



Thursday, November 7, 2013

[Printer-Friendly Version](#)**In This Issue:**[Hospitals Working to Prevent Falls in the Acute Care Setting](#)[State Innovation Model Design Grant Plan Submitted](#)[Connecticut Hospitals Joint Commission "Top Performers"](#)[Municipal Election Results: Toni Harp Elected Mayor](#)[St. Vincent's Launches Affiliation With MD Anderson Cancer Network](#)[Education Updates](#)[Update Archives](#)**Hospitals Working to Prevent Falls in the Acute Care Setting**

On November 5, Nearly 100 patient safety leaders and caregivers across Connecticut participated in an exciting educational session about preventing patient falls in the acute care setting. Patricia Quigley, PhD, MPH, ARNP, CRRN, FAAN, FAANP, Associate Director, VISN 8 Patient Safety Center of Inquiry, a nationally known speaker on falls prevention, discussed national trends and best practices for fall prevention. She described new advances and innovations to protect patients from fall injury, and described strategies to implement changes that prevent falls.

During the day-long program, several hospitals described their fall prevention strategies.

Kristina Kehlenbach, MPT, PT, BS, and Judy Bahr, MSN, RN-BC, CIC, Middlesex Hospital, discussed the importance of obtaining a baseline assessment prior to implementing an action plan to prevent falls. They also talked about the importance of multidisciplinary involvement in the effort.

Susan Brown, RN, MSN, SVP of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer, Greenwich Hospital, discussed the hospital's innovative video monitoring program, which resulted in a dramatic reduction in patient falls among the hospital's high-risk beds and a significant cost savings.

Patricia Quigley, PhD, MPH, ARNP, CRNN, FAAN, FAANP

Melissa Swan, RN, BSN, CLNS, CNML, Neuroscience Unit Nurse Manager and Fall Committee Chair at Lawrence + Memorial Hospital, discussed how the hospital reduced falls in its medical-surgical units by using evidence-based practice and tactics that focused on empowering and holding staff accountable.

Danette Alexander, RN, MSN, NEA-BC, and Christine Waszynski, RN, MSN, GNP-BC, Hartford Hospital, shared information about the hospital's work to prevent falls in the emergency department. The hospital's program included volunteer hourly rounding.

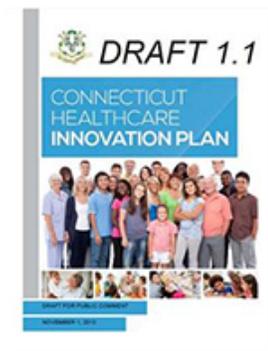
Jeannie Robbins, RN, BSN, and Dawn Lantiere, RN, BSN, Bristol Hospital, discussed its strategy of building a culture of safety to reduce falls. Tactics included partnering with physical therapy, post-fall huddles, and diagnosis-specific strategies and interventions, among others.

This educational program was part of Partnership for Patients, a national initiative in which all Connecticut hospitals participate. The program seeks to reduce preventable inpatient harm by 40 percent and readmissions by 20 percent by the end of this year.

State Innovation Model Design Grant Plan Submitted

On November 1, state officials released their [State Innovation Model \(SIM\) document](#), which they consider a roadmap for the future delivery and payment of healthcare services in the state. The document is part of grant application to the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI), an entity within the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) created under healthcare reform to support the development and testing of innovative healthcare payment and service delivery models. The document is being noticed in the *Connecticut Law Journal* for a 21-day public comment period, with submittal to CMMI as a final model design application by the state later this year. The proposal, if accepted, will provide the basis for a new healthcare delivery and payment model that will impact 80 percent of Connecticut residents.

The plan focuses on giving primary care providers a larger role in care, and improving the transitions of care. Providers would be accountable for quality and cost of care, and could share in savings if achieved.



As a stakeholder in reforming the delivery of care, CHA has been monitoring the development of the state's SIM grant proposal. CHA is currently reviewing the 154 page document to determine what comments to submit during the review period.

In July, SIM Project Director and Healthcare Advocate Vicki Veltri, along with Associate Project Directors Mark Schaefer, PhD, and Michael Michaud, met with hospital leaders to discuss their work on the grant design process. Members engaged in a conversation with the SIM project directors on scope of practice, social determinants of health, payment reform, and the need for a continued dialogue between the project directors and the hospital community around health reform and healthcare delivery.

Connecticut Hospitals Joint Commission "Top Performers"



Griffin Hospital, John Dempsey Hospital, Middlesex Hospital, The William W. Backus Hospital, Day Kimball Healthcare, St. Vincent's Medical Center, and Saint Mary's Hospital were recognized by The Joint Commission as being [Top Performers on Key Quality Measures in 2012](#). Across the country, 1,099 hospitals were recognized, up dramatically from 620 hospitals in 2011.

The ratings are based on an aggregation of accountability measure data reported to The Joint Commission during 2012. Each of the hospitals named as Top Performers achieved certain standards including the cumulative performance of 95 percent or above across all reported accountability measures. Each accountability measure represents an evidence-based process linked to improved outcomes.

Hospital leaders said the following about the achievement:

"We are extremely proud to receive this national recognition of our quality performance and commitment," said Griffin Hospital President and CEO Patrick Charmel. "Achieving Joint Commission Top Performer status for the second time is a reflection of Griffin's hospital-wide culture of quality, safety, and patient-centered care."

"Day Kimball is particularly proud to have earned this designation from The Joint Commission because it recognizes our efforts to provide quality care by practicing evidenced-based medicine," said Douglas Waite, MD, Vice President of Medical Affairs & Quality, Day Kimball Healthcare. "We remain committed to keeping the people of Northeast Connecticut healthy and, as a result, helping to improve their overall quality of life."

"What matters most to our patients and community is that they receive safe, high-quality care at Backus," said Dave Whitehead, Backus President and Chief Executive Officer. "For this reason, we continuously use evidence-based practices to achieve positive outcomes for patients."

"This accomplishment represents the hard work and commitment of our medical staff, nurses, and other caregivers," said Chad Wable, President and CEO of Saint Mary's. "While we appreciate the recognition, which places Saint Mary's among the top performing hospitals in Connecticut and throughout the country, the real benefit is for the patients we serve. They deserve the highest quality and safety and we are focused on providing that to every patient, every day."

"We are very proud of this achievement – proud of our hospital staff for their commitment to quality and proud to offer a high level of care to the people of Connecticut," said Dr. Frank M. Torti, Executive Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of the UConn School of Medicine.

"Middlesex Hospital's top priority has always been to provide the highest quality of care to our patients," said Vincent G. Capece, Jr., President and CEO of Middlesex Hospital. "It is part of the culture of our institution and we constantly strive to uphold this commitment to our patients throughout the communities we serve."

"We understand that what matters most to patients at St. Vincent's is safe, effective care," said Stuart Marcus, MD, FACS, President, St. Vincent's Medical Center. "That's why we have made a commitment to accreditation and to positive patient outcomes through evidence-based care processes."

CHA wishes to congratulate the Connecticut acute care hospitals that achieved Top Performer status.

Municipal Election Results: Toni Harp Elected Mayor

Voters across the state went to the polls on November 5 to elect candidates to the offices of mayor, first selectman, and a host of other local positions. In much-watched races for the office of mayor, voters in New Haven elected long-time state Senator Toni Harp (D), and in Stamford voters elected Democratic candidate David Martin over former Lt. Governor Michele Fedele. In total, the post of chief elected official (mayor or first selectman) was at stake in the majority of Connecticut's 169 communities.

In New Haven, Toni Harp beat challenger Justin Elicker by an unofficial tally of 10,602 to 8,865. Mayor-elect Harp will resign from her seat in the state Senate and will be sworn into office on January 1, 2014. As the long-time Senate Chairwoman of the General Assembly's Appropriations Committee, Mayor-elect Harp helped craft every state budget for the last 11 years. A special election will be called to fill her seat once it is officially vacated. Mayor-elect Harp will succeed John DeStefano, the 20-year Democrat who previously held the office of mayor.

In the city of Stamford, Democratic candidate David Martin beat former Lt. Governor Michael Fedele and two unaffiliated



Mayor-elect Toni Harp

candidates, Kathleen Murphy and John Zito, in his bid for the city's top office. Unofficial results had Mayor-elect Martin beating Mr. Fedele by approximately 400 votes. He will succeed Republican Mayor Michael Pavia, the one-term Republican who followed Gov. Dannel P. Malloy into the city's top post.

In another mayor's race, first-time candidate Erin Stewart (R) beat current New Britain Mayor and former state Representative Tim O'Brien (D) by a vote of 4,368 to 3,532.

All election results are considered unofficial until certified by the Connecticut Secretary of the State's Office.

CHA congratulations Mayor-elect Harp and all the other officials elected to their respective offices.

St. Vincent's Launches Affiliation With MD Anderson Cancer Network



Seated L to R: St. Vincent's Health Services CEO Susan L. Davis, EdD, RN; MD Anderson Physicians Network President and CEO William A. Hyslop; MD Anderson Physicians Network Board Chairman William A. Murphy, Jr., MD; St. Vincent's Oncology Vice President Cindy Czaplinski, MSN, RN; Oncology Chairman and Radiation Oncology Medical Director Christopher Iannuzzi, MD. Standing L to R: Bridgeport Mayor Bill Finch; US Senator Richard Blumenthal; St. Vincent's Medical Center President Stuart G. Marcus, MD, FACS; Ascension Health Senior Vice President of Clinical Excellence and Chief Medical Officer Ziad Haydar, MD; 4th District US Representative Jim Himes; and State Senator Kevin Kelly.

On November 1, St. Vincent's Medical Center announced that it became the first hospital in Connecticut to become a member of MD Anderson Cancer Network™, a program of The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

The affiliation will provide certified physicians at St. Vincent's, through the Medical Center and its Elizabeth Pfriend SWIM Center for Cancer Care, access to evidence-based guidelines, treatment plans, and best practices developed by MD Anderson experts.

"This affiliation represents a tremendous development in our cancer program," said St. Vincent's Medical Center President Stuart G. Marcus, MD, FACS. "Now, patients throughout the area can obtain comprehensive holistic care in a state-of-the-art, comfortable setting, while also having access to MD Anderson's cutting-edge advances and clinical expertise. The affiliation will enable us to successfully expand the scope of our services and raise the standard for cancer diagnosis and treatment in collaboration with the nation's leading cancer center."

"We are excited to develop this historic relationship with St. Vincent's that will only enhance its tradition of delivering exceptional cancer care to patients by adding MD Anderson expertise," said William A. Murphy, Jr., MD, Board Chairman, MD Anderson Physicians Network. "Together, we will ensure that patients across the region will have access to the highest quality cancer care available."

MD Anderson Cancer Network is a select group of hospitals and healthcare systems that share a common mission to eliminate cancer. For ten of the past 12 years, including in 2013, MD Anderson has ranked number one in the nation in cancer care in the "Best Hospitals" survey published by U.S. News & World Report.

Education Updates

HRO: Red Rules Statewide Meeting

Tuesday, November 12, 2013
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Red rules are safety absolutes - rules that cannot be broken. In highly reliable industries, these rules are few in number, are easy to remember, and are associated only with processes that can cause serious harm to employees, customers, or the product line. Red rules must be followed exactly as specified except in rare or urgent situations. This statewide meeting will determine whether and which common Red Rules will be used by Connecticut hospitals. The meeting is open to all hospital leaders from across the state.

[Event Registration](#)

CHA Nurse Preceptorship Program

Monday, November 18, 2013
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.

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

