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Hospital Council Expands Digital Presence

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(Hauppauge, NY . . . October 19, 2011) Breaking news and information related to hospital and health policy affecting Long Island's hospitals and the 2.8 million residents served by these institutions can be found on **Twitter @hospitalcouncil** and on the **Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council, Inc. Facebook page**. The Hospital Council represents Long Island's not-for-profit and public hospitals and regularly advocates for favorable health care legislation and regulation at all levels for hospitals and hospital patients.

"These social networking tools are a natural fit for us," said Wendy Darwell, vice president/COO of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC). "Their immediacy and extensive reach enable NSHC to connect with thousands of concerned patients, health care advocates, hospital workers and administrators, law makers, and the media in just seconds."

Time is not often a luxury advocacy groups like the NSHC can afford, as details of emerging legislation can change minute by minute. Darwell cites last summer's debt ceiling and deficit reduction negotiations as an example.

Social media allow constituents to weigh in with their elected representatives quickly and easily. "It has never been simpler or more necessary, in these tough economic times, to communicate with our elected officials and to let the world know where we stand on hospital and health care issues that affect all of us," said Darwell.

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