

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
- **St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center**
Smithtown
- **St. Charles Hospital**
Port Jefferson

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
Southampton

Stony Brook University Hospital
Stony Brook

Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Northport

Winthrop South Nassau University Health System

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

STAT

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A PUBLICATION ADDRESSING HEALTH ISSUES FACING LONG ISLANDERS

VOL. 7, NO. 4
APRIL 2009

Moving Forward Post New York's Budget

Hospitals on Long Island will absorb Medicaid reimbursement cuts of about \$40 million, as a result of the 2009-2010 state budget enacted on April 1st. This is \$42 million less than was originally proposed in the Governor's budget.

These immediate reductions in reimbursements take the form of a .35 percent tax on all hospital inpatient gross revenues, an elimination of the Medicaid trend factor (an inflationary index that supplements hospitals each year for the increased costs to deliver care), and re-distribution of funds tied to Graduate Medical Education, workforce and disproportionate share payments. These state pools traditionally reimbursed hospitals for their differences in physician training programs, regional labor costs, and charity care patient volume.

Further reimbursement reforms will become effective December 1, 2009, after the state completes its work on Medicaid rate re-basing and charity care formula re-calculations.

Quality Measures are First Steps in Health Reform

The Obama Administration has made it clear that savings from quality-related health care reimbursement and evidence-based medicine will help fund comprehensive health care reform. As policy makers look to slow health care costs and still enhance access and coverage for everyone, methods like value-based purchasing and assessing the clinical effectiveness of one treatment as opposed to another are gaining ground. Long Island's hospital providers are entrenched in quality care management and delivery practices and are watching closely the unfolding of both state and federal health reform policies.

"We want to ensure that any value-based purchasing programs put in place seek to improve quality first and not be designed solely with savings in mind," said Kevin Dahill, president/CEO of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC), the association that represents Long Island's not-for-profit and public hospitals.

President Obama's budget establishes a \$640 billion health reserve for health reform efforts, with \$31 billion of that funding coming from quality-based reform and reimbursement measures. The administration's establishment of a White House Office of Health Reform lends further credence to the importance this administration places on health care reform.

Hotline for the Uninsured

In March, County Executive Steve Levy announced a program that will help county residents who meet qualifying standards secure health insurance. The program makes use of the funds available through the expanded eligibility requirements for the federal Child Health Plus Program. Callers to the county hotline (631-853-3032) are directed to Facilitated Enrollment Agencies – the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC) or the Health and Welfare Council. To reach the NSHC program enrollment offices directly, call 631-656-9783. Pictured from left: Jermaine Coles, Suffolk Health Plan Marketing Manager; Stacy Villagran, Director of NSHC's Facilitated Enrollment Program; Suffolk County Health Commissioner Dr. Humayun J. Chaudhry; County Executive Steve Levy; Gwen O'Shea, Executive Director of the Health and Welfare Council; Janine Logan, Communications Director for NSHC; Gloria Baco, Director, Child and Family Health Plus Enrollment Program, Health and Welfare Council and Steve Bory, CEO of Suffolk Health Plan.



Mending Health Care

LISTnet, Long Island Software and Technology Network, will hold a panel discussion exploring "What is 'BEST' for Health Care" on Wednesday, June 3, 2009 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Garden City Hotel. Russ Artzt, founder and vice chairman of CA Inc. keynotes. Go to www.listnet.org for more details.