From the Offices of Stuart Markowitz, MD and Stacy Nerenstone, MD

Free CME for License Renewal: Click here for CME Information

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"Wherever the art of medicine is loved, there is also a love of humanity."

- Hippocrates

1965: Under the direction of Drs. Morrison and Powers, Hartford Hospital created one of the first defined Respiratory departments in the state and began focusing on providing comprehensive respiratory services to hospitalized patients.

Follow Hartford Hospital on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com), [youtube](https://www.youtube.com) and [twitter](https://twitter.com)

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**Chief's Corner**

- *Dr. Jack Greene*, Hartford HealthCare Regional Vice President of Medical Affairs for the Hartford Region and Hartford Hospital

**Just Ask Us!**

We have put in place a dedicated email box for the medical staff, called "Ask Jack." The emails will be picked up each day, and I will be responsible for making sure that you receive feedback. Send your concerns to askjack@hhchealth.org.

In addition, there is a dedicated email box to ask questions of *Dr. Stu Markowitz*. Send your questions or comments to StuandYou@hhchealth.org, and you'll get a response from Stu within 10 days.

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**ePrescriptions Should Be Signed**

All printed ePrescriptions should be signed by the prescriber prior to giving to the patient for filling. We have received numerous reports from pharmacies in the area that printed prescriptions without a written signature are not being accepted.

Connecticut dug law states that "A written prescription shall bear: (1) The written signature of the prescribing practitioner or shall comply with the requirements of section 19a-509c;".

Electronically transmitted prescriptions can have an electronic signature but printed prescriptions must continue to have a written signature.

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**National Nurse Practitioner Week November 13 - 19**

During the week of November 13-19, we celebrate Nurse Practitioners, our partners in care.

NPs are a crucial part of our health care team at Hartford Hospital. We rely on you each and every day to care for our patients.

We thank you for your dedication to your work, your empathy and caring for our patients, and your passion for health care.

We are honored to have you as part of our health care team.

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**From the President of the Medical Staff**

- *Dr. Stacy Nerenstone*, President of the Hartford Hospital Medical Staff
Medical Staff Elections November 14 - Three At-large Positions Open

It's time for the Medical Executive Committee election. Ballots will be sent out on November 14. Please vote when you get your ballot and return by November 28.

We are voting for three at-large active staff members for two-year terms. There are five nominees:

1. Dr. Heather Einstein, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Hartford Hospital, appointed 2011
2. Dr. Michael Golioto*, Medicine/Gastroenterology, Connecticut GI, PC, appointed 2002
3. Dr. Michael O'Loughlin,* Radiology, Jefferson Radiology, appointed 2001
4. Dr. Cynthia Price, Emergency Medicine, Hartford Hospital, appointed 2001
5. Dr. Peruvamba Venkatesh,* Medicine, Hartford Hospital, appointed 1996

*Incumbent

Ballots will be sent out on November 14 and will be due back via email, fax or hand delivered to the Medical Staff Office by November 28. Only practitioners (physicians, dentists, oral surgeons, podiatrists, PsyDs or PhDs) who are on the active staff at Hartford Hospital will be eligible to vote.

Save the Date: Annual Medical Staff Meeting Dec. 15

Thursday, December 15 from 7-7:50 a.m. in Gilman Auditorium.

Continental breakfast will be available from 6:30-7 a.m.

From the Hospital President

Dr. Stu Markowitz, Senior VP, HHC, and Hartford Region President

Please Join Us Wednesday at State of the Hospital

Please join us for this month’s Leadership Forum: CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT (State of the Hospital 2016) on Wednesday, November 16, from 10-11:30 a.m. in Heublein Hall.

Teams of the Year awards will be presented.

From Elliot Joseph, HHC Chief Executive Officer

A Post-Election Message from Elliot Joseph:
Our country has spoken and it is time to unify. Let's show others the way.

Once the election is over, we say, “The people have spoken.” We spoke with many voices in this week’s election - but there was not a lot of listening. Those burdened by rapid economic and social changes along with individuals feeling the sting of discrimination all felt disconnected. The media weren’t listening. Neither were most of the politicians. And we weren’t listening to each other.

To regain our unity and our common vision of a strong and diverse America, we have to really listen to one another. I think it's actually become harder to do this. We used to share more experiences as a nation. We used to watch the same TV networks, shop at the same department stores and read the same newspapers. Today, we plug into cable channels and podcasts that offer up music we already know we like, shop online on sites that know what we want before we do, and tune into news talk tailored to our political preferences, right and left. We have become comfortable with listening only to those that think like we do.

At Hartford HealthCare we could be affected by the election results, particularly as it comes to the future of the Affordable Care Act. It is too early to tell how exactly things will change. However, we are very well positioned
and ready for any changes that come our way.

Tying us together across Hartford HealthCare is our commitment to those we serve. We are fortunate and privileged to share a higher calling, which is to care for others in their most vulnerable moments.

I am confident that, even in these moments of national divisiveness and rancor, our values and behaviors - the very culture of Hartford HealthCare - will help us listen to one another and create a sense of belonging and purpose. Our daily huddles and leadership rounding will help us recognize and respond to separate realities in authentic and humanistic ways.

Our country has spoken and it is time to unify. Let's show others the way.

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**Top News**

**Join Us for the Bone & Joint Institute Ribbon Cutting on November 15**

Join us Tuesday, November 15 as we celebrate a new era in healthcare in the region with the ribbon cutting for the new home of the Hartford HealthCare Bone & Joint Institute at Hartford Hospital. The ceremony will begin at 4:30 p.m.

The five-story inpatient hospital linked by a pedestrian bridge to the institute’s four-story ambulatory care center has been under construction for the past two years at Seymour Street and Retreat Avenue. The inpatient hospital, with 10 operating rooms and 60 beds, will also includes orthopedic urgent care, diagnostics, imaging, and a wellness-rehabilitation center. The four-story ambulatory center will house five ambulatory surgery rooms and offices for orthopedics and rheumatology, and a medical and community education center.

“This expansion will allow [us] to meet a new era in healthcare,” says Dr. Courtland Lewis, the Bone & Joint Institute’s physician-in-chief. “Every professional in the institute, from anesthesiologists to radiologists, will be exclusively trained in musculoskeletal care where they can share best practices centered on the patient. The end result is improving access to quality care, while reducing costs and keeping patients healthy.”

The new Bone & Joint Institute at Hartford Hospital is a 165,000-square-foot acknowledgment that musculoskeletal care in America is taking a swift, if somewhat achy, turn.

“We are living longer, working harder, exercising less,” says Dr. Stuart Markowitz, Hartford Hospital president and senior vice president of Hartford HealthCare, “and not always taking care of our bodies as we should.”

By conventional standards, the Bone & Joint Institute is a Futurama mashup of services where people can request an osteoporosis screening, sign up for a fracture-prevention clinic, watch a better-health cooking demonstration in a fully-stocked professional kitchen, have a hip or knee replacement, find mental health guidance for post-injury anxiety or depression and use the Motion Lab to get an early start on post-surgery rehabilitation with an antigravity treadmill or improve their golf swing, running efficiency or baseball pitching mechanics through computer-guided analytics.

“This is not your father’s knee and hip surgery center,” says Dr. Markowitz.

**Hartford Hospital is First in State to use MAKOplasty for Total Knee Replacement**

Dr. Paul Murray recently performed the first total knee replacement using the new and advanced technology of the RIO® Robotic Arm Interactive Orthopedic System or MAKOplasty at Hartford Hospital.

The new total knee replacement robotic technology is slowly rolling out across the country and Dr. Murray was the first surgeon at Hartford Hospital and in Connecticut to perform a total knee replacement using the new application.

The new procedure will be offered at the new Bone & Joint Institute at Hartford Hospital when it opens Dec. 19.

**IOL Launching Forensic Psychiatry Program**

Identifying a growing need in medical, legal and academic circles, the Institute of Living is launching a forensic psychiatry program that will offer psychiatric expertise in a variety of civil, criminal, and legislative areas.

The new Forensic Consultation Service provides specialized services such as risk assessment, competency to stand trial evaluations, disability assessments, fitness for duty evaluations (including worker’s compensation
evaluations), criminal state of mind evaluations (e.g. Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity and Extreme Emotional Disturbance defenses), evaluations of sex offenders, determination of testamentary capacities, immigration and asylum evaluations, and independent evaluations of Habeas Corpus petitions.

“We are recognizing this as a valuable service that is becoming more in demand,” said John Bonetti, DO, an IOL psychiatrist and associate director of the new service. As an example of the kind of work the service will provide, Dr. Bonetti recently completed a lengthy evaluation of a person who had filed a claim against an employer after undergoing a traumatic experience in the workplace. Dr. Bonetti was asked to determine if the employee's psychiatric issues could be directly linked to the workplace incident, or if the employee was already exhibiting symptoms beforehand.

Cases such as this, which involve civil claims, will make up the bulk of the new service's workload as it establishes itself and builds a reputation, Dr. Bonetti said.

In time the service hopes to expand its services to include more work in advanced residency in forensic psychiatry at Yale University. The new service will benefit from the expertise and experience of IOL Psychiatrist-in-Chief Harold I. (Hank) Schwartz, MD and IOL psychiatrist Peter M. Zeman, MD, who is board certified in forensic psychiatry.

The goal is for the service to become a launch pad for education of staff, trainees and patients, advocacy and policy work, academic publications and presentations, community work within the legal field and law enforcement. In addition, the service hopes to work closely with training psychiatrists, sparking interest in the field and aiding the development of some of the skills needed to practice in this sub-specialty.

**HHC Named One of Connecticut’s “Great Places to Work”**

Connecticut Magazine’s Thanksgiving issue has some news we should be thankful for: Hartford HealthCare has been selected by the magazine’s editors as one of Connecticut’s “Great Places to Work.”

Only 17 organizations were selected for the final cut, and HHC is the only healthcare organization to be honored.

We know that providing high-quality healthcare requires the highest-quality employees, physicians and volunteers. Being named one of Connecticut’s great workplaces is a testament to the 18,000 people who have a passion for safety and caring. This is proud recognition of a team who commit themselves every day to those we serve, in our hospitals, health centers and many programs and services.

Please share this information proudly with your staff, and thank them for being part of a winning team. We’ll share this news on [HHC Connect](#), our system intranet.

**HHC Hosting Second Dragonology Users Group**

[Dragonology](#) is an HHC group dedicated to Dragon speech recognition and improving physician and advanced practitioners personal productivity using Dragon and Epic. *Doctors can dictate 150 words per minute-three times faster than using a keyboard.*

This virtual meeting will be ideal for those who do NOT consider themselves experts.

- Did you know that HHC has over 1260 Dragon users?
- Did you know that you can use Dragon to log into Epic?
- Did you know that you can use Dragon to log into CT PMP and other websites?
- Did you know you can program the Dragon microphone keys to desktop short cuts like F2?
- Do you know how to “borrow” other users’ phrases?
- Do you know how to create speed buttons for your common notes?

*If people aren’t talking to Dragon, they’re talking about it!*

**Come join us by VMR and learn how to “Train Your Dragon”** on Monday, November 14 at 12:30 p.m.

VMR: Meet.hhcurgentcare
VMR Phone: 860-972-6338, code# 442874368
VMR using Chrome: Meet.hhchealth.org

**Microbioogy Testing Temporarily Relocated to Newington**
As part of ongoing renovations in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, the Microbiology Department was temporarily relocated to Newington as of November 8.

We anticipate that this transition will be for approximately 6-8 months.

Tests that will remain at Hartford Hospital include:

- Influenza A, B & H1N1 2009 PCR
- MRSA PCR Qualitative
- Enterovirus CSF PCR
- Strep A DNA Amplification
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) EIA reflex DFA
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) EIA
- CLO Test
- Rapid HIV
- Blood Cultures
- Stat Monospot
- Stat C. difficile Toxin and NAP1 PCR
- Stat Gram stains

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this change, please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience at 860-696-8024 and gregory.makowski@hhchealth.org or Dr. Aslanzadeh at 860-972-4128 and jaber.aslanzadeh@hhchealth.org.

Come to the HH Holiday Party

Save the Date for Hartford Hospital’s Employee Holiday Party on Friday, December 2.

United Way Campaign is Underway

From Dr. Ken Robinson and Liz Roper, 2016 Hartford Hospital United Way Campaign Chairs

Our 2016 United Way Campaign is officially underway! The campaign message this year is "Give Today. Create a Community of Possibilities Tomorrow." That's why your role is so critical in creating the community we all want.

Caring people like you have the passion and power to impact the future direction of our children and our families, right here in our community. We invite you to join us to LIVE UNITED and contribute to a better life for everyone through United Way Community Investment.

Through gifts to the United Way, children succeed academically, families become financially secure, individuals lead healthier lives, and all of us have access to basic supports. Your gift to United Way symbolizes your generosity and means positive change for all of us.

If you are a prior donor and pledged via payroll deduction in 2015, your gift is already in the system.

If you don't want to make any changes, you do not have to log into the system; your gift will roll over to benefit United Way Community Investment. If you would like to make changes to your 2015 payroll deduction gift, or are a first-time donor, please follow the instructions below:

TO MAKE YOUR ELECTRONIC DONATION for this very worthwhile cause, please:

- Login with your 9-digit employee number (i.e. 100012345) as the Username
- Use the first initial of your first name, the first initial of your last name, and last four digits of your employee number, all UPPER CASE (i.e. AB1234) for your Password
Step-by-step instructions for using eWay, along with other information regarding the United Way campaign, can be found on our Intranet site at http://intranet.harthosp.org/unitedway.htm

If you have any questions about pledging online, please contact Liz Roper (Lizabeth.roper@hhchealth.org). Thank you for your participation in the United Way Campaign. Together, we can build a stronger community for all of us.

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**Excellence**

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**Medical Groups Support Black & Red Celebration of Neuroscience Institute**

The 2017 Black & Red will benefit the Hartford HealthCare Neuroscience Institute at Hartford Hospital, helping to create the platform to further enhance the research and outcome measurements that will elevate the breadth and depth of neuroscience services in Connecticut.

Hartford Hospital's Fund Development Department thanks the medical groups that are supporting the institute through their Black & Red sponsorships. They include Hartford Cardiac Laboratory; Hartford Hospital Medical Staff; Integrated Anesthesia Associates, LLC; Jefferson Radiology; Orthopedic Associates of Hartford; and Starling Physicians.

The gala is scheduled for Saturday, January 28, 2017, at The Bushnell and will feature entertainment by Fitz & The Tantrums.

For information about sponsorship options, see the Black & Red Sponsorship Opportunities Guide. The deadline to secure a sponsorship is Friday, December 16.

For questions, contact Carla Burgess, director of development, at carla.burgess@hhchealth.org or 860-972-1932.

For event updates, visit giving.harthosp.org/blackandred.

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**Dr. Salner Presents Results of 20-year Study on Breast Cancer Survival**

Dr. Andrew Salner, director of the Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute at Hartford Hospital, presented his research at the annual meeting of ASTRO—the American Society for Radiation Oncology, entitled "Disparities in presenting stage and overall survival in women treated for breast cancer."

This 20-year retrospective study documents improvements in breast cancer outcomes for African American women over time, perhaps as a result of strategies to eliminate disparities by improving access to screening and care. Coauthors include Dr. Vatsal Patel, Veeral Patel, and Ilene Staff PhD, senior scientist in the Hartford Hospital Research Department.

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**Dr. McIsaac Moderates Panel on Mass Shootings and OR Management**

Dr. Jay McIsaac, Department of Anesthesiology, moderated a panel on Anesthetic Management During Mass Casualties and presented "Mass Shootings and OR Management" at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Anesthesiologists in Chicago, IL on October 24.

Dr. McIsaac is a founding board member of the Trauma Anesthesiology Society, the chair of the Disaster Preparedness for the Connecticut State Medical Society, and a member of the ASA Committee on Trauma and Emergency Preparedness. He is an associate clinical professor of Anesthesiology at both UConn and Quinnipiac Schools of Medicine.

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**Dr. Thompson Presents Lecture at Cornell**

Dr. Paul Thompson presented at Cornell University on Oct 28. The topic was “Are There Deleterious Effects from Long-Term Endurance Exercise Training?” at the Heart Health Distinguished Professor Lecture.
Dr. Roux Receives Award of Excellence

Dr Francoise Roux, associate medical director of HH Sleep Disorder Center, received an award of recognition from the American College of Chest Physicians for exemplary service as a steering committee member on the Women’s Health Network from 2012 to 2016.

HH Surgery Team Recognized for Quality Outcomes

The American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (ACS NSQIP®) has recognized Hartford Hospital for achieving meritorious outcomes for surgical patient care. Hartford Hospital is among the only 61 out of 615 hospitals considered to receive this distinction nationwide.

ACS NSQIP participating hospitals are required to track the outcomes of inpatient and outpatient surgical procedures and then analyze their results. These results direct patient safety initiatives within the hospital and impact the always improving quality of surgical care.

This recognition is a testament to the quality care we provide. We are proud of our staff’s role in this tremendous accomplishment from the American College of Surgeons.

The ACS NSQIP recognition program commends a select group of hospitals for achieving a meritorious composite score. That composite score was determined through a weighted formula combining eight outcomes, including mortality, cardiac (cardiac arrest and myocardial infarction,) pneumonia, unplanned intubation, ventilator (greater than 48 hours), renal failure, surgical site infections (SSI), including superficial incisional SSI, deep incisional SSI and organ/space SSI, and urinary tract infections (UTI).

ACS NSQIP is the only nationally validated quality improvement program that measures and enhances the care of surgical patients. This program measures the actual surgical results 30 days postoperatively as well as risk adjusted patient characteristics to compensate for differences among patient populations and acuity levels.

Introducing Hartford HealthCare’s News Hub

Hartford HealthCare’s new online health news site delivers lively, informative and useful health news in a whole new way. Look for print, video and audio stories produced by HHC’s News Service, as well as timely tips on nutrition, fitness, health and wellness, and medical innovations.

http://healthnewshub.org/p/health-news-hub/

Read the latest health news or sign up for our e-newsletter at: healthnewshub.org

Glucommander Review/Update

HHC has adopted a new eGlycemic Management System called Glucommander. This new system has improved our capability to manage patients with hyperglycemia and DM at HH. Here are some salient points for your review:

Patients who should be on Glucommander

- IV insulin infusion for all patient demographics (includes option for mealtime dosing)
- IV to SQ transition with accurate dosing and built in overlap for patient safety
- Examples of patients who require transition
- T1DM
- Previous insulin
- Infusion requirements > 1 unit/hr (any diagnosis)
- SQ dosing modules
- Basal + correction: patient NPO
- Basal + bolus + correction: patient eating
Not FDA approved for patients on continuous tube feeds or TPN

Results so far August 20-October 19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Treated (N= 870)</th>
<th>Untreated** (N= 45)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hypoglycemia &lt; 40</td>
<td>0.05%</td>
<td>0.37%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hypoglycemia &lt; 70</td>
<td>1.43%</td>
<td>1.87%</td>
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<td>% BG 70-180 (target range)</td>
<td>75.83%</td>
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<td>Hyperglycemia &gt; 180</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
<td>51.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyperglycemia &gt; 250</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Untreated definition: 2 or more BG > 180 within a 24 hour period + 3rd BG >180 in the next 24 hours + 4 more BG > 180 in any time frame

Lessons learned
- Hypoglycemia rate very low both IV and SQ
- Those most at risk for hypoglycemia with SQ: suggest using 0.2-0.3 units/kg multiplier
  - AKI/CKD
  - Age > 80/Frailty
  - Poor appetite
  - Patient's well-controlled T2DM with normoglycemia on admission

Going Forward
- CV surgery recommendations specific to population needs
- GlucoseSentry should be considered for any patient requiring addition or resumption of basal/bolus or basal/bolus/correction insulin

Consider Diabetes LifeCare Center Referral for these patients: DLC phone number 2-3526
- Patients without endocrinologist who are:
  - New to insulin
  - New diagnosis
  - > 2 DM related admissions in 6 months
  - HbA1c > 8.5%
  - Uncontrolled T1DM

Refer Questions to Glycemic Task Force Members:
- Paul Labinson, DO or Robert Oberstein, MD
- Sherry Adams, Jenifer Ash, Nicole Dunn

Feds New Policy on Part B Hurts Cancer Patients

CT Mirror Viewpoints

By Dr. Peter Yu, Physician-in-Chief and Dr. Andrew Salner, Medical Director at the Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute at Hartford Hospital

Cancer takes an enormous toll everywhere, but particularly here in Connecticut where we are among states with some of the higher cancer incidence rates in the nation. According to the American Cancer Society's Cancer Statistic Center, 21,700 residents will be diagnosed with some form of the disease this year. Overall, some 43 percent of us will be diagnosed with cancer during our lifetime.

Connecticut residents are doing everything they can to find a cure for cancer both professionally and personally.

For some, that means lacing up their sneakers and participating in charity runs, for others, it means showing up for treatment or work at hospitals, cancer centers, medical offices or biopharmaceutical firms across the state.

However, a new proposal that officials at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) are pushing could thwart many of these efforts and result in cancer doctors having to move away from providing patients the most advanced medications.
CMS’s plan could deprive patients of some of the best weapons to fight cancer - and ultimately discourage drug companies in Connecticut and across the nation from investing in future research.

At issue is the system Medicare uses under Part B to reimburse doctors for drugs and other infusion medications administered in their offices and clinics. These include chemotherapy drugs.

While touted as a demonstration by CMS, their proposal not only bypasses Congressional approval but could affect 75 percent of physicians nationwide within a year.

These Part B cuts represent huge hurdles for patients racing against cancer.

Medicare currently reimburses doctors for the average sales price of a drug plus a percentage markup - recently reduced from 6 percent to 4.3 percent - to cover handling, storage, and administration. Many doctors pay more than the average sales price, so this small markup can mean the difference between being able to offer certain treatments to their patients or not.

The last cut in reimbursement rates in 2013 had an adverse effect on patients’ access to treatment. Soon after it took effect, it was being reported nationally that clinics started turning away cancer patients because they couldn’t afford to treat them.

Now, the government wants to cut Medicare reimbursements again. Starting this fall, the proposed formula would reimburse doctors for a drug’s average sales price, reduce the markup to 2.5 percent, and add a flat payment of $16.80. While reimbursements for older medications may actually rise under the new formula, they would plummet for newer medications. Many doctors and clinics would find it all but impossible to cover the cost of these more advanced treatments.

By implementing this plan, CMS will decrease patient access to innovative therapies that represent the latest advances in the treatment of cancer. The agency doesn’t seem be considering what’s best for patients.

The results of this demonstration could result in cancer clinics being forced to turn away more Medicare patients and making it virtually impossible for doctors to afford to offer their patients advanced medications.

If Medicare no longer makes it feasible for doctors to use the latest medicines, demand for such treatments would decline. Researchers would lose the economic incentive to develop new treatments. Research cutbacks would rob future patients of drugs that could have saved their lives.

There’s still time left for officials to scrap the demonstration. And for patients’ sakes, they should.

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**Research and Academics**

**Learn How to Help Promote Organ Donation and Transplantation**

Organ Donation Passport Program will be held on Wednesday, November 30 in the Hartford Hospital Special Dining Room.

Exhibits will be open from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will include:

- Mythbusters About Organ Donation
- End-Stage Organ Disease (Liver, Kidney and Heart)
- The Role of LifeChoice Donor Services
- Understanding Brain Death
- The Donor Family Experience
- Organ Donor Management

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**The Hartford Healthcare Cancer Institute Presents:**

**The Basics of Bone Marrow Transplant Lecture Series**

**November 28**

6-7 p.m., Hartford Hospital Cancer Center, Taylor Conference Rooms

*Nov. 28: Post-transplant Care for Allogeneic HCT Recipients: Can We Bring Patients Back Home Earlier?*

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Lecturer to be announced
The lecture can also be viewed via videoconference (meet.cancer@video.hhchealth.org) at the following locations:

- Backus Hospital, MOB Conference Room
- MidState Medical Center, Conference Room IV
- The Hospital of Central Connecticut Cancer Center, Conference Room A
- Windham Hospital, Johnson Room

Lectures are CME-eligible. For more information, please contact Andrea Dash at Andrea.Dash@hhchealth.org.

Accepting New Patients? We Can Help

Help New Patients Find You

Hartford HealthCare offers physicians a free powerful tool to help reach potential patients. The system-wide “Find A Doctor” search feature on our website helps potential patients connect with appropriate physicians when they need care.

Patients’ searches lead to doctors’ online profiles, which are based on information physicians provide to the Medical Staff Office. Details on education, specialty, office locations, languages spoken, biography and any promotional videos are displayed, helping patients make vitally important decisions in choosing a physician.

The HHC Planning and Marketing team is committed to making sure this online information is correct. Please spend a few moments reviewing your profile at HartfordHealthCare.org/verify. Click the “Physician Feedback Form” on the right hand side of your profile to submit changes.

You will need your NPI number to verify your identity. The “Accepting New Patients” filter is set as the default to help patients connect with physicians who are taking new patients. If you are no longer accepting new patients, please let us know. Changes to your profile will be made within three business days.

Operational Update

Reminder! Do Your ALICE Armed Intruder Training

Deadline extended to December 31.

Link to training: http://hhchelp.hhchealth.org/kinetic/login.jsp

Changes in AJCC Staging Requirements

The 8th edition of the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) Cancer Staging Manual is due out at the end of October.

Any physician involved with staging should know that there have been some pretty big changes in AJCC staging requirements.

There are many free resources available that are good refresher lessons, a tab for cancer staging education and a category specific to physician. https://cancerstaging.org

For more information, contact Mary Fleming, CTR, MSOL, manager of the Hartford Hospital Cancer Registry at 860-972-2122.

Save the Date for the 2017 Black & Red Benefiting Neuroscience

Save Saturday, January 28, 2017, for Hartford Hospital's annual gala, the Black & Red. The Hartford HealthCare Neuroscience Institute at Hartford Hospital will be honored at the event, which will feature entertainment by Fitz & The Tantrums.
Funds raised through the 2017 Black & Red will help create the platform to further enhance the research and outcome measurements that will elevate the breadth and depth of neuroscience services in Connecticut. Tickets for the hospital's signature fundraiser will go on sale in the coming months.

See our Sponsorship Opportunities Guide to find out about all event sponsorship options. The deadline to sponsor is Friday, December 16. For questions, contact Carla Burgess, director of development, at carla.burgess@hhchealth.org or (860) 972-1932. For event updates, visit giving.harthosp.org/blackandred.

Educational Events and Programs Calendar Available

Click here to download.

The Hartford Healthcare Cancer Institute has published an Educational Events and Programs Calendar listing all programs and support groups available this fall.

Patients in Need of Financial Assistance

Do you know a patient who is in need of financial assistance?

Hartford HealthCare can provide help to patients in need. Learn more about the program and how to assist patients on HHC Connect: https://intranet.hartfordhealthcare.org/inside-hhc/patient-support.

Remind a Colleague: Wash In, Wash Out

All health care workers and patients should feel comfortable reminding any other health care worker to sanitize regardless of their role. This should always be done in a courteous and constructive manner. All health care workers should respond courteously and gratefully when reminded.

If you remind another health care worker to sanitize, and he or she responds with irritation or hostility, please notify their department chief, Dr. Jack Greene or Dr. Jack Ross, who will communicate with them to prevent recurrences.

Improving Doctor-to-Doctor Communication: TigerText

A Free Tool To Help You

We all want to do what is best for our patients. Problems in communication between hospital providers, consultants, and community providers has been identified as a major source of dissatisfaction for both patients and physicians. And it can lead to gaps in patient care.

Hartford Hospital has invested in a tool to help providers improve communication. It is a HIPAA compliant texting service called TigerText, and we are offering it to the medical staff at no charge.

TigerText allows a provider to send brief text messages, with patient identifiers, to another provider on the system. Examples of texts include quick reports of a procedure, notification of discharge, questions about medications, etc. There is an option to alert people if you are on vacation, and the notices that are sent are marked as read when they are opened by the recipient.

We are anxious for all of our Medical Staff to enroll in this free application. It is VERY easy to use, even for those of us who have problems with new technology. We urge everyone to register and get on this useful and HIPAA compliant system today—it will make your job easier and improve patient safety.

- Here is a TigerText Request form with directions on how to get TigerText: You can download the form here
- For further help with this, feel free to contact John.Rogalsky@hhchealth.org (860-972-3207).
- Any problems not resolved by the TigerText Help line can be referred to Dr. Marc Palter at Marc.Palter@hhchealth.org.

TigerText Support
For Hartford Hospital users, TigerText support can be obtained by calling the Hartford HealthCare help desk at 860-545-5699 and choosing option #6; or by calling TigerText Pro support directly at 650-564-4722. For issues related to password recovery, a helpdesk call is required and will be routed to the Mobility team.

Hartford Hospital Media Coverage

Media Coverage Wrap-Up

**Dr. Brian Grosberg** did a live interview on FOX 61 about being awarded a $250,000 grant by the Migraine Research Foundation to conduct research in the treatment of long lasting, debilitating migraine. [https://youtu.be/hOTr8T-NybQ](https://youtu.be/hOTr8T-NybQ)

Connect to Healthier on NBC-CT

HHC's two-minute "Connect to Healthier" segment airs each Sunday at 9:20 a.m. and it's posted fresh each Monday on HHC Connect, our Intranet.

**Helping Adult Caregivers**

Being a caregiver can be tough, but newer programs like Movies & More are helping adult caregivers connect with their aging parents. [https://youtu.be/rtwCACCcLuRQ](https://youtu.be/rtwCACCcLuRQ)

**New Technology to Treat Sleep Apnea**

Jaime Fernando Ortiz couldn't stand his CPAP machine and was one of the first in the state to use a new technology to treat sleep apnea. Hypoglossal nerve stimulation or INSPIRE. [https://youtu.be/2xOdLj1VH8](https://youtu.be/2xOdLj1VH8)

**Running the Marathon With Cancer**

Every year, thousands flock to the Hartford Marathon to compete. One man this year- showed us he could tackle anything: 26 miles, even while fighting something else.


**Healing After an Aneurysm**

This is the story of one inspirational young woman who made remarkable progress after an aneurysm ruptured and affected her ability to speak. She and her team never gave up.

The patient made a trip all the way from London to visit with the team on the neurointensive floor that saved her life and her voice. [http://media.hartfordhealthcare.org/ermweb/player?id=9ED911ul](http://media.hartfordhealthcare.org/ermweb/player?id=9ED911ul)

**Featuring A Roundup of HHC News**

A remarkable achievement for Dr. Brian Grosberg; a grand opening for HHCMG in Bloomfield; and Breast Cancer awareness month. [https://youtu.be/9ztEDTzSOi8](https://youtu.be/9ztEDTzSOi8)

Sunday's Connect to Healthier segment on NBC CT highlighted the following events/accolades across HHC:
A remarkable achievement for Dr. Brian Grosberg, a grand opening for HHCMG in Bloomfield and Breast Cancer awareness month.

https://youtu.be/9ztEDTzSOi8

Upcoming News Service Content; Share Your Stories

The Hartford HealthCare News Service is actively creating content with media partners across the state. Please let us know if you have great patient stories to share. Share your stories with us so we can share them to a wider audience.

Connect to Healthier

Sundays in the 9 a.m. hour, we broadcast a two minute health segment on NBC CT.

Medical Rounds

Partnership with WFSB. Weekly live interview from the HHC studio at 5:45 p.m.

HealthCare Matters radio program

Every month, Elliot Joseph highlights an important health care related topic with nationally recognized experts on CBS affiliate WTIC-am, NewTalk 1080, Connecticut's largest and most popular talk radio station

Healthier Connections

Monthly partnership with FOX CT.

CT STYLE

Monthly partnership with WTNH.

HHC YouTube page: https://www.youtube.com/user/HartfordHospitalCT

Link to contact information across the system: Hartford HealthCare Media Relations Team

Voices of Our Patients

Kudos to Drs. Obgonna, Ross Albert and his entire palliative Team; Jarrod Post, Josh, and Anthony LaSala

I am writing to acknowledge the exceptional and compassionate care that was provided to my mother Jeanne Chasse in her most recent stay of the 19th floor Cardiac Care Wing at Hartford Hospital. My mom was brought into Emergency yet again to deal with multiple issues due to her Congestive Heart Failure and rapidly declining health through this past year.

It was difficult to watch her struggle and suffer so much, day after day. She was an exceptional woman, enduring many great pains and hardships in her life like losing her own mother as a teenager and her husband at 55. She lost her only brother to cancer a few years later. Regardless of her circumstances, she was always able to move forward and care and love other people. She was never negative and always found good things to say about others and always made special connections with whomever she crossed paths with. She taught and gave me so much in my own life; one of my best lessons was to always live in gratitude. Even in her 70s she would volunteer to read to folks in nursing homes in South Windsor.

When it became imperative that she entered into Hospice care, we knew her time with us would be limited. it was then that I noticed a group of doctors, nurses and PCAs courageously step in to provide loving support as well as caring for my mom medically. I had never witnessed such genuine concern and compassion. When our family was feeling lost and depleted, these courageous people comforted us and lovingly cared for my mom until her last breath.

Some of those who were so kind were Heather Rackliffe, RN, Kaitlyn Morway, PCA, Cheryl PCA, Katie Aube RN, Socie Ruwet RN, Phema Brown PCA, Dr. Obgonna, Dr. Ross Albert and his entire palliative Team; Dr. Jarrod Post, Dr. Josh, Ann Micelli, RN and the Hospice Team and Valerie Neary Nurse manager.
Also, for over 19 years helping my mother with her CHF, Dr. Anthony LaSala whom I respect and admire deeply. I sincerely apologize for those who I have not included and helped her in this most recent stay, but in all previous visits as well.

At one of the most difficult times of my life in watching my mom’s life come to an end, I saw and felt the courage and care that you all provide on a daily basis to so many, over and over again. You are all truly special people with a strength that surprises explanation. Without even knowing us, you stepped in to offer exceptional care like you would to your own friends and family members.

I also know that you are not given the credit you deserve so just know that I see and acknowledge all that you did for one person, and know you do it for so many everyday. Many do see it, but choose to see past it. You are warriors and angels at the same time. Keep doing your wonderful and much needed work. I will never forget you. You are all in my heart forever. I think you and if my mom could say it she would thank you and give you one of her loving, strong French Canadian hugs! Peace to you all.

Andrew Chasse

CME Applications

Interested In Hosting a CME Event?

In order to ensure that your educational event meets the standards established by the ACCME and the CSMS, the HH CME department has established the following deadlines for submission of CME applications.

To ensure a timely review of your application, we strongly recommend advance planning for all events.

- Complete applications for a recurring series such as Grand Rounds must be submitted at least 4 weeks prior to the planned activity.
- For a conference, course, or symposia, a complete application must be submitted at least 12 weeks prior to the event. We strongly encourage activity planners to contact the HH CME department at least 6 to 12 months prior to the date of the course in order to begin the planning process.

We have developed educational resources to assist planners with the application process. Please contact the HH CME office at ContinuingEd@HHCHealth.org or (860) 972-5816 to schedule an appointment with our team to discuss your CME needs.

State Mandated CME Renewal Available Free To HH Doctors through HealthStream LMS

State mandated CME for physician license renewal is available free on the Hartford Hospital HealthStream Learning Management System.

You will need your Employee ID to access HealthStream. If you need the CME Programs, but do not have a HealthStream ID, a Temporary ID can be provided for you.

Please email HealthStream@HHCHealth.org and request an ID and password for CME Courses. You will receive an email with the ID, password and instructions for accessing the courses.

To access HealthStream, use the link from the intranet, or click here. Once you login, click on the Catalog tab and search for CME to view the available courses.

Once you have passed the post-test and evaluation, you will be awarded a printable CME certificate. Your CME will also be maintained and easily self-service accessed on the HealthStream site, should you need a copy in the future.

Please note that your Risk Management required activities through MRM will provide your Risk Management CME.

HH In the News
Hartford HealthCare's Bone & Joint Institute pioneers robotic technology in knee replacement

Hartford Business Journal

Hartford HealthCare's Bone & Joint Institute at Hartford Hospital has begun using a new surgeon-controlled robotic technology in knee replacement surgery that enables a more precise alignment and placement of implants, the hospital said in a news release.

The institute is the first in the state and among the first in the U.S. to use the RIO Robotic Arm Interactive Orthopedic System, or MAKOplasty, the release said. The procedure was performed by Dr. Paul Murray, a Hartford Hospital orthopedic surgeon.

Surgeons from across the country will train at Hartford Hospital's Center for Education, Simulation and Innovation to learn how to perform this procedure and other robotic arm procedures, the hospital said. RIO assists surgeons in pre-planning and treating each patient uniquely, and has been used for years for partial knee resurfacing and total hip replacement procedures.

The technology will be among features of the new, $150 million Bone and Joint Institute at Hartford Hospital that opens Dec. 19.

In the HHC System

Rest of Hartford's Genomas sold for $1.75M

Hartford Business Journal

The Florida health-software maker that last July acquired a stake in Hartford biomedical-testing provider Genomas says it has purchased the remainder of Genomas' equity for an additional $1.75 million, plus assumption of debt.

Rennova Health, based in West Palm Beach, said Monday that it acquired the remaining approximately 85 percent of Genomas in exchange for newly created convertible preference shares, plus taking on Genomas' $800,000 of existing debt.

In July, the pair announced that Rennova had paid $250,000 cash for Hartford Hospital's approximately 15 percent stake in Genomas. The deal included assumption of Genoma's intellectual property.

In late September, Rennova and Genomas announced a definitive pact for Rennova to purchase the balance of Genomas, which will continue operating in leased laboratory space at Hartford Hospital.

On Monday, Rennova disclosed conversion terms for the preference shares issued in connection with the buyout. The conversion, which cannot occur until at least a year from the Sept. 29 purchase date, will be priced at the higher of two options, $1.95, or the average of the closing price of Rennova shares during the 10 days prior to conversion.

"This acquisition allows Rennova to deliver diagnostic results that use DNA-guided management and selection of drugs used to treat mental illness, pain, heart disease, and diabetes," Rennova CEO Seamus Lagan said in a statement. "Genomas PhyzioType Systems provide physicians with an unprecedented capability to reduce risk and select the safest and most effective drug to achieve treatment goals and enhance patient compliance."

Genomas is led by Dr. Gualberto Ruano, who also leads Hartford Hospital's Genetics Research Center. Genomas conducts genetics-based testing for personalized prescription of drugs used to treat mental illness, diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

"With Rennova, we will deliver the integrated molecular, biochemical and informatics monitors for precision medicine: the suite of pharmacogenetics, toxicology, and clinical decision support," said Ruano, Genomas’ president and medical director. "This industry-leading platform from Rennova will help prevent adverse events and addiction when interacting drugs are prescribed in behavioral health and primary care."

As previously reported, Rennova first partnered with Genomas in March to launch a series of medical tests.

Rennova's Lagan said at that time that the deal significantly strengthens their fledgling relationship and will help accelerate the development of diagnostics.

"This will also help to reduce healthcare costs," Lagan said. "We expect additional benefit from this relationship by offering our current Rennova products and services to Genomas customers."
UConn, CaroGen seek colon cancer vaccine

Hartford Business Journal:

The University of Connecticut and CaroGen Corp., an emerging immunotherapy company doing research in UConn's Technology Incubation Program (TIP) in Farmington, said this week they are collaborating on developing a vaccine to potentially treat and cure colon cancer.

CaroGen's proprietary technology will be applied to a specific target studied by UConn Health's Kepeng Wang, assistant professor of immunology. CaroGen will provide a $70,000 grant to Wang and his collaborator at UConn Health, Anthony T. Vella, professor and Boehringer Ingelheim chair in immunology, who will aid in the development of this platform.

CaroGen's platform is a transformative virus-like vesicle (VLV) technology developed at Yale University School of Medicine and exclusively licensed by CaroGen for the development and commercialization of immunotherapies worldwide, according to a news release from UConn's Office for the Vice President of Research.

The company is developing a portfolio of immunotherapies with a lead program in chronic hepatitis B viral infection in collaboration with Professor John Rose of Yale University School of Medicine and Michael Robek of Albany Medical College.

Colon cancer is the third leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States for men and women. Colon and rectal cancer deaths increase with age and are highest among people 75 to 84.

CaroGen is also working on the development of VLV immunotherapies against C. difficile bacterial infection in collaboration with UConn Health researcher Kamal Khanna, assistant professor of immunology, and a vaccine against Zika with UConn researcher Dr. Paulo Verardi, associate professor of pathology.

Medical Errors Decline 3 Percent In 2015

CT Health IT Team:

Connecticut hospitals reported increases in patient deaths or serious injuries due to falls and medication errors in 2015 compared to 2014, but an overall drop in "adverse events," according to a new state report.

The report, by the Department of Public Health (DPH), shows that the total number of medical errors dipped by 3 percent - from 472 in 2014, to 456 in 2015.

There were 90 instances when patients died or were seriously injured in falls, up from 78 in 2014. Seven falls that resulted in injury or death were reported at Yale New Haven, St. Vincent, and UConn's John Dempsey Hospital. Falls were the second most common adverse event last year and accounted for nearly 20 percent of the total number of errors.

Medication errors that resulted in serious injury or patient death increased from one in 2014, to seven in 2015.

The number of deaths or serious injuries resulting from surgeries rose from 12 to 14; surgery performed on the wrong site dipped by two to 13 and there was one instance when a surgery was performed on the wrong patient, up from zero.

The number of patient suicides, attempted suicides or instances of self-harm also rose- from zero to three in hospitals.
9 often overlooked factors of emotional fatigue, burnout among physicians

When most people think about the grief endured by physicians in training, they often think of the emotionally taxing nature of patient care - sudden illness, rapid decline, untimely death, unforgettable errors and irrepressible uncertainty. Beyond the inevitable patient tragedies physicians-in-training encounter, there are many more often-ignored issues that affect medical providers’ psyche.


Coming Events

Medical Staff Elections
November 14

Dragonology Users Group
November 14 at 12:30 p.m.
VMR: Meet.hhcurgentcare
VMR Phone: 860-972-6338, code# 442874368
VMR using Chrome: Meet.hhchealth.org

Bone & Joint Institute Ribbon Cutting
November 15

Hartford Hospital State of the Hospital Meeting
Wednesday, Nov 16
10-11:30 a.m.
Heublein Hall

The Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute Presents: The Basics of Bone Marrow Transplant Lecture Series
November 28
6-7 p.m., Hartford Hospital Cancer Center, Taylor Conference Rooms

Post-transplant Care for Allogeneic HCT Recipients: Can We Bring Patients Back Home Earlier?

Hartford Hospital’s Employee Holiday Party
Friday, December 2

Annual Medical Staff Meeting
Thursday, December 15
7-7:50 a.m. in Gilman Auditorium

Continental breakfast will be available from 6:30-7:00 a.m.

The Seymour Street Journal (SSJ) has been developed to communicate key messages pertinent to our hospital's physicians. It will keep you informed and up-to-date on hospital, network, and health care news in a concise, convenient format. The SSJ will be sent to your preferred e-mail address every other Sunday. If you would like to be added to the Seymour Street Journal email list, or to receive it at a different email address, please opt-in at hartshosp.org/SSJ. This ensures that you will receive the newsletter at your preferred email address. For any questions or suggestions, please contact Dr. Stacy Nerenstone, Medical Staff president, at 860-545-3043, or editor Annie Emanuelli at 860-972-2199.

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