

# Progress Notes . . . February 2013

A Monthly Publication of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council, Inc.

*Progress Notes* publication is a summary of regulatory and legislative news, advocacy messages, and other relevant issues affecting the delivery of hospital and health care on Long Island.

## Gov's Budget Amendments Show Some Improvement

The governor's recently released 30-day budget amendments include a proposal to eliminate late in 2014 the scheduled two-percent across-the-board Medicaid cut. This is a positive development for the region's hospitals, as this two-percent cut has siphoned about \$50 million from Long Island's hospitals the last two years. What is not included in the governor's amendment package is restoration of the Medicaid trend factor. Hospitals have not seen a full Medicaid trend factor increase since 2005. The trend factor is crucial to ensuring that Medicaid reimbursement rates keep pace with escalating costs to provide care. These proposals will now be taken up by the legislature in what will be a condensed budget negotiation process. Lawmakers hope to complete the state budget by March 21 – a full 10 days before the state fiscal year ends.

"We are encouraged that the governor's 30-day amendments include no new cuts to the hospital industry and there is a proposal to drop the two-percent Medicaid cut to providers," said Kevin Dahill, president/CEO of the Hospital Council. "Hospital providers have done their part in spending below the Medicaid global spending cap these past two years and the industry has also worked with the state and federal governments to streamline efficiencies and improve the quality of care. It makes sense that hospitals should share in the savings achieved."

The state estimates nearly \$2 billion in savings associated with implementation of components of the Affordable Care Act, particularly from enhanced federal matching funds the state will receive for its Medicaid expansion efforts.

Hospital leaders are intensifying their advocacy efforts to ensure the passage of these amendments in the legislature. The next three weeks are crucial to preserving funding for hospitals and achieving regulatory relief. - Janine Logan, [jlogan@nshc.org](mailto:jlogan@nshc.org).

Please join your colleagues at . . .

**HANYS Leadership Advocacy Day**

**March 6 in Albany**

**\*\*\*New this year\*\*\* Governmental Affairs Update Meeting**

**March 5, from 3 to 4 p.m. at the HANYS offices in Rensselaer**

**All registration: Christopher Guyon, [cguyon@hanys.org](mailto:cguyon@hanys.org). (518) 431-7834**

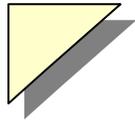
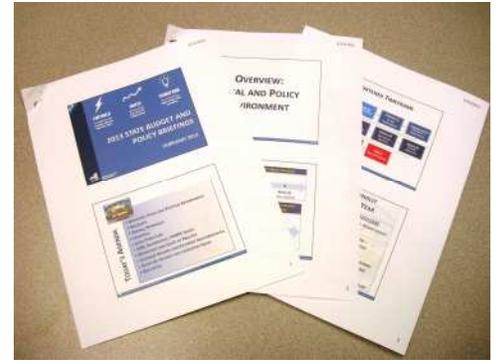
## Sequestration Means Another 2% Reduction for Hospitals

With the sequestration deadline just days away there is still no viable plan in Congress to stop the automatic defense and domestic program cuts that will take effect March 1, 2013. The two-percent Medicare reimbursement cuts will be felt beginning April 1, 2013. Hospitals on Long Island are set to lose \$378 million (2013 – 2021). Other industries, most notably defense, are gearing up for program reductions and furloughs. Economists agree that the sequester cuts will disrupt the country's economic recovery and incite job loss.

Following on the heels of sequestration is the expiration on March 27 of the continuing resolution. Congress must either extend it, negotiate new spending levels, or if an agreement is not reached, shutdown the government. It seems likely, however, that a deal to extend current spending levels for several months will be struck. - Janine Logan, [jlogan@nshc.org](mailto:jlogan@nshc.org).

# NSHC Members Learn State Budget Proposal Details

On February 4, 2013, staff from the Healthcare Association of New York State held a 2013 budget briefing at the Hospital Council offices in Hauppauge, NY to help members understand the broad implications of the governor's proposed 2013 – 2014 budget, as well as nuances related to health care policy and funding that will have an impact long after the budget is enacted in March. In the ensuing weeks, respective legislative leaders and committee chairs will be reviewing the governor's proposed budget and subsequent 30-day amendments and will forward their versions of the budget for consideration and conference. Lawmakers hope to wrap up budget business by March 21, 2013.



## The Quality Corner

*An update on quality improvement issues*

Mary Jane Milano, Director

**Joint Commission Expands Measure Sets:** The Joint Commission will expand performance measurement requirements for accredited general medical/surgical hospitals from four to six core measure sets. The additional requirements will take effect January 1, 2014. Four of the six core measure sets will be mandatory for all general medical/surgical hospitals that serve specific patient populations and include: acute myocardial infarction, heart failure, pneumonia, and surgical care improvement project. Hospitals with 1,100 or more births per year will be required to implement the perinatal care measure set. The sixth measure set (or fifth and sixth measure sets for hospitals with fewer than 1,100 births per year) will be chosen by all general medical/surgical hospitals from the approved complement of core measure sets. All hospitals must modify and update measure set selection two months before the start of data collection on January 1, 2014.

**State Proposed Rules Require Sepsis Protocols, Parents Bill of Rights and More:** The February 13, 2013 New York State Register contained three proposed rules which will affect hospitals. The first and second rules arose largely due to the circumstances surrounding the death of 12-year-old Rory Staunton, who died from severe sepsis last year.

- The first rule, **Hospital Sepsis Protocols**, calls for hospitals to develop and implement protocols for the early identification and treatment of sepsis; for these protocols to be submitted to the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) on or before July 1, 2013; and for them to be implemented no later than 45 days after the NYSDOH approves them. The rule includes specifics of what needs to be addressed in these protocols.
- The second proposed rule, labeled **Hospital Pediatric Care**, includes provisions directly related to pediatric care and many that are related to other aspects of hospital care. These rules call for hospitals to post a Parent's Bill of Rights to include in particular a provision that says that patients may not be discharged from the hospital or ER until tests that could be reasonably expected to yield "critical value results" are completed and reviewed by medical staff and communicated to the patient/parent or guardian. The proposed rule also calls for training of staff in the Pediatric ICU and Emergency Room in pediatric advanced life support or a comparable program. Hospitals must develop numerous policies and procedures that are included in the proposed regulation and relate to admission and discharge, emergency services, surgical services, anesthesia services, and radiologic and nuclear medicine. The Hospital Council, through its advocacy organization, the Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State, LLC, will be working with HANYS to provide input into the comment letters for these regulations.
- The third proposed rule in the February 13, 2013 State Register pertains to a requirement for hospital staff to either be immunized against influenza or wear a surgical or procedural mask while in areas where they come into



## Mark Your Calendar for NSHC March Events

- Mar. 7 Webinar- Patient Experience of Care: Beyond the Survey  
2:30 – 4 p.m.  
NSHC Host Facility
  - Mar. 12 Communications Committee Meeting, 8 a.m.
  - Mar. 13 Finance Committee Meeting, 8 a.m.
  - Mar. 15 Human Resources Committee Meeting, 9 a.m.
  - Mar. 20 HANYS VAP Kick-Off, 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
  - Mar. 21 HANYS 2013 Spring HIM User Group, 1 – 3 p.m.
- For more information please call: 631-963-4153.

contact with patients. The rule could be finalized as early as May 2013 meaning that it would be in effect for the 2013-2014 flu season. – [mmilano@seagatealliance.com](mailto:mmilano@seagatealliance.com).

## News Briefs . . .

**Bundled Payments for Care Initiative Members** . . . were recently announced by the CMS' Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI). On Long Island participants are **Catholic Health Services of Long Island, Huntington Hospital, North Shore/LIJ Health System, Peconic Bay Medical Center, and Winthrop-University Hospital**. Participants will enter into payment agreements for defined episodes of care characterized by quality and financial accountability. The episode of care will include inpatient stay in the acute care hospital and all related services during the episode. Participants can choose between 48 episodes of care. The program officially launched July 2013.

**Enhanced Pediatric Services** . . . are the result of a \$50,000 grant that **Mercy Medical Center** received from the Long Island Community Foundation. Mercy Hospital will use the grant funds to provide continuous availability of a pediatrician, during evening hours, in Mercy's after-hours pediatric services Express Care Center. Mercy will also use the grant to expand and improve its Express Care facilities, making them more family friendly.

**High-Tech Imaging Detects Heart Disease** . . . at **John T. Mather Memorial Hospital** through the facility's state-of-art 320-slice CT Scanner. Last year, the hospital began using the advanced scanner for computed tomography



angiography, or cardiac CTA, which uses digital imaging to discover whether there is a coronary artery blockage. Congressman Tim Bishop helped the hospital obtain funding for the scanner and he stopped by during the hospital's community blood pressure screening (2/25/13) to view the scanner. *Pictured at left is Congressman Tim Bishop (right)*

*with Mather Hospital's Imaging Services Director William Moore MD.*

**HANYS 2013 Health Improvement Award** . . . nominations are sought. The award recognizes outstanding initiatives by members to improve the health and well-being of their communities. All NSHC/HANYS members are eligible to apply. Application deadline is March 11. For more information and to apply go to: <http://www.hanys.org/awards/chia.cfm>

**Doctors Across New York** . . . third cycle of funding applications is due March 29, 2013 and must be submitted electronically. The application has been streamlined and now includes only one application for either practice support or loan repayment funds.

**Historic National Cancer Prevention Study** . . . involves eleven hospitals on Long Island. The American Cancer Society's Epidemiology Research Program will be enrolling participants for its newest research study, the Cancer Prevention Study-3 (CPS-3). The study will follow participants for 20 years in an effort to figure out who gets cancer and why. Weight and physical activity will be a major focus of the study, but other behaviors, including the use of medications, will be examined as well. Long Island hospitals participating in the study are **Glen Cove Hospital, St. Joseph Hospital, Mercy Medical Center, St. Francis Hospital, Huntington Hospital, Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center, Southside Hospital, Peconic Bay Medical Center, Southampton Hospital, St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center, and Stony Brook Medicine**. For more information go to: <http://www.cancer.org/Research/ResearchProgramsFunding/Epidemiology-CancerPreventionStudies/CancerPreventionStudy-3/cps3-locations#ny>.

## 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

East End Health Alliance

- Eastern Long Island Hospital
- Peconic Bay Medical Center
- Southampton Hospital

Long Beach Medical Center

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

Stony Brook University Hospital

Veterans Affairs Medical Center – Northport

Winthrop-South Nassau University Health System

- South Nassau Communities Hospital
- Winthrop-University Hospital

## Committee and Meeting News ...

**Corporate Compliance:** The February session of the Corporate Compliance Committee featured an educational presentation by Wilson, Elser partner Laurie Cohen regarding HIPAA security risk analyses and best practices. The committee also discussed the Medicare RAC Audit program and proposed state regulations on executive compensation and governance.

**Finance:** Discussion at the February meeting focused on the state budget proposal, access to capital, and the pending Medicaid waiver.

**Quality:** The Quality Committee received a presentation from Mary Jane Milano, NSHC's director of quality and education, on February 20 regarding proposed state rules on sepsis protocols and pediatric care, as well as an update from the regional representatives from HANYS and GNYHA on the Partnership for Patients initiative.

**Revenue Cycle:** The February 15 session of the Revenue Cycle Committee focused on RAC audit activity, anticipated Medicaid changes related to the state budget and health care reform implementation, and commercial payer appeal processes.

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