

Progress Notes . . . May 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.

Nurse Staffing Ratio Legislation Equates to Largest Unfunded Mandate in History

Proposed legislation would cost New York's health care industry as much as \$3 billion

With just a few working weeks left in the 2013 state legislative session, hospital leaders are meeting with state legislators and urging them to not support the proposed nurse staffing ratio legislation (S.3691-A Hannon and A.6571 Gottfried). Not only is this legislation excessively costly to implement, it also runs the risk of harming patients. The bills as proposed require prescriptive nurse patient ratios at all times, which would result in delays for some care services and would force providers to re-allocate financial resources from other support care personnel, such as aides and therapists, to nursing.

There is a lack of regional and national evidence that mandated staffing ratios improve care, as proponents assert. And even more importantly, the varied patient

acuity mix present every day at the region's hospitals requires the availability and response of a flexible workforce pool.

Mandated staffing ratios also ignore the influx of patients soon to arrive as a result of health care reform and insurance expansion. The State Department of Health predicts that about one million newly insured New Yorkers will gain access to coverage and care, beginning next year when the insurance mandate takes hold.

In recent days, the bills gained numerous additional legislative sponsors, hastening the urgency for hospital advocates to contact their state representatives now and urge them to oppose any and all nurse staffing ratio legislation. - Janine Logan, jlogan@nshc.org.

Improving Managed Care Market Conduct . . . is the focus of bill (S.5256) proposed by Senator Kemp Hannon and supported by NSHC and HANYS. The bill further reforms managed care practices, ensuring fairer consideration of patients' access to quality care and providers' ability to process claims and payments. Specifically, this legislation would:

- Change statute so that failure to make a determination within established timeframes represents an approved claim rather than a denial;
- Require utilization review agents to substantiate verbal pre-authorizations in writing; and
- Harmonize the provider external appeal timeframe with the timeframe allowed for consumers.

NSHC, through its affiliation with the Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State, LLC, has advanced nearly a dozen market conduct reforms since 2006.

Proposed Legislation Seeks RAC/Audit Improvements

Last week, legislation designed to improve the Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) process was introduced in the U.S. Senate. The Medicare Audit Improvement Act of 2013 (S.1012) is companion legislation to very similar legislation previously introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives (H.R. 1250). The bills would establish a consolidated time limit for medical record requests, improve auditor performance and transparency, assure due process appeals for claims re-openings, allow accurate payment for re-billed claims, and require physician review for Medicare denials.

[Outstanding LI Nurses Honored . . . see page 2](#)

LI Nurses Recognized for Excellence

St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center RN and Stony Brook Nursing School Professor Share Top Honor

Nurse leaders from Long Island's hospitals and nursing education programs gathered Wednesday, May 22, 2013 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.

Catherine Videtto, RN, the stroke program coordinator at St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center, and Lori Escallier, PhD, associate dean for evaluation and outcomes at Stony Brook University School of Nursing, rose above a slate of 25 nominees. Those nominees were selected from a field of about 500 nurses at hospitals and teaching institutions from across Long Island.

Videtto is considered a pioneer regarding the disease process of stroke and is credited with St. Catherine's attainment of the New York State Department of Health Stroke Certification and The Joint Commission Disease-Specific Certification for Stroke – both with no recommendations for improvement. She regularly presents at and organizes stroke management conferences and research symposia. In 2009, the New York State Senate named her a Woman of Distinction for her achievements, pursuit of higher goals, and mentorship.



From left: Gara Edelstein, MSN, RN, Chair of NSHC Nurse of Excellence Sub-committee and Senior VP of Administration and Chief Nursing Officer at St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center; 2013 Nurse of Excellence Co-winners Dr. Lori Escallier and Catherine Videtto; and Patricia Darcey, MS, RN-BC-NE, Chief Nursing Officer and VP of Patient Care Services at Southampton Hospital and Chair of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council Nurse Executives Committee

Escallier is a master of nursing evaluation and theory and has presented her evidence-based scholarly research at numerous local, national, and international conferences and has published in dozens of peer-reviewed journals. Her research includes nationally grant-funded research on nursing education, delivery models, and organizational outcomes. She is the recipient of the 2012 Five Year Distinguished Service Award from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and the 2012 Outstanding Achievement in Education and Student Relations for the Robert Wood Johnson RWJ Scholars.

“Nurses will see their leadership roles expand because of reforms inherent in the Affordable Care Act,” said Paul Connor, chair of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council board of directors and CEO of Eastern Long Island Hospital. “In addition, they will be called to fill the gap of primary care services, as insurance

coverage expands under reform and as baby boomers age . . . there is a level of comfort going into the future knowing a nurse will always be there.”

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 18th year. For more information about this program and a full listing of nominees, visit www.nshc.org – Janine Logan, jlogan@nshc.org.

Medicaid Reforms Saving Money, Improving Care . . . The New York State Department of Health recently announced that the Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT) reforms are resulting in decreasing costs, even as enrollment continues to increase, and that the quality of care provided by the Medicaid program is among the best in the nation. Most of the savings are in the long-term care services sector. A recent study by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) analyzed New York State's Medicaid health plans against 76 different quality measures and found that when it comes to offering the right type of care for costly health factors like diabetes, childhood obesity, smoking cessation and follow-up care for the mentally ill, New York is a national leader, second only to Massachusetts. According to the State Department of Health, the total state Medicaid expenditures under the Medicaid Global Spending Cap for state fiscal year 2012-13 through February are \$192 million or 1.3% **below** projections.

Hospitals Donate Supplies and Equipment to Underserved Areas



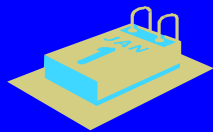
Nearly a dozen hospitals in the Hudson Valley region are making an astounding difference in the lives of children and adults living in medically-underserved regions of the world, including the United States.

Through the **Afya Foundation**, a non-profit medical supply recovery organization (MSRO), these hospitals are donating surplus medical supplies, hospital equipment, and humanitarian provisions to the Afya Foundation, which then develops a categorized inventory to support ongoing health initiatives, especially in Africa and Haiti.

Founded about five years ago by former managed care executive Danielle Butin, Afya offers U.S.-based health care institutions and professionals with a simple mechanism to contribute to both global health and increased access. Afya, based in Yonkers, NY, arranges for collection of donated items and then works with its domestic and international partners to ship the items to recipient organizations. The foundation uses a unique inventory system to meet recipient needs. A deserving organization is given access to the inventory database and then submits a “wish list” to Afya. For items not currently listed in the inventory, Afya works with its donating partners and other suppliers to secure the requested items. To date, Afya has shipped more than 100 40-foot containers to medical facilities and clinics around the globe.

The program is also environmentally friendly. “By diverting ‘waste’ from landfills and incineration to the most underserved people in other countries that are in need of these items, we reduce the environmental impact in our own country,” said Butin.

For more information about Afya’s programs and how to donate, contact Sarah Schuyler, sarah.schuyler@afyafoundation.org.



Mark Your Calendar for NSHC June Events

- June 5 LIHMA Conference, 8 a.m.
- June 7 Revenue Cycle Committee, 12:30 p.m.
- June 10 Auxilian Luncheon, Noon Watermill Inn, Smithtown
- June 11 Nurse Managers Committee, 12:30 p.m.
- June 12 AMB Scholarship Luncheon, Communications Committee, Bonwit Inn, Commack, 1 p.m.
- June 21 Human Resources Committee, 9 a.m.
- June 25 Population Health Workgroup (Suffolk County) 2 p.m.

For more information please call: 631-963-4153.

News Briefs . . .

Prestigious Nursing Award . . . was presented to **St. Francis Hospital – The Heart Center** from the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN). The organization bestowed its gold-level Beacon Award for Excellence upon St. Francis’ Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit and its nurses. The national award recognizes hospital unit caregivers who successfully improve patient outcomes and align practices with AACN’s six standards for a healthy work environment.

Ensuring Newborn Health . . . by reducing elective early-term deliveries was the focus of a March of Dimes multi-state study. **Stony Brook University Hospital** was one of two hospitals in New York participating in the study. Stony Brook reduced its rate of elective early-term deliveries by 75 percent to lower the risk of serious health problems and deaths for newborns in their first year of life. Hospitals involved in the study from five states - New York, Florida, Texas, California, Illinois – reduced their rate of elective early-term deliveries from 27.8 percent to 4.8 percent during a one-year demonstration period in 2011..

Catholic Health Services (CHS) . . . has named **Alan Guerci MD**, president and chief executive officer effective July 1, 2013. Dr. Guerci is currently vice president for CHS and president and CEO of St. Francis Hospital, Mercy Medical Center, and St. Joseph Hospital. Dr. Guerci is chair-elect of NSHC; his term begins June 2014.

2013 Nominations for Trustee Award . . . are due by June 12. Healthcare Trustees of New York State (HTNYS) is seeking nominations for its 2013 Trustee Leadership and Advocacy Award, which recognizes trustees and their

exemplary leadership and advocacy initiatives. The award nominations are being accepted online only. Please visit www.htnys.org and click on “awards” for nomination criteria, including eligibility requirements. Submissions must be e-mailed to HTNYS by June 12. The award will be presented at HTNYS Annual Conference at the Sagamore Resort on September 20, 2013.

Hospital Trustees Honored . . . with the United Hospital Fund's Distinguished Trustee Award include **Richard Abramson, North Shore-LIJ Health System; Sr. Elaine Callahan OP, Catholic Health Services of Long Island; Paul B. Guenther, North Shore-LIJ Health System/Lenox Hill Hospital; John T. Lane, Winthrop-University Hospital and Chair of the Healthcare Trustees of New York State; Peter M. Larsen, Southampton Hospital; Laura Doerken Lauria, North Shore-LIJ Health System/Staten Island University Hospital; Thomas E. Murray, Jr., Eastern Long Island Hospital.** The United Hospital Fund's Tribute recognizes the dedication and leadership of the volunteer leaders who govern not-for-profit hospitals throughout New York City and across the metropolitan region.

Palliative Care Award . . . applications are now being accepted for the Circle of Life Award presented by the American Hospital Association. This award recognizes innovation in palliative and end-of-life care and is presented annually to honor organizations striving to improve the care provided to patients with life-threatening conditions or near the end of life. Applications are due August 3, 2013. For more information contact the AHA at (312) 422-2700; circleoflife@aha.org.

Recognized for Exceptional Cardiac Care . . . is **Nassau University Medical Center (NUMC).** The hospital earned the Get with the Guidelines® Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award for Heart Failure care from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. NUMC achieved 85 percent or higher adherence to all Get with the Guidelines Heart Failure Quality Achievement indicators for two or more consecutive 12-month intervals and achieved 75 percent or higher compliance with five or more Get with the Guidelines-Heart Failure Quality Measures.

Top Safety Score . . . was bestowed upon **John T. Mather Memorial Hospital** from the Leapfrog Group. Mather Hospital is one of five Long Island hospitals to receive the top score – “A” rating – in Leapfrog's latest ranking of 148 New York State hospitals.

Insurance Enrollment Assistance . . . was the focus of a presentation offered by NSHC Facilitated Enrollment Program Director Stacy Villagran on April 30, 2013 at Newfield High School, Selden, NY. NSHC, through the New York State funded Facilitated Enrollment Program and the Community Health Advocates Program, funded by the Community Service Society, screens individuals and families to determine their eligibility for public insurance programs and/or assists with coverage options outside of public insurance programs. The Hospital Council's enrollers' expert knowledge of public insurance programs, the application process, and social service network has helped not only thousands on Long Island with their insurance needs, but has also helped hospitals usher their uninsured patients to the right resources. Villagran and her staff regularly educate the public and professionals, including hospital admission and billing personnel, about public insurance programs, appeals rights and processes and charity care, as well as components of the Affordable Care Act. The NSHC applied for a federal reform Navigator Program Grant to assist individuals and businesses with their insurance application needs. A key component of the Navigator Program will be assistance with New York's State Insurance Exchange. Grant winners will be announced in July. For more information about NSHC Facilitated Enrollment Services go to: www.coverage4healthcare.com.

Committee and Meeting News ...

Communications Committee: Members of this committee met on Tuesday, May 21, 2013 and heard from Chris Boyer, assistant vice president of Digital Strategy for North Shore/LIJ Health System and a nationally-recognized leader in social media marketing. He presented a health care specific workshop “Social Media Strategy: Measurement, Marketing, and Making It Work. His comments emphasized the importance of determining a social media return on investment and easy ways to obtain that information.

Corporate Compliance: At its May 21 meeting, the Corporate Compliance Committee received briefings on developments in the Medicare RAC audit programs, the OMIG workplan for 2013 and 2014, and the onset of audits of electronic medical record incentive money received by hospitals and other providers.

Finance Committee: The Committee was briefed on developments in the Medicare sequestration cuts, state observation care regulations and billing, and the recommendations of an AHA task force on wage index reform.

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

Quality Committee: The committee discussed the implications of new state regulations on sepsis and pediatric care, and was briefed on quality reporting changes proposed by CMS for the upcoming and future federal fiscal years.

Population Health Workgroup: The Hospital Council is coordinating a bi-county effort to assist member hospitals in conducting a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) to meet the reporting requirements of the state's 2013 – 2017 Prevention Agenda and the IRS' Form 990 charitable reporting mandate. The Suffolk County Workgroup met April 29, 2013 and selected its Priority Area – Chronic Disease – from among the state's Prevention Agenda items.

Specifically, the Suffolk Workgroup will focus on reducing obesity in children and adults and increasing access to quality preventive care and chronic disease management in clinical and community settings. The Nassau group, led by members of the Nassau County Health Department, met May 15, 2013 and reviewed results of their community-based survey. The state is asking hospitals and local health departments, as well as other community organizations and partners, to work collaboratively to determine health needs of local communities. These groups are asked to select two priorities from among the five priority areas outlined in the Prevention Agenda and to work together to develop programs and services that meet those identified needs – a Community Service Plan (CSP) for hospitals and a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for counties. Both are due to the state on November 15, 2013. The IRS Form 990 requires hospitals to complete a (CHNA) as part of the hospital's charitable filing requirements. NSHC is a regional partner with HANYS in this community assessment effort and will be helping HANYS implement its recently-awarded Community Health State Grant. NSHC is the grant's designated Long Island regional collaborative under the HANYS grant.

Take Note of Upcoming Events and Programs

NSHC Auxilians Annual Installation Event

Monday, June 10, 2013 • Watermill Restaurant, Smithtown, NY
Respond to Ramona Bielawski: rbielaws@nshc.org; 631-963-4151

Metro New York HFMA's Spring Academy

Thursday, June 13, 2013 • LaGuardia Marriott • 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The Spring Academy features three unique sessions on the lessons learned from Superstorm Sandy, followed by afternoon breakout sessions: Revenue Cycle, Managed Care, Compliance and Patient Financial Services. 9.5 hours CEP awarded. Register at:

<http://www.hfmametro.org/Portals/0/metronyhfmaseminar.pdf>.

HANYS' 45th Annual Membership Meeting

June 27-28, 2013 • The Sagamore Hotel, Bolton Landing, NY

The Conference program includes an exciting lineup of speakers and interactive panel discussions focusing on timely issues such as for-profit interest in New York State hospitals, New York's Health Benefit Exchange, health care reform, and accountable care/population health management. Register online only at: www.hanys.org. Questions: contact Chris Guyon at cguyon@hanys.org. *The registration deadline is June 14.*

The 2013 Academy for Healthcare Leadership Advancement

Three-day opening session: September 29 – October 1, 2013 • Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
Participants will then engage in six online sessions before returning to Cornell November 10 – 12 for the closing session, project fair, and certificate ceremony. Through the joint sponsorship of Winthrop-University Hospital, HANYS, and the Johnson School at Cornell University, the program has been approved for 50.0 American Medical Association Physicians Recognition Award (AMA PRA) Category 1 Credit(s)TM. Contact: Rachel Hajos (518) 431-7838.



Brought to you by the hospitals on Long Island

For news and updates about the Affordable Care Act go to www.nshc.org
Find out about Access, Benefits, Costs as they apply to you and your hospital now and in the future. . .
A public information campaign sponsored by the NSHC Communications Committee

