirteen Connecticut hospitals participated in a landmark antimicrobial use study published last week in The Journal of the American Medical Association. The study is intended to determine the prevalence of antimicrobial use in hospitals.

One-day prevalence surveys were conducted in acute care hospitals in 10 states in 2011. Patients were randomly selected from each hospital's morning census on the survey date. Data collectors reviewed medical records retrospectively to gather data on antimicrobial drugs administered to patients, including reasons for administration, infection sites treated, and whether treated infections began in community or healthcare settings.

The study found that half of patients were given at least one antimicrobial drug on the survey day. Seventy seven percent were used to treat infections, and 12 percent were given for surgical and medical prophylaxis. Use of broad-spectrum antimicrobial drugs such as piperacillin-tazobactam and drugs such as vancomycin for resistant pathogens was common.

Study authors suggest that further work is needed to understand the settings and indications for which appropriately targeting antimicrobial use can be accomplished effectively and safely.

Antibiotic stewardship is a critical issue nationally because overuse could lead to a loss of effectiveness. Connecticut hospitals see antimicrobial stewardship as important for medical care quality, have antibiotic stewardship programs in place led by physician and pharmacy champions, are tracking and controlling antibiotic use, and offer provider education.

Education Updates

Medication Safety: Your Role on the Team

Monday, November 10, 2014

12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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

This program will be held at the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University.

According to the FDA, it has received more than 30,000 reports of medication errors since 1992. Medication errors can occur at any point in healthcare, and involve patients, families, and professionals. Please join us for a multi-stakeholder approach to Medication Safety: Your Role on the Team. This program is open to consumers, patients, and families; hospital providers; continuum of care providers; retail pharmacies; Boards or senior leadership; healthcare organization staff; policy makers and staff of policy makers; media; and students and instructors in professional schools.

Speakers will include patient advocate Marian Hollingsworth from San Diego, discussing her father's death and polypharmacy; clinicians from Yale University School of Medicine, Brown University, and University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy; nursing advocates from long-term care and home health care; representation from the Office of the Healthcare Advocate, and our keynote speaker, Dr. Allan Vaida from the Institute for Safe Medication Practices. Attendees will participate in break-out sessions to discuss a strategy for making Connecticut the safest state for medication use. Sponsored by Connecticut Hospital Association, Connecticut Partnership for Patient Safety, Qualidigm, Connecticut Center for Patient Safety, Connecticut State Medical Society, Quinnipiac University Frank H. Netter School of Medicine, University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy, Office of the Healthcare Advocate, Donaghue Foundation, and the Universal Healthcare Foundation of CT.

Continuing education credits will be awarded.

Extended-Release and Long-Acting Opioid Analgesics Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS)

Monday, November 10, 2014

5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

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

The Extended-Release and Long-Acting Opioid Analgesics Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) program will be held at the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University.

This program is brought to you in collaboration with DPH.

Restraint and Seclusion Documentation and Chemical Restraints in the Hospital and Nursing Home Settings

Monday, October 20, 2014

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

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

Please join us for a program focusing on restraint and seclusion documentation and chemical restraints in the hospital and nursing home settings. Connecticut Department of Public Health's Barbara Cass, Section Chief; Lori Griffin, Supervising Nurse Consultant; and Donna Ortelle, Public Health Services Manager, will present the most common issues found in hospitals and nursing homes regarding these focus areas. Additionally, experienced healthcare attorneys will provide an overview of the importance of adhering to restraint and seclusion guidelines to provide safe patient care in both settings.

Continuing education credits will be awarded.

Transitioning From Staff to Management: What's Next?

Tuesday, November 4, 2014

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

[Event Registration](#)

Whether recently assigned to the role of manager or a seasoned veteran, it is essential to continually step back to assess your knowledge of management practice and how well your critical thinking, problem solving, decision-making, and communication skills are keeping pace with the rapidly changing and challenging healthcare environment.

For those of you who attended the first program in our leadership development series—"Staff to Management: Starting the Transition" in or March or October, and all managers who want to improve their skills and learn practical techniques for leading change initiatives, building team cohesiveness, coaching employees for better performance, and using time management strategies, this practical and interactive session will help you manage both the people and business components of your job more effectively.

Continuing education credits will be awarded.

Coaching Skills to Improve Performance

Wednesday, November 5, 2014

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

[Event Registration](#)

What does it take for a manager to be an effective coach? Is there a difference between managing and coaching employees for improved performance? Building trust, appreciating differences, encouraging growth, providing constructive criticism, and overcoming roadblocks to goal achievement are all part of the process.

Continuing education credits will be awarded.

HRO Ambulatory Design Day

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

[Event Registration](#)

As hospitals, to sustain our implementation of High Reliability, we need participation by our partners who take care of patients. High Reliability needs to be utilized at every point in the care continuum. Join us for this session to help us design the curriculum for ambulatory practices and long-term care. This session is open to High Reliability Level 2 and Level 3 hospitals.

HRO Fair and Just Accountability

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

[Event Registration](#)

This is a session for Human Resources Executives and anyone else who manages people. Fair and Just Accountability trains staff to review performance from a standardized perspective when there is an adverse event, focusing on the behavior rather than the outcome.

Continuing education credits will be awarded.

CHA Nurse Preceptorship Program

Tuesday, November 18, 2014

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

[Event Registration](#)

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.

