

**NASSAU-SUFFOLK
HOSPITAL
COUNCIL, INC.**

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MEMBER HOSPITALS

Brookhaven Memorial
Hospital Medical Center
East Patchogue

Catholic Health Services
of Long Island

- Good Samaritan Hospital
Medical Center
West Islip
- Mercy Medical Center
Rockville Centre
- St. Catherine of Siena
Medical Center
Smithtown
- St. Charles Hospital
Port Jefferson
- St. Francis Hospital
Roslyn

Eastern Long Island Hospital
Greenport

Long Beach Medical Center
Long Beach

John T. Mather Memorial
Hospital
Port Jefferson

Nassau University
Medical Center
East Meadow

New Island Hospital
Bethpage

North Shore-Long Island
Jewish Health System

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

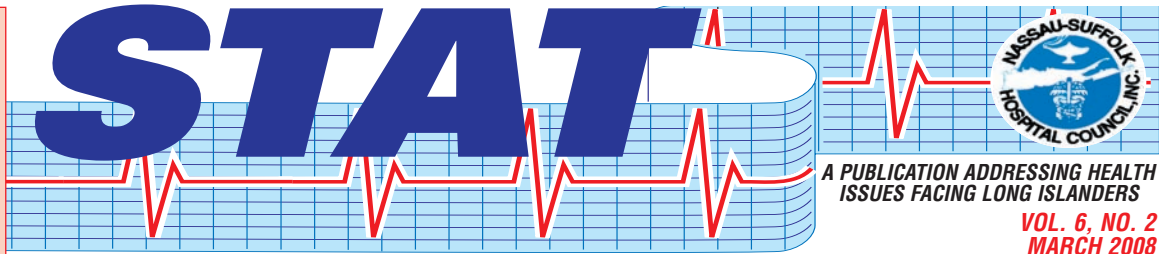
Peconic Bay Medical Center
Riverhead

Southampton Hospital
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Stony Brook
University Hospital
Stony Brook

Winthrop South Nassau
University Health System

- South Nassau
Communities Hospital
Oceanside
- Winthrop-University
Hospital
Mineola



A PUBLICATION ADDRESSING HEALTH
ISSUES FACING LONG ISLANDERS

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State Budget Countdown

After reaching an agreement on available revenue on March 27, lawmakers began moving forward with the budget-making process. With just one day left until the April 1 deadline, hospital leaders are continuing to talk with their state Senators and Assembly members, impressing upon them the damage that could result if Medicaid rate rebasing and other reforms are accepted as originally proposed in the executive budget.

Embedded in the original executive budget proposal for hospital rebasing are cuts to Graduate Medical Education (GME) funding and workforce recruitment and retention funding. Those cuts disproportionately affect Long Island, which would face a net loss if the governor's budget were enacted.

"Nineteen of the 24 hospitals on Long Island will be negatively affected, if the governor's plan to include GME and workforce, as part of inpatient rebasing is agreed to," said Kevin Dahill, president/CEO of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council, the organization that represents Long Island's 24 not-for-profit and public hospitals. "We're talking about a loss of more than \$8 million in this area alone, when the rebase estimates are fully implemented."

Both the Senate and the Assembly budget packages call for a delay in consideration and implementation of Medicaid rate rebasing, and both chambers would restore workforce funding. The Senate resolution also restores GME funding, but the Assembly bill upholds the cuts called for in the executive budget.



State Senator Kenneth Lavallo (center) met with hospital executives and trustees on Friday, February 29, 2008 at the Port Jefferson Village Center. He participated in a legislative/press briefing sponsored by the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC). Shown left is James O'Connor, Executive Vice President for St. Charles Hospital and far right is Kenneth A. Jacoppi, Chairman of the Board at John T. Mather Memorial Hospital. Both hospitals are located in Port Jefferson, NY.

Patients Report Impressions of Hospital Quality Care

The Hospital Quality Alliance (HQA) posted data from its Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) on its website, www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov, on Friday, March 28, 2008. The public will now be able to view patients' experiential responses about their hospital care.

HCAHPS information is different from other quality data already available, because it provides insight into patients' experiences in a hospital from nursing care to the cleanliness of rooms.

The survey does not specifically ask patients how satisfied they were with their care, rather it asks how often different aspects of care were provided, such as how often a doctor carefully listened to them. Reporting is currently voluntary for hospitals, yet nearly 80% of Long Island's hospitals reported their data. With this initial release of information, hospitals will review and study the data so that when reporting becomes mandatory in 2009, the information posted will be the most timely, accurate, complete, and useful for the public.

For the benefit of consumers, hospitals have been voluntarily sharing information about clinical care since the Hospital Compare website went live in 2005. This data and now the information from the HCAHPS patient perception survey will continue to drive quality improvement efforts at all Long Island hospitals.

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