

Progress Notes

May/June 2015



Published monthly by the **Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State LLC** . . . a consortium of 52 not-for-profit and public hospitals advocating for better health care policy for all those living and working in the nine counties north and east of New York City.

Legislators Leave State's Business Unfinished

Session not officially ended, as legislators are expected to return to Albany

The state legislature did not end the 2015 legislative session on Wednesday, June 18th as was scheduled. Instead, lawmakers continue to work on a variety of key issues, including medical malpractice and nurse staffing ratios. Proposed bills in both chambers regarding these highly-sensitive concerns are detrimental to the hospital industry.

A statute of limitations bill now under consideration would allow plaintiffs to file a lawsuit up to 10 years (current law is two and a half years) after the date of the injury. The law will result in a dramatic increase in medical liability premiums with costs most assuredly being passed on to consumers.

Highly prescriptive nurse staffing ratio bills are equally problematic and expensive for the hospital industry. Research confirms that the implementation of rigid staffing ratios is not in the best interests of patients.

Staffing ratio legislation would severely restrict hospitals' ability to provide a dynamic care team that responds to the changing needs of patients over the course of a day and even hours.

Members are asked to contact their state representatives about these pressing matters to avoid any passage of such harmful provisions. Communicating concerns with local media is another way to emphasize the hospital field's position and keep pressure on lawmakers.

Session Highlights

While we await the official closure of the 2015 legislative session, a variety of healthcare-related bills did pass the legislature and will now be considered by the governor. These include: . . . *continued next page*

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*****LAST CHANCE*****

Register now for the Healthcare Association of New York State's (HANYS) Annual Conference

How **to Successfully Align HIT**

June 25 – 26, 2015

The Sagamore at Bolton Landing

[Click here](#) for conference registration and hotel information.

Legislative session highlights continued . . .

- Prevention of public release of severe sepsis and septic shock data during a designated pilot phase
- Expedited utilization review and expedited external appeals for court-ordered services

More Physician Training Slots Needed

The American Hospital Association-sponsored briefing on Graduate Medical Education held in Washington, DC, on June 16, 2015, emphasized the importance of Graduate Medical Education (GME) in supporting the mission of academic medical centers and teaching hospitals to provide the most advanced care for all while training the next generation of physicians. It also highlighted proposed legislation that would increase the number of residency slots in the United States. Specifically, the bipartisan Resident Physician Shortage

Population Health Takes a Walk

The collaborative approach to care that acknowledges the impact of various social determinants – education level, geography, and poverty – on health outcomes is the underpinning of the state’s reform efforts to better streamline and coordinate care, especially for chronic disease patients. The state’s eleven regional Population Health Improvement Program (PHIP) contractors are charged with helping to bring about this new care model that requires the cooperation of various stakeholders in achieving communities of care.

The Long Island PHIP, the Long Island Health Collaborative (LIHC) coordinated by the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council, literally walked the talk when it sponsored a

- Continuation and expansion of the collaborative drug therapy management program
- Better protection of direct patient care workers from workplace violence

[Click here](#) for more information about these and other pending state legislative issues.- *Janine Logan, jlogan@nshc.org; jlogan@normet.org.*

Reduction Act of 2015 (HR 2124; companion legislation S1148) would add 3,000 Medicare-supported residency slots in teaching hospitals per year for each of five years from 2017 – 2021. That would provide a total of 15,000 new slots. The briefing also featured representatives from academic medical centers throughout the country, who explained the need to ensure adequate GME funding to help support the unique role of academic medical centers and teaching hospitals as they provide innovative, highly specialized care to complex patient populations that are often uninsured or underinsured. – *Janine Logan, jlogan@nshc.org; jlogan@normet.org.*



State Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker signs the first “Recommendation for Walking” slip and officially launches this program for the LIHC. Joining him top row from left are: State Senator and Health Committee Chair Kemp Hannon; State Parks Commissioner Rose Harvey; Suffolk County Legislator Kara Hahn; LI Regional State Park Director Wayne Horsley. Bottom row from left: Nassau County Legislator Rose Walker; Suffolk County Health Commissioner Dr. James Tomarken; Nassau County Health Commissioner Dr. Lawrence Eistenstein; and Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council CEO Kevin Dahill

walk at a local state park on April 9, 2015 to celebrate not only good health, but the important role that public health agencies and employees play in keeping communities healthy. Recently confirmed State Health Commissioner Howard Zucker MD was joined by State Parks Commissioner Rose Harvey, State Senate Health Chair Senator Kemp Hannon, the region's two local county health commissioners, public health workers, members of the LIHC, and the public in a mile walk around Belmont Lake State Park.

The commissioners launched the LIHC's Recommendation for Walking program. This is LIHC's signature public health campaign designed to encourage Long Islanders to walk. It uses a mock prescription slip that providers sign and give to patients during visits.

In the Hudson Valley, the Taconic Health Information Network and Community (THINC) is the designated PHIP. THINC's mission as a PHIP is to help identify, share, disseminate, and implement best practices and strategies that will promote better health outcomes and reduce disparities across the region. - Janine Logan, jlogan@nshc.org; jlogan@normet.org.



SPOTLIGHT ON: *Quality*

By Kate Warner, Director of Quality and Education

Hospitals Receive Requests for Data under the Nursing Care Quality Protection Act

A small number of hospitals across New York State have recently received requests for nurse staffing and quality outcome data from students, consumer interest groups, and other interested parties. Hospitals are required to make this data available to the public upon request under the Nursing Care Quality Protection Act. Though the requests are relatively recent, the law itself became effective on March 15, 2010. What has changed since the law's passage is the addition of a new section (Part 400.25), published January 7, 2015 that includes definitions of key terms and clarifications on the measures for which data is considered valid and reliable by the commissioner and can be requested by the public. Key terms defined in the January publication include: acuity, case mix, fall, fall injury level, healthcare associated infection, licensed practical nurse, patient, patient care staff, patient day, pressure ulcer, registered nurse, shift, unit, and unlicensed care personnel.

The law, as originally written, states that hospitals and diagnostic treatment centers have to make available information requested on nurse staffing and patient outcomes including incidents of adverse care (for example medication errors, injury, pressure ulcers, nosocomial infections and nosocomial UTIs). Based on the original law and the January update, required disclosures include:

- Information regarding complaints filed with the state, federal government or an accrediting agency (for example New York State Department of Health complaint investigation outcomes/final findings of complaint investigations, outcomes of Office of Mental Health or Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services complaint investigations or instructions to get that information.)

- Nurse-sensitive general outcome indicators including rates for falls with injury, percentage of patients with facility-acquired pressure ulcers determined to be Stage 2 or higher, central line-associated bloodstream infection (CLABSI) rates, catheter-associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI) rates, and ventilator-associated pneumonia event (VAE) rates. This data should be collected quarterly (and already is for other quality reporting programs).
- Methods used to determine nurse staffing and other nurse staffing indicators, including the number of patient care hours per patient day and the average RN and LPN to patient ratio on each unit and on each shift.

Hospitals are required to respond within 30 days of a request with a hard copy or an electronic copy of the

requested data and are required to provide no less than three months' worth of data and no more than 12 months. The data provided to the requester must be from the most recent 12 month period. Most hospitals already collect nurse staffing data and report it to the National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators (NDNQI). Advocacy from HANYS and allied associations has ensured that hospitals can use reports from this system to respond to public requests to avoid duplication of efforts.

In addition to the law's reporting obligations, hospitals must also develop policies to handle requests and keep a log of requests submitted and fulfilled. Department of Health surveillance and enforcement will be performed as part of the investigation of a complaint of non-compliance or related care concerns. For a copy of the January publication [click here](#).

News Briefs

Recognizing Hospital Auxiliary . . . is an award presented by the Healthcare Association of New York State. [Access application and more information here](#). The award is presented annually to an auxiliary that has demonstrated outstanding achievement and service within its healthcare facility and community. Deadline for filing is June 29, 2015.

Physician Shortage Persists . . . according to HANYS' recent report [Doctor Shortage Imperils Primary Care Expansion](#). The shortage is expected to worsen, especially as Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) applicants ramp up their projects, many of which are highly dependent on an adequate number of primary care physicians. The report was developed in collaboration with Iroquois Healthcare Alliance, Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State, Rochester Regional Healthcare Association, and Western New York Healthcare Association.

Flu season . . . is officially over and presence of flu virus in New York State was declared no longer prevalent by State Health Commissioner Howard Zucker in mid-May. This means that healthcare workers who are not vaccinated against influenza are no longer required by state regulation to wear masks in areas where patients are typically present. The mask requirement had been in effect since December 11, 2014.

Circle of Life . . . awards presented by the American Hospital Association recognize innovation in palliative or end-of-life programs. Applications for the 2016 award are due August 10, 2015. [Details are here](#).

Rick Pollack Named American Hospital Association President . . . and he will succeed Richard Umbdenstock when he retires at the end of this year. Since 1991, Pollack has served as AHA's executive vice president for advocacy and public policy responsible for development, implementation, and management of the association's advocacy, representation, and public affairs activities.

Community Health Status Indicators 2015 . . . shows how each county compares with peer counties on certain indicators of mortality, morbidity, healthcare access and quality, plus health behaviors, societal factors, and the physical environment. Members of the Suburban Hospital Alliance and the Healthcare Association of New York State can access this useful [online tool](#) to help their hospitals and other stakeholders better assess the health of their communities and identify disparities; promote a shared understanding of the many factors that drive health; and mobilize partnerships to improve population health.

Who Are the Hospital Heroes . . . is an online initiative sponsored by the Coalition to Protect America's Health Care and the American Hospital Association. The program showcases hospital caregivers and many others, from administrative staff and nurses, to physicians and other allied health professionals, maintenance and security, who go above and beyond in their work to help patients in their communities. Visit the [Hospital Heroes website](#) to view featured heroes and to nominate a hospital hero.

Hospitals Adhere to the Triple Aim . . . and varied stories about how New York's hospitals are doing so are highlighted on the HANYS website through its "NYS Triple Aim" campaign. The campaign captures the widespread efforts of hospitals that are pursuing the Triple Aim approach of improving population health, enhancing the quality of patient care, and reducing the cost of healthcare. New York's hospitals are actively engaged in implementing new and innovative approaches to healthcare delivery despite fiscal constraints. Go to www.HANYS.org/tripleaim. Feel free to re-tweet and post the outstanding work performed by hospitals. To submit a story for the campaign, contact Michael Pauley at mpauley@hanys.org.

Educational Discount . . . available to employees of Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State, LLC, hospital members. Mercy College and the Suburban Hospital Alliance entered into a partnership that will allow employees of member hospitals a 15 percent discount on all undergraduate and graduate classes at Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, NY. The Suburban Hospital Alliance includes all member hospitals of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council and the Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association. For more information contact Mercy College at: 1-877-MERCY-GO.

Set a Foundation for Your Future

The Academy for Healthcare Leadership and Advancement

September 27 through November 17, 2015

[Click here for more information and to register.](#)

HANYS 47th Annual Membership Conference June 25 and 26

The Sagamore at Bolton Landing

[Click here for more information and to register.](#)

News from the Long Island Region . . .

A Report on Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council member hospital achievements and notable activities



Long Island Nurses Recognized for Excellence

Farmingdale State College Nursing Professor Takes Top Honor

Nurse leaders from Long Island's hospitals and nursing education programs gathered Wednesday, May 20, 2015 at the Woodbury Country Club to bestow recognition upon their nurse peers at the Nurse of Excellence Award Ceremony hosted by the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC). One nurse from each of the Hospital Council's member hospitals was nominated for this award, which recognizes outstanding leadership and clinical practice. Deans of area nursing schools also submitted nominations recognizing nursing excellence in education and clinical practice.

Huntington resident Christine Glaser RN, assistant professor of nursing, Farmingdale State College, rose above a field of 25 nominees. Those nominees were selected from a field of about 500 nurses at hospitals and teaching institutions from across Long Island.

Glaser's career as a nurse spans 33 years and includes specialization in oncology, critical care, home care, hospice and staff development, and more recently, superior commitment to the art and science of the nursing profession as an assistant professor of nursing at Farmingdale State College. She is the recipient of Farmingdale's "Cares Award" for her outstanding teaching ability, compassion and caring, clinical knowledge, and leadership skills. She remains active in clinical practice, as well. She is the coordinator of education and training at a local hospital. Glaser participates in the Nursing Student Outreach Program, which provides flu immunization and health education to senior citizens. She will earn her Doctor of Health Education degree this fall from AT Still University.

"In the hospital, nurses do the heavy lifting," said Alan Guerci MD, chair of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council and CEO of Catholic Health Services of Long Island. "Nurses make contributions to diagnostics and therapeutics and most healing occurs because of the hard work of nurses."

The Hospital Council's annual salute to nurses is fashioned after the New York State Legislature's Nurse of Distinction Program that ended in 1995. NSHC is one of the few hospital associations in the state to continue this program voluntarily. It is now in its 20th year.



From left: Valerie Terzano RN, member of the NSHC Nurse of Excellence Subcommittee and Chief Nursing Officer, Senior Vice President of Nursing, Winthrop-University Hospital; 2015 Nurse of Excellence Winner Christine Glaser RN; Jennifer Bryer PhD, Chairperson, Department of Nursing/Associate Professor, Farmingdale State College; and Gara Edelstein RN, Chairperson of the NSHC Nurse Executive Committee and Senior Vice President Clinical Services/Chief Nursing Officer, St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center.

United Hospital Fund Trustee Awards . . . the United Hospital Fund presented its Distinguished Trustee Awards to five Suburban Hospital Alliance/NSHC institutions' board members. This year's honorees included **Neboysha Brashich** of **Eastern Long Island Hospital**, **Jean Rimmel FitzSimmons** of **Southampton Hospital**, **Michael Mirotznik** of **Nassau University Medical Center**, and **Marc Shaw** of **North Shore-LIJ Health System**. The awardees were honored at a luncheon at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York on May 11. This marks the 25th annual presentation of UHF's Distinguished Trustee Awards.

Named 2015 Outstanding CEO by Long Island Business News . . . Richard T. Margulis, president/CEO of **Brookhaven Memorial Hospital Medical Center** recognized for demonstrating remarkable leadership skills, integrity, values, vision and a commitment to excellence.

Achieving High Blood Donation Levels. . . . are **Winthrop University Hospital**, **South Nassau Communities Hospital**, and **Southside**, respectively. The awards for the highest number of blood donations rate (pints per 100 employees) were **Eastern Long Island Hospital**, **Huntington Hospital** and **Cohen Children's Medical Center**. **St. Joseph Hospital** received the award for the largest increase in blood donations for the year.

Pinnacle Award for Quality and Patient Safety . . . given to **St. Joseph Hospital** for playing a leading role in promoting improvements in healthcare delivery . They received this first annual Catholic Health Services of Long Island award for significantly reducing hospital-acquired occurrence of clostridium difficile (C. diff) infections to a rate below the New York State benchmark.

The Guidelines-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award with Target: Stroke Honor Roll... was received by **Nassau University Medical Center** from the American Heart Association for meeting the specific quality achievement measures for the diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients at a set level for a designated period. These quality measures are designed to help hospital teams provide the most up-to-date, evidence-based guidelines with the goal of speeding recovery and reducing death and disability for stroke patients.

Five Long Island Hospitals Earned "A" . . .from The Leapfrog Group to improve health care quality and safety. They are **St. Francis Hospital** in Flower Hill, **St. Charles Hospital**, **Mercy Medical Center**, **John T. Mather Memorial Hospital** and **Nassau University Medical Center**.

Mercy Medical Center . . . was awarded first place for its project "Code STEMI", which reduces diagnosis, treatment and transfer times for emergency department patients experiencing a specific type of heart attack.

Claims Data Assistance

Managed Care Advisory Group: The Hospital Council has expanded its business relationship with the Managed Care Advisory Group to offer to members its Contract Payment Review (CPR) product. The focus is ensuring that insurers are complying with negotiated reimbursement rates and payment policies. MCAG will analyze claims data to assess where underpayments have occurred, identify reimbursement trends, implement recovery efforts and make recommendations on contractual changes. Contact Wendy Darwell at wdarwell@nshc.org or 631-963-4152.

If you have news to share about your hospital's achievements, please send to Janine Logan at jlogan@nshc.org.

News from the Hudson Valley Region. . .

A Report on the Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association member hospital achievements and notable activities



United Hospital Fund Trustee Awards . . . the United Hospital Fund presented its Distinguished Trustee Awards to five Suburban Hospital Alliance institutions' board members. In the NorMet region the honoree was **Patrick Orland** of **St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital**. The awardees were honored at a luncheon at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York on May 11. This marks the 25th annual presentation of UHF's Distinguished Trustee Awards.

Health Tech Conference 2015 . . . sponsored by the Westchester County Association featured NorMet president/CEO **Kevin Dahill**. He engaged in a lively discussion about the state of health care technology and its role in care delivery during a fireside chat with Greater New York Hospital Association president Ken Raske on May 19, 2015.

Get with the Guidelines – Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award . . . for nine consecutive years was presented to **White Plains Hospital**. The award recognizes the facility's exceptional quality care for stroke patients.

Orange Regional Medical Center Earns "A" Grade . . . from the Leapfrog Group for the hospital's dedication to patient safety.

2015 Quality Award . . . was presented to **HealthAlliance Hospital in Kingston** for the highest level of adherence to medication-reconciliation protocols of all hospitals working with IPRO.

Health Quest Hospitals Patient Satisfaction . . . **Vassar Brothers Medical Center** in Poughkeepsie, **Northern Dutchess Hospital** in Rhinebeck and **Putnam Hospital Center** in Carmel received national recognition from PRC Excellence in Healthcare Awards regarding the healthcare system's patient satisfaction survey.

Telehealth . . . is a new program launched by **Phelps Memorial Hospital Center** that extends continuum of care into the homes of patients. .

If you have news to share about your hospital's achievements, please send to Janine Logan at jlogan@normet.org.

NSHC Events/Meetings Report. . .

Fiscal Policy Committee: The NSHC Fiscal Policy Committee at its May 11 meeting received updates on the Medicaid Delivery System Reform Incentive Program (DSRIP) program and the proposed Medicare inpatient rule for the 2016 fiscal year. Ms. Darwell briefed the committee on the potential implications to New York's health insurance exchange of the *King v. Burwell* case pending before the Supreme Court, latest developments on the Medicare "two midnights" policy on short hospital stays and provider audits, and the Hospital Council's annual Medicare wage index audit project.

Compliance Committee: NSHC general counsel Mark Thomas spoke to the Compliance Committee on May 19 about the upcoming deadline on June 29 for providers who meet certain criteria to file a disclosure of executive compensation rates with the New York State Charities Bureau, new guidance for DSRIP leads and participants released by federal and state regulatory agencies, and efforts to amend the state's Nonprofit Revitalization Act. Ms. Darwell provided updates on Medicare audits, the "two midnights" policy, and a recent report by the state comptroller on Medicaid integrity.

Quality Committee: At its May 20 meeting, the Quality Committee received updates from Ms. Darwell on a new quality incentive pool established in the state budget, the “two-midnight” rule, and implementation of New York’s out-of-network billing and collections law. Ms. Warner summarized the quality-related provisions of the proposed Medicare inpatient rule, the impending release of hospital quality reports by several private organizations, and changes to the NYPORTS incident reporting system.

NSHC Member Hospitals

Brookhaven Memorial Hospital Medical Center
Catholic Health Services of Long Island

- Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center
- Mercy Medical Center
- St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center
- St. Charles Hospital
- St. Francis Hospital
- St. Joseph Hospital

Eastern Long Island Hospital

John T. Mather Memorial Hospital

Nassau University Medical Center

North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System

- Franklin Hospital
- Glen Cove Hospital
- Huntington Hospital
- North Shore University Hospital
- Plainview Hospital
- Southside Hospital
- Syosset Hospital

Peconic Bay Medical Center

Southampton Hospital

Stony Brook University Hospital

Veterans Affairs Medical Center – Northport

South Nassau Communities Hospital

Winthrop-University Hospital

NorMet Member Hospitals

Blythedale Children’s Hospital

Bon Secours Community Hospital

Burke Rehabilitation Hospital

Catskill Regional Medical Center

Ellenville Regional Hospital

Good Samaritan Hospital

HealthAlliance Hospital Broadway Campus

HealthAlliance Hospital Mary’s Avenue Campus

Helen Hayes Hospital

Hudson Valley Hospital/New York Presbyterian

Keller Army Community Hospital

Lawrence Hospital Center/New York Presbyterian

MidHudson Regional Hospital

Of Westchester Medical Center

Montefiore Mt. Vernon Hospital

Montefiore New Rochelle Hospital

The New York Presbyterian Hospital, Westchester Division

Northern Westchester Hospital

Orange Regional Medical Center

Phelps Memorial Hospital Center

Putnam Hospital Center

St. Anthony Community Hospital

St. Joseph’s Medical Center/St. Vincent’s Hospital

St. Luke’s Cornwall Hospital

St. Vincent’s Westchester (Division of St. Joseph’s Medical Center)

Vassar Brothers Medical Center

VA Hudson Valley Health Care System

Westchester Medical Center

White Plains Hospital