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

Free CME for License Renewal: Click here for instant access

In This Issue... February 7, 2016

- Chief's Corner: Don't Use Patients' Own Medications in the Hospital
- Chief's Corner: Seeking Nominations For Medical Staff Awards
- Chief's Corner: Be Prepared-Joint Commission Will Be Here Soon
- From the President of the Medical Staff: Revisions to the "Completion of Medical Records" Policy
- From the HH President: Black & Red: Marking a Quarter Century of Celebrating Incredible Accomplishments
- 25th Annual Black & Red: Nets Over $1 Million for Bone & Joint Institute
- Dr. Steven Weinreb: New Chief of Primary Care
- Paying Respects to Women Providers: National Women Physicians Day
- Healthgrades Award: HH Receives 2016 Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence
- Welcome: New Providers - Hartford Region
- Help New Patients Find You: Website's "Find a Doctor" Feature
- Voices of Our Patients: Kudos to Dr. Stephen Hauser
- CME Application Submissions: Important Changes
- Free CME for License Renewal

Remind a Colleague: Wash In, Wash Out

All health care workers and patients should feel comfortable reminding any other health care worker to sanitize

Beyond advanced... Then & Now

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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.

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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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**Welcome To “Chief’s Corner”**

We recognize the need for sharing information about activities throughout the hospital more widely with our Medical Staff.

Chief’s Corner will bring you highlights of activities of interest, which will be authored by our Department Chiefs. Should you have any comments or suggestions along the way, please share them with us.

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**Don't Use Patients' Own Medications in the Hospital**

The use of home medications is strongly discouraged for inpatient use and will be converted to formulary options whenever possible.

Some of the more compelling reasons to use formulary items are;

- Integration into all electronic safety and monitoring systems. All medications carried by the hospital are actively included in multiple system and bar code scanning to reduce selection errors throughout the process
- In Depth knowledge of this cadre of medications by staff
- More consistent availability of specific products

Patients' own medications do not have any of these safeguards built into the system!!! Please help us to discourage use of patient’s own meds in the interest of their safety.

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**Seeking Nominations For Medical Staff Awards**

It is quite an honor to be recognized for your accomplishments by your peers on the medical staff. Each year, we honor winners in a number of categories at our Medical Staff Spring Event. Please nominate your peers who deserve such recognition.

If you know of someone you would like to nominate, please send their name, category (see list below) and a brief narrative as to why you feel they should receive the award to Dr. Stacy Nerenstone (Stacy.Nerenstone@hhchealth.org) or any of the Medical Staff officers.

In past years, some or all of the following awards have been presented:
• **DAVID HULL, MD YOUNG PRACTITIONER AWARD** - For recognition of leadership, excellence in clinical care and research, innovation, teaching, advocacy and activism on behalf of the art and science of medicine and the Hartford Hospital community.

• **JOHN K. SPRINGER HUMANITARIAN AWARD** - For extraordinary qualities of compassion, civility, vision and integrity that set an example for all future generations of caregivers at Hartford Hospital.

• **PHYSICIAN IN PHILANTHROPY AWARD** - For recognition of exceptional leadership in philanthropy through work, commitment, personal giving and unending care and concern for mankind on behalf of Hartford Hospital.

• **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD** - For extraordinary and sustained contribution to the health and welfare of the citizens of our community by advancing the science of medicine in his/her field, and for the exemplary initiative, creativity and long term commitment to the vision of Hartford Hospital.

• **QUALITY & SAFETY AWARD** - For outstanding commitment to quality improvement, safety and learning directed toward enhancing the patient experience, improving clinical outcomes and making our workplace a safer environment.

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**Be Prepared: Joint Commission Will Be Here Soon**

The Joint Commission will be here soon for a comprehensive review. It is important that we are prepared.

Here are some areas on which they will focus:

- DO NOT drink/eat in patient care areas
- Wear badge at all times
- Patient identification – Use 2 identifiers
- Report and act immediately on critical results of tests and diagnostics procedures
- Maintain and communicate accurate medication info
- Respond to clinical alarm systems as appropriate
- What are we doing to reduce health care relate infections?
  - Comply with CDC and WHO guidelines
  - Hand Washing
  - Contact precautions
  - Evaluate if urinary catheter is required daily – follow appropriate precautions when inserting
  - Central line infection
  - Surgical site infections

- Skin care – document appropriately skin breakdown and take measures to prevent them
- Be prepared to answer questions re our hand off, culture of patient safety, quantros and infection control process
- Peri-procedural verification process - Time out / documentation / labeling / identifying and site marking.
- Verbal orders minimize and sign ASAP
- DOCUMENTATION – Timely completion of H&P’s, DC summaries, procedure notes – TIME, DATE AND SIGN notes

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**From the President of the Medical Staff**

[Photo of Dr. Stacy Nerenstone, President of the Hartford Hospital Medical Staff]

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**Revisions to the "Completion of Medical Records" Policy**

Completion of the medical record in a timely manner remains a top priority for our providers. It is a requirement of the Medical Staff that all operative reports and transition of care summaries (previously known as discharge summaries) be completed within a 72-hour window.

We believe that this is very important for patient care. It is also closely watched by the Joint Commission and is a State licensure requirement. And the Joint Commission will be at Hartford Hospital for our biannual review in the near future.

If a provider does NOT complete one of those two records within the 72-hour deadline, he/she is DELINQUENT
and that incident counts as a deficiency.

The following is the exact wording of this section of our policy:

*In the event a member of the medical staff incurs 20 relinquishments for Category 1 Deficiencies during any part of 24 consecutive months, the matter will be referred to the Medical Executive Committee with a recommendation of suspension of privileges for a period of 31 days.*

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**From the Hospital President**

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

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**Black & Red: Marking a Quarter Century of Celebrating Incredible Accomplishments**

Hartford Hospital has a long legacy of tradition and innovation, and this year’s Black & Red gala, held Feb. 6, was a special time to recognize both. Saturday’s Black & Red was the 25th anniversary of the event, marking a quarter century of celebrating incredible accomplishments and recognizing the staff’s and the community’s support for programs that are critical to our patients and our neighbors.

In its first year, back in 1992, the Black & Red set a goal to raise $50,000. The event was a great success – more than doubling that goal – and set the stage for the years that followed. Since then, the venue, format and entertainment have changed, and today, the Black & Red is the premiere event of its kind in the region and beyond.

But it’s not the glamour of the event that’s important. It’s what it stands for. It stands for increasing access to healthcare, especially for the people who need it most, and for establishing and supporting innovative and vital programs that have enabled our hospital to become the regional destination for innovative and complex care and an ardent supporter and driver of improving the health and well-being of the populations we serve.

This year, the beneficiary of the Black & Red is the Hartford Healthcare Bone & Joint Institute at Hartford Hospital, which will open its doors later this year. The institute will transform how we deliver care, with all aspects of musculoskeletal care, from prevention to recovery, under one roof and with outreach into the community to improve overall health.

The institute also will provide an infrastructure for the growth of our hospital by freeing up space across the campus for more private rooms, operating rooms and intensive care units.

The Black & Red helps us draw attention to important programs that will further enhance our ability to bring excellent, compassionate care to those who depend on us – and beyond.

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**Top News**

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**25th Black & Red Nets More Than $1 Million for Bone & Joint Institute**

The 25th annual Black & Red featuring the band Chicago was a great success as more than 1,100 friends and supporters filled The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts on February 6, to benefit the Hartford HealthCare Bone & Joint Institute at Hartford Hospital.

The hospital’s signature fund-raising event is on track to net over $1 million. The success of the event was due, in part, to the support of our title sponsor The Bone & Joint Institute at Hartford Hospital Physicians, LLC, including **Dr. Courtland Lewis**, physician-in-chief of the Bone & Joint Institute; and our wonderful medical sponsors.

The gala, which was broadcast live on NBC Connecticut, also marked the hospital’s “Step It Up” campaign encouraging our community to pledge to increase activity levels for 30 days. To take the pledge to increase your activity and encourage your family, friends, and coworkers to do the same, go to SteptUpPledge.org or
You also can help local children get the sneakers they need to step it up to better health. Hartford Hospital is partnering with NBC Connecticut and New Balance to provide young people in Hartford with sneakers. The Boys & Girls Clubs will distribute the sneakers to children who need them most. You can make a donation online to help with this effort at gofundme.com/stepitup2016/donate.

Dr. Steven Weinreb Named Chief of Primary Care

Dr. Steven Weinreb has been named chief of Primary Care Division of the Department of Medicine. He has been on the medical staff at Hartford Hospital for 18 years as a staff physician with the Hartford Healthcare Medical Group (formerly Hartford Medical Group).

He will be responsible for overseeing the credentialing process, and OPPE and FPPE process for primary care physicians. He will work closely with hospital based divisions within the Department of Medicine to find ways to improve communication, transitions and collaboration.

Dr. Weinreb received his medical degree from Upstate Medical College in Syracuse, NY and completed his residency at the Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago. He continued his training at the UConn School of Medicine completing a Hematology/Oncology Fellowship in 1993.

National Women Physicians Day Was Wednesday

February 3 marked the 195th birthday of Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman to receive a medical degree in America.

By taking these first courageous steps forward, Blackwell opened the door for women to enter the field of medicine - a career that had previously been inaccessible to females.

Here is a link with more information about National Women Physician Day.

Hartford Hospital Cited for Excellence

Hartford Hospital has been named by Healthgrades as a recipient of a 2016 Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence. The award was given to 280 hospitals throughout the United States for performing in the top 5 percent for at least 21 of 32 common inpatient conditions and procedures.

The award is based on mortality and complications data from various sources, including Medicare records, for nearly 4,500 acute-care hospitals nationwide. Hospitals that won the award had a 27 percent lower in-hospital mortality rate compared with all other hospitals for 19 procedures and conditions for which mortality was the primary clinical outcome.

Healthgrades says nearly 160,000 lives could have been saved if all hospitals performed at the same level as those receiving the award. The Hospital of Central Connecticut, including both campuses; Middlesex Hospital; and St. Francis Care also received the award.

Hartford Hospital also was named by Healthgrades as among America’s 100 Best Hospitals for gastrointestinal care, general surgery, prostate surgery, critical care and pulmonary care.

New Providers - Hartford Region

Doralyne Di Pasquale, DO-Family Medicine, Wethersfield

Paul O’Braonain, MD-Family Medicine, Enfield

R. Reza Moienafshari, MD-Internal Medicine - Urgent Care Medical Director, Wethersfield

Jeffrey Finkelstein, MD-Medical Director/Urgent Care for HHC, Bristol
Leah Esposito, APRN-Urgent Care, Wethersfield
Joy Latvis, APRN -Urgent Care, Avon
Margaret Powell, APRN-Primary Care, Manchester
Kim Morgan, APRN-Urgent Care, Wethersfield

SPECIALTY
Colleen Brown, PAC-Urology, Incontinence Program
J. Antonelle de Marciada, MD-Neurology, Med Director, Movement Disorders Center
Misty Doering, APRN-Neurology/HHC Movement Disorders & Neuroscience Institute
Sheena Doyle, PAC-Neurology, Headache Center, Wethersfield
Robert Ficara, PAC-Cardiothoracic Surgery
Shanna Gannon, PAC-Urology, Uro/Onc
Renee Kane, APRN-Neurology, Headache Center, Wethersfield
Alicia McKelvey, MD-Thoracic Surgery
Andrea Murphy, APRN-Neurology, Headache Center, Wethersfield
Alicia Whiting, APRN -Cardiothoracic Surgery

Our Physicians Are Great Sources For Local Media

Dr. Craig Allen was interviewed by NBC CT on February 1 about the growing heroin problem in the state. [Watch it here.]

Dr. Karen Blank and Dr. Sheila Gately were interviewed by the Hartford Courant about menopause and memory.

Dr. Adam Borgida and Dr. Jack Ross were interviewed by NBC CT on January 29 when they participated in a press conference with Sen. Richard Blumenthal about state officials preparing for Zika cases. [Watch it here.]

Dr. Tom Nowicki was interviewed by Ch. 8 on how to shovel heavy snow safely. [Watch it here.]

Dr. Michele Pettuelli was interviewed live on FOX 61 February 4 about the CDC's report that 3-million women are at risk for alcohol-exposed pregnancy.

Dr. Laura Saunders was interviewed about the difference between child abuse and neglect on January 29 by News 8.

You can always view a list of media interviews on the website under [Hartford Hospital Making Headlines]

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.

Here's a look at what's coming up.

[Connect to Healthier]

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

- December 20, 2015: Tae Park, a story of hope
- December 27, 2015: How to help aging parents
- January 3: The prosthetic thumb that changed one man's life
- January 10: Striking back at stroke
Medical Rounds

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

- December 23, 2015: Dr. Craig Allen; the New Heroin epidemic
- December 30, 2015: Dr. Pavlos Papasavas; New weight loss procedures
- January 6: Dr. Chris LaSala; Stress Incontinence Study

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.

- January: Senior services

CT STYLE

Monthly partnership with WTNH.

- January: New options in weight loss
- February: Women's Heart Center

Check this link for a look at the stories currently running on our HHC screens, waiting rooms and at Westfarms Mall.

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

Research and Academics

Save the Date: 12th Annual Electrophysiology and Heart Failure Symposium

April 20

**Wednesday, April 20** from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Hartford South Hotel, 100 Capital Boulevard, Rocky Hill.

A patient presenting to the provider with symptomatic heart failure and/or arrhythmias can be a challenge to diagnose and treat. It is often difficult to distinguish whether heart failure or arrhythmias precipitated the symptoms.

This conference will explore multiple aspects in the workup and management of these patients and provide guidelines and new information that are not commonly appreciated by the medical community.

Save the Date: Inaugural Symposium for Advanced Practitioners

April 29

Hartford HealthCare is sponsoring a free symposium designed for and by advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants on **Friday, April 29** from 7 a.m.-1 p.m. in Heublein Hall.

This symposium will offer key clinical topics with updated and evidence-based information from clinical experts, as well as networking and current clinical information in pulmonary, cardiology and other topics of interest to advanced practitioners.

Watch for the comprehensive brochure due out in March.

For more information, please contact Erica Thompson at 860-972-5766 or erica.thompson@hhhealth.org.
Voices of Our Patients

Voices of Our Patients: Kudos to Dr. Stephen Hauser

I recently finished 8 weeks of radiation therapy with the “Trilogy team.” I couldn’t have been more impressed with the professionalism, compassion and dedication of the entire team.

Dr. (Stephen) Hauser met with me weekly to discuss my progress and determine if I had any issues of concern with the treatment. Kara Capuano checked with me each week to ensure I was still on the same medications and was eager to assist me with any concern I may have had. Both kept me informed and kept a watchful eye during the entire process.

The team in the radiation room, Mike and Kevin were professional and exceptional. They took the time to explain what the process entailed, what the Trilogy device was doing, how it worked and what I could expect throughout the process. They made me feel relaxed, comfortable and treated me as a friend. They always asked what I had planned for the day, and then followed up the next day to see how the plans went.

The few times I needed to change a time in the schedule, they were accommodating and helpful. I watched and heard many of the patients leaving the room, all of them seemed pleased and upbeat. Hard to believe we were all being treated for cancer. You are fortunate to have these two remarkable associates on your team.

Please share my thanks with the team for making this 8 weeks of therapy an experience that I can remember with some happy thoughts. They were great.

Sincerely,

Robert Mulrooney

Operational Update

Improving Doctor-to-Doctor Communication: 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.
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.

"Find a Doctor" Feature Helps Potential Patients Connect With You

Help New Patients Find You

Hartford HealthCare offers physicians a free powerful tool to help reach potential patients. The systemwide "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.

Update on HHC Cancer Institute

Read Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute's newsletter, Plus

Click here to read the latest issue of Plus, the Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute's newsletter.

This special edition is the Cancer Institute's 2015 Annual Report.

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.

ICP News
ICP News: Incentive Payments Reward Efforts in Moving to Value

Please see the attached February issue of ICP News.

**Top Stories:**
- Incentive Payments Reward Efforts in Moving to Value
- Community Connect Town Hall – EPIC Demo & Information Session, March 31

**Inside:**
- The Patient Experience Project: Dealing with Patient Fears Improves Experience
- How to Succeed in Value-based Agreements
- Your ICP February Checklist
- 5 Myths that Physicians Believe About the Patient Experience

For a look at our previous issues, visit www.integratedcarepartners.org.

**For your information:** Videos from the first ICP Conference (The Mind/Body Connection: Integrating Behavioral Health and Primary Care) are posted on the ICP Web site: Click here to view.

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**CME Applications**

**Important Information Regarding CME Application Submissions**

Over the last year there have been several changes to the HH CME program designed to ensure that all planned activities meet the new and more stringent standards set by the ACCME and CSMS for accredited CME. The HH CME team has met with department chairs, physician planners and others involved in this process to outline the changes and new expectations. We have also worked directly with physician planners to help educate them about the criteria required to plan an educational activity that will qualify for accredited CME.

Recently we have observed a significant increase in the number of CME applications at HH. While we are pleased to see this growth of CME offerings, we have also observed that many submitted applications have required additional attention with respect to completeness and documentation.

The required documentation is often significant and requires careful review by our team to ensure that all ACCME standards are met. We often need additional information from invited speakers and this process can sometimes take several weeks to ensure that all documentation has been received for a complete application. The committee is unable to review any incomplete applications. For this reason, the HH CME committee has decided that **we must strictly enforce the following deadlines for submission of all CME applications.**

**Effective January 1, 2016,** the CME Department will only review complete applications that are submitted 4-weeks prior to the planned activity for recurring series events such as Grand Rounds and 12-weeks prior to courses or symposia.

We have developed educational resources to assist planners with the application process. Please contact the CME office at ContinuingEd@HHCHHealth.org for further information about available planning resources. Additional support from our CME planner is available on a first come first serve basis. In order to ensure a timely review of your application, we strongly recommend advance planning for events.

Courses and symposia should be planned at least 6 months in advance and ideally up to 12 months in advance. We encourage you to contact the CME office with any questions you have regarding the timing of application submission.

As the holidays approach we would also like to set clear expectations regarding application submissions over the next several weeks. The following deadlines noted below will also be strictly enforced.

For educational activities scheduled to be held between December 21, 2015, and January 8, 2016, CME applications must be submitted by noon on Tuesday, December 15, 2015. There will be no exceptions to this deadline.
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

Connecticut Has 'Clear And Present Stake' In Zika Epidemic, Authorities Say
Hartford Courant, January 29

Sen. Richard Blumenthal and state leaders called on Congress Friday to approve more funding for the treatment and prevention of the rapidly spreading Zika virus, saying Connecticut has a "clear and present stake" in the epidemic because of frequent travel by residents to afflicted regions.

"The chance of a widespread epidemic throughout the United States is actually low, very low," Dr. Jack Ross, the chief of infectious disease at Hartford Hospital, said Friday.

Though Connecticut and the rest of the country could see a spike in cases as residents return from traveling, "we will see very little local transmission, except perhaps along the Gulf Coast, the southeast coastlines, Texas, etc.,” Ross said.

Read more here.

In the HHC System

WCMH situation prompts lawmaker action
Willimantic Chronicle, February 2

Local lawmakers are working on legislation aimed at changing the process by which the state Office of Health Care Access (OHCA) reviews certificate of need applications.

That work is prompted by concerns related to a recent application by Windham Community Memorial Hospital to OHCA, part of the state Department of Public Health.

Legislators have said the hospital's “progressive-care unit” (PCU) proposal should have undergone a more thorough review.

Windham Hospital, which is part of the Hartford HealthCare network, submitted a proposal through OHCA's "certificate of need" process to transform its critical care unit into a progressive-care unit. Windham Hospital officials indicated in their certificate of need application the hospital experienced a decline in critical care patient
Advocates say social service, mental health cuts will hurt
CT Mirror, February 3

Gov. Dannel P. Malloy’s proposed budget calls for cutting funding for mental health and substance abuse treatment, hospitals, community health centers, school-based health clinics, asthma treatment, and respite programs for those who care for people with dementia – and counts on millions more in unspecified cuts to health care and social service systems that advocates say are already stretched thin.

"We’ve certainly been anticipating a budget that was going to be pretty tough, but this represents such significant cuts to all human services programs that it’s pretty stunning," said Heather Gates, president and CEO of Community Health Resources, a Manchester-based mental health and substance abuse treatment provider. "You can’t take that much money out of the service system without it destabilizing organizations and seriously affecting individuals who just don’t have a lot of other choices."

Malloy’s cuts – made to address a projected deficit of more than $500 million for the 2016-17 fiscal year – come in multiple forms: $360.8 million by requiring agencies to reduce most spending by 5.75 percent; $118.2 million in specified reductions; and carrying forward cuts made to the current budget in December and "lapses" – money agencies are expected not to spend this fiscal year.

17 things to know about medical scribes
Becker’s Hospital Review, January 26

As physicians look for ways to reduce the clerical load associated with EHR data entry, they are increasingly turning to medical scribes. Scribes help physicians with EHR navigation, retrieval of diagnostic results, documentation and coding.

This allows the physician to free up time for patient care. Yet while the use of scribes is growing, the position remains minimally regulated. There are no requirements for certification, for instance. Any certification received by scribes is voluntary, and the minimum qualification to work as a scribe is a high school diploma.

[Read more here.]

The Fourth Annual Hartford HealthCare Patient Experience Showcase
April 8 (Friday)

7:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
Heublein Hall, Education & Resource Center (ERC)

Learn, network and collaborate with colleagues and patients to advance the HHC patient experience.

Save the Date: Inaugural Symposium for Advanced Practitioners April 29

Hartford HealthCare is sponsoring a free symposium designed for and by advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants on [Friday, April 29] from 7 a.m.-1 p.m. in Heublein Hall.
This symposium will offer key clinical topics with updated and evidence-based information from clinical experts, as well as networking and current clinical information in pulmonary, cardiology and other topics of interest to advanced practitioners.

Watch for the comprehensive brochure due out in March.

For more information, please contact Erica Thompson at 860-972-5766 or erica.thompson@hhchealth.org.

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 98.188.110.106/SSJ. This ensures that you will receive the newsletter at your preferred email address. Back issues can be viewed here. 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.