

NASSAU-SUFFOLK

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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
- St. Francis Hospital
Roslyn
- St. Joseph Hospital
Bethpage
- Mercy Medical Center
Rockville Centre

East End Health Alliance

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

Long Beach Medical Center Long Beach

John T. Mather
Memorial Hospital
Port Jefferson

Nassau University
Medical Center
East Meadow

North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System

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

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

Nassau-Suffolk
Hospital Council, Inc.

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Federal Update: Congress Funds Operations through FY 2012, Short-Term Package Addresses “Doc Fix”

As the December 16, 2011 deadline for funding of federal government operations drew near, Congress passed an omnibus appropriations bill that funds the government through federal fiscal year 2012, which ends September 30, 2012. Had this appropriations bill not been passed, the government would have faced a shutdown.

Shortly after this action was taken, and before the year ended, Congress approved a two-month reprieve from the 27 percent physician payment cut that was set to take effect January 1, 2012. Congress also approved a two-month extension of unemployment insurance benefits, and the Social Security payroll tax holiday. All this was achieved without cuts to hospitals. This short-term package expires the end of February 2012.

Next step is to have a Congressional panel develop a year-long solution to the Medicare physician payment fix and the extension of unemployment insurance and the Social Security Tax holiday. House members return January 17, 2012 and Senate members return January 23, 2012. House and Senate leaders will appoint members to the panel.

State Update: Cuomo Issues State of State, MRT Offers Final Recommendations, Region Secures Economic Development Funding to Spur Job Growth

MRT: The public, private committee assembled by Governor Cuomo to find savings and efficiencies in the Medicaid program approved the final recommendations from all of its work groups before 2011 ended. In Phase One of the MRT process, MRT members worked alongside the Governor's office earlier in 2011 to help it close an unprecedented budget gap without raising taxes. The MRT's recommendations are expected to be included in the Governor's 2012 – 2013 budget.

Governor Cuomo's State of the State Address: The Governor called on the legislature to establish health insurance exchange legislation pursuant to the federal health care reform law – the Affordable Care Act. The Medicaid Global Spending cap instituted in last year's budget will continue in 2012. The Governor also said he plans to close the state's \$2 billion budget deficit with no new taxes or fees, and he would like to work on mandate relief. In December 2011, Governor Cuomo and the leaders of the state legislature agreed to an MTA tax relief plan and revised tax code. The MTA tax relief plan and revised tax code will provide residents and businesses with much needed tax relief. However, hospitals were not included in the MTA tax relief plan. Hospitals are economic engines in their communities and in most cases the largest employers. *On Long Island hospitals are responsible for about 91,000 jobs and contribute about \$14.6 billion to the local economy.*

Economic Development Funding: Awards announced by the Governor in early December 2011 include \$101.6 million for the Long Island region – a “Best Plan Awardee.” Research and technology projects, as well as workforce investment, will have some bearing upon the health care industry in the years ahead.

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