

Seymour Street Journal



What's news...

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

[Free CME for License Renewal](#): Click here for [CME Information](#)

In This Issue...

February 12, 2017

- [Chief's Corner](#): Message from Elliot Joseph regarding Gov. Malloy's budget proposal
- [From the President of the Medical Staff](#): Supporting the Development of the Neuroscience Institute
- [From the HH President](#): Budget Proposals Would Harm Healthcare
- A Reminder to Eligible Doximity MDs: Vote!
- Welcome New Physicians
- HH Receives Best of Business Award
- Donors Fund Upgrade to Hudson Suites
- Dr. Rocco Orlando Appointed to National Quality Foundation
- All inpatients need to be screened for influenza and vaccinated through March 31
- Voices of Our Patients: Kudos to Dr. Odin Kuiper
- [Learn to Assist](#): Patients in Need of Financial Assistance
- [Help New Patients Find You](#)
- [CME Application Submission](#)
- [Free CME for License Renewal](#)

*"Wherever the art of medicine is
loved,*

there is also a love of humanity."

1984 - Hartford Hospital Named

First Blue Cross Heart Transplant

Center of Excellence in New England

- Hippocrates

Follow Hartford Hospital on [facebook](#),
[youtube](#) and [twitter](#)

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.

Message from Elliot Joseph regarding Gov. Malloy's budget proposal

Gov. Dannel Malloy's budget plan includes new tax proposals that would significantly impact Hartford HealthCare:

- The elimination of hospitals' property tax exemption
- The use of Medicaid funds to provide property tax payments

At Hartford HealthCare, we share concern over the fiscal issues facing our state and municipalities and particularly the challenges of our most poor and vulnerable residents, whom we have the privilege of serving.

Even before this proposal was made public, Hartford HealthCare, the state's third-largest employer, pays an effective tax rate of nearly 60 percent. This is far higher than the corporate tax rate on for-profit businesses of 7.5 percent.

The governor's proposal would add more than \$52 million of new cost every year to Hartford HealthCare alone, on top of the existing taxes we pay. In addition to being patently unfair, this will raise the cost of healthcare for all our state's residents and businesses.

Twice before, the state has promised us adequate funding for Medicaid services through the federal hospital tax program. Both times, that promise was broken.

We are morally opposed to the use of federal funds meant to be used for the poor to instead balance the budgets of the state's cities and towns. We oppose this proposal, and look forward to working with legislators, businesses, municipal leaders, Medicaid advocates and the executive branch to find a better path forward.

In the coming weeks and months, we will be counting on your advocacy, as you have generously provided in the past. We will post this message on HHC Connect for all our staff. Please share as

appropriate.

Sincerely,

Elliot

How to Change Patient Class From "obs to admit"

Dr. Stephen Upham

We are having a problem with attending physicians not knowing how to change level of care orders. An example is a patient placed on Observation, who is found to have a serious illness requiring acute level care, and needs to be upgraded to Inpatient. Failure to change the level of care order to Inpatient can result in significant financial harm to the patient and to Hartford Hospital.

The same is true for patients who are admitted as Inpatients, but are later found to not qualify for Inpatient, and need to be changed to Observation, Outpatient, or Extended Postoperative Care. The attending is 100% responsible for the level of care order, even if he/she chooses to have others enter the order. Ergo, all attending physicians need to know how to change the level of care order.

The case coordinators are a good source of information on the correct level of care to order. If you disagree with them, or if you have more complex questions about level of care, please call Dr. Stephen Upham at ext. 2-3498, or cell 860-751-9893.

From the President of the Medical Staff

- Dr. Stacy Nerenstone, President of the Hartford Hospital Medical Staff

Supporting the Development of the Neuroscience Institute

I'd like to take this opportunity to personally thank all of the physicians who attended the 26th Annual Black & Red Gala last weekend. With your support, we raised \$1 million for our developing Neuroscience Institute, which will fund innovation and the state-of-the art services and support our outstanding staff. We are also grateful for the significant contributions of the event chair, Pia Rosenberg Toro, and her committee.

In addition to the money raised, we received two truly transformational donations that will help us build an institute that provides the best possible care for the full spectrum of neurological diseases. These gifts come to us because of our commitment to our patients in delivering the highest level of complex, comprehensive care.

The family of David Chase, a well-known philanthropist and leader, gave a gift to our Movement Disorders Center, which will become the David and Rhoda Chase Family Movement Disorders Center.

Our other gift comes from Ramani and Louise Ayer, visionary leaders who recognize the expertise and commitment of our clinicians and leadership. Ramani's work with Hartford Hospital and Hartford HealthCare spans decades as a former hospital board chair and as a founding member of Hartford HealthCare Board. Through Ramani and Louise's gift, our Neurosciences programs will become the Ayer Neuroscience Institute.

This financial support will help Hartford Hospital continue in its development into a destination for innovative and complex care, delivered by compassionate, talented experts.

We are very grateful.

From the Hospital President

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

Budget Proposals Would Harm Healthcare

Once again, hospitals in Connecticut are facing potential cuts through new tax proposals in Gov. Dannel Malloy's budget plan, which calls for eliminating hospitals' property tax exemption and using Medicaid funds for property tax payments.

This plan would add more than \$52 million in costs to Hartford HealthCare in addition to taxes we already pay, resulting in higher healthcare costs to our patients and to other employers in the state who help fund employees' health benefits.

The governor's proposal hurts patients by misdirecting Medicaid funds to balance municipal budgets instead of using the funds as they should be used: to pay for the care of those who rely on Medicaid.

We believe this is a bad proposal that hurts the most vulnerable members of our community and fails to address the state's serious budget issues. In addition, this policy would be imposed before we know what changes will be implemented in federal healthcare policy.

Hartford Hospital, as part of Hartford HealthCare will work with all parties, including elected officials, healthcare advocates, businesses, other not-for-profit organizations and our state hospital association to find a better path forward.

Very soon we will be asking for your support in reaching out to your legislators and expressing your concerns. You will be hearing more from us very soon along with informational talking points to use in your communications and discussions. Your support and outreach are critical to our mutual success.

Thank you in advance.

Top News

A Reminder to Eligible Doximity MDs: Vote!

Late last year, board-certified HHC physicians were asked to claim their free profiles on Doximity (doximity.com) so that they can vote in a survey used to create U.S. News & World Report's "Best Hospitals" rankings.

This is just a reminder to Doximity members who receive the email invitation or the voting prompt on log-in from Doximity: Please vote. Doximity is expected to notify eligible members soon.

As a reminder, U.S. News ranks the following specialties: Cancer, Cardiology-CT Surgery, Diabetes-Endocrinology, ENT, Gastroenterology-GI Surgery, Geriatrics, Gynecology, Nephrology, Neurology-Neurosurgery, Ophthalmology, Orthopedics, Psychiatry, Pulmonary, Rehabilitation, Rheumatology and Urology.

The Doximity survey is part of the reputation score calculation that accounts for nearly 30 percent of the total score in the "Best Hospitals" list.

In the disciplines of ophthalmology, psychiatry, rehabilitation and rheumatology, reputation is 100% of

the ranking score.

There also is a non-Doximity-member physician survey, although it is a much smaller sample. (Nonetheless, some of our physicians may be asked to vote, so office staffs should be aware of this possible mailing.)

This is no empty gesture. It touches on our ability to reach potential patients who need our extraordinary care. Increasingly, we see consumers shopping for healthcare services and we find that younger patients are less likely than their parents to be loyal to a given provider or health system. These rankings have become a guide for consumers. Let's guide them to Hartford HealthCare.

Welcome New Physicians

Dr. Robert Belniak, Orthopedics <https://hartfordhospital.org/RobertBelniak>

Dr. Eugene Cho, Emergency Medicine <https://hartfordhospital.org/EugeneCho>

Dr. Abigail Chua, Neurology <https://hartfordhospital.org/AbigailChua>

Dr. Damian Dos Santos, Pediatrics <https://hartfordhospital.org/DamianDosSantos>

Dr. Vipul Dua, Orthopedics <https://hartfordhospital.org/VipulDua>

Dr. Wael El Mallah, Cardiology <https://hartfordhospital.org/WaelElMallah>

Dr. Sean Esmende, Orthopedics <https://hartfordhospital.org/SeanEsmende>

Dr. Elizabeth Foley, Emergency Medicine <https://hartfordhospital.org/ElizabethFoley>

Dr. Sarah Hilding, Family Practice <https://hartfordhospital.org/SarahHilding>

Dr. Marinela Ingilizova, Internal Medicine <https://hartfordhospital.org/MarinelaIngilizova>

Dr. Elenita Kanin, Cardiology <https://hartfordhospital.org/ElenitaKanin>

Dr. Robert Keder, Pediatrics <https://hartfordhospital.org/RobertKeder>

Dr. Yong Kwon, Transplantation Surgery <https://hartfordhospital.org/YongKwon>

Dr. Paula Lucuara Revelo, Pediatrics <https://hartfordhospital.org/PaulaLucuaraRevelo>

Dr. Carrie Lukens, Psychology <https://hartfordhospital.org/CarrieLukens>

Dr. John Magaldi, Rheumatology <https://hartfordhospital.org/JohnMagaldi>

Dr. Brinda Muthuswamy, Cardiology <https://hartfordhospital.org/BrindaMuthuswamy>

Dr. Ognjenka Nadazdin-Boskovic, Internal Medicine <https://hartfordhospital.org/OgnjenkaBoskovic>

Dr. Neil Parikh, Gastroenterology <https://hartfordhospital.org/NeilParikh>

Dr. Ashli Pellegrino, Psychiatry <https://hartfordhospital.org/AshliPellegrino>

Dr. Margaret Rush, Family Practice <https://hartfordhospital.org/MargaretRush>

Dr. Richard Scarlett, Orthopedics <https://hartfordhospital.org/RichardScarlett>

Dr. Tejal Shah, Hospital Medicine <https://hartfordhospital.org/TejalShah>

Dr. Samira Solomon, Psychiatry <https://hartfordhospital.org/SamiraSolomon>

Dr. Peter Sugerman, Psychiatry <https://hartfordhospital.org/PeterSugerman>

Dr. Nissi Suppogu, Cardiology <https://hartfordhospital.org/NissiSuppogu>

Dr. Irena Vaitkeviciute, Anesthesiology <https://hartfordhospital.org/IrenaVaitkeviciute>

Dr. Anu Vellanki, Cardiology <https://hartfordhospital.org/AnuVellanki>

Dr. Henry Ward, Cardiology <https://hartfordhospital.org/HenryWard>

Dr. Jennifer Wilner, Pediatrics <https://hartfordhospital.org/JenniferWilner>

Dr. John Wysocki, Gastroenterology <https://hartfordhospital.org/JohnWysocki>

Dr. Peter Yu, Hematology/Oncology <https://hartfordhospital.org/PeterYu>

HH Receives Best of Business Award

Hartford Hospital has been named a 2016 Best of Business Award winner in the Hospital/Medical category by the Hartford Business Journal (HBJ). In an online poll, almost 1,000 HBJ readers selected the cream of the crop in 79 business categories.

According to HBJ, the winners stand out for their professionalism and commitment to customer service. "We're honored to receive this special recognition," said Stuart Markowitz, MD, president of Hartford Hospital and senior vice president of Hartford HealthCare. "What's even more special is this honor came from people right in our local communities. This award is a testament to our skilled staff who works hard each and every day to provide the highest level of care to our patients and their families. I extend my sincere gratitude to them and to everyone in our community for placing their trust in Hartford Hospital."

Donors Fund Upgrade to Hudson Suites

The Holiday Appeal to donors in December has raised \$35,570 to date, and will be used to update amenities at the Hudson Suites at the Education and Resource Center. Adding to that will be a generous gift from a grateful family who experienced the Hudson Suites during their time here.

The former dormitory rooms for the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing have not been modernized in years, and this appeal will help us provide the families of our patients with a comforting respite during a difficult time in their lives.

As more than 6,000 patients a year are transferred to Hartford Hospital from other hospitals, the Hudson Suites plays an important role in the care of our out-of-town patients and their families, offering overnight and short-term stays at modest cost.

All inpatients need to be screened for influenza and vaccinated through March 31.

Excellence

Dr. Rocco Orlando Appointed to National Quality Foundation

Dr. Rocco Orlando III, senior vice president and chief medical officer, was appointed to the National Quality Foundation (NQF) Standing Committee for Infectious Diseases. The NQF develops and publishes national metrics for quality and safety.

Dr. Orlando was asked to join this committee because of his background in critical care and the management of sepsis.

Flu cases seen as 'widespread' in Connecticut

"The mainstay of flu prevention remains vaccination," said **Dr. Jack Ross**, chief of infectious disease at Hartford Hospital, a facility in the Hartford HealthCare system.

http://www.centralctcommunications.com/newbritainherald/article_11e88868-d93a-11e6-aa6f-17927593e27e.html

Research and Academics

Clinical Trials Being Offered at HHC

Research is a critical aspect of our being the destination for innovative and complex care.

Through our membership in the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Alliance, Hartford HealthCare is now offering more than 20 clinical trials to our patients, giving them access to innovative new treatments right here at home.

Our Neuroscience Center also is offering a number of clinical trials in our overall efforts to improve patient outcomes.

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

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

Seeking Physician Writers on Women's Health Topics for Our Patient Health News Hub

The HHC Planning and Marketing Department is developing a women's health newsletter, which will be featured on the new "Health Newshub." They are seeking physician volunteers to write and answer FAQs regarding women's health issues.

Called "What you need to know about...", the monthly newsletter will cover a variety of topics. We are looking for physician experts to contribute short explanations on topics such as: diabetes; menopause; family planning; uterine fibroids; heavy or painful menstrual periods; depression; uterine or ovarian cancer; osteoarthritis; high blood pressure; Fibromyalgia; chronic fatigue; neck, back and shoulder pain; exercise; weight loss; and naturopathic remedies.

We can provide editing services to content expert writers. Physician writers and their practices will be named and highlighted in the newsletter.

If you are interested in participating, either on a one-time or ongoing basis, please contact Christine LaSala at Christine.lasala@hhchealth.org.

The following links provide access to download the Bone and Joint Institute Launch TV spots.

MOV: https://files.adamsknight.com/_7RIFvEdKUYvZxR

MP4: https://files.adamsknight.com/_0lIfiDG_UYsZHR

Media Coverage Wrap-Up

Dr. Joseph Garner on NBC CT/Norovirus: <https://youtu.be/OEXrVX0um9I>

Dr. Heather Swales on WTNH, Ch. 8/Women's Heart Study: https://youtu.be/KBsJ_9H9oTQ

Laurie St. John on FOX CT/Norovirus: <https://youtu.be/NxZkknE5Ak4>

Dr. Aaron Shafer appeared on FOX 61 to discuss the findings of a study that revealed that more than half of the women diagnosed with cervical cancer did not receive treatment considered to be standard of care. <https://youtu.be/88M0xhoBy2A>

Dr. Joseph Garner on NBC CT/Norovirus <https://youtu.be/OEXrVX0um9I>

Laurie St. John on FOX CT/Norovirus <https://youtu.be/NxZkknE5Ak4>

Dr. Jack Ross: Hartford Courant: Flu Season Progressing, Peak To Come

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.

TAVR

This segment focused on TAVR, and the first time doctors at HH utilized a new approach through the carotid artery. <https://youtu.be/GtzteutnfUI>

The Gift of Life

They are called "Good Samaritan" donors-organ donors who are unrelated to the recipient, and they are life savers. There is an extensive screening process to ensure all potential donors are medically and psychologically suitable. This is one woman's story. <https://www.dropbox.com/s/wbmyjt4ciu8evnf/122416%20CTH%20Transplant%20Gift.mov?dl=0>

Resident Wish Come True

This is about making a lifelong dream come true, more than a New Year's Resolution. HHC Senior Services teamed up with a local recording studio to grant a wish for one of their residents who always wanted to make a record. <https://hartfordhealthcare.org/locations-partners/hartford-healthcare-senior-services>

Pain Treatment Center

Debilitating pain can affect every aspect of someone's life. One woman was nearing the end of her rope when she discovered the Hartford Hospital Pain Treatment Center.

<http://media.hartfordhealthcare.org:80/ermweb/player?id=eh6CkUyG>

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/e9nulcag768usi7/120416%20CTH%20PAIN%20TREATMENT.mov?dl=0>

Hartford Hospital Pain Treatment Center

<https://youtu.be/3inFYqT4UMM>

Recap of the Bone & Joint ribbon cutting

<https://youtu.be/S3POcBVx4WM>

Holiday eating and eating disorders

https://youtu.be/eZ_GpjF9QrM

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/rlwCACcLuRQ>

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/2xOdLfi1VH8>

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.

John Hayes looks like any athlete training to run a marathon. What you would never suspect is that John has cancer.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/4mc3qjngt4kd8j1/101616%20CTH%20Marathon%20Runner.mov?dl=0>

<http://media.hartfordhealthcare.org:80/ermweb/player?id=dmw6agYU>

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=9ED911uI>

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>

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>

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

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 Dr. Odin Kuiper

Dr. Odin Kuiper was very good with me!

Definitely my favorite doctor!

-Anonymous

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 HHC 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 HHC CME office at ContinuingEd@HHHealth.org or (860) 972-5816 to schedule an appointment with our team to discuss your CME needs.

CME Offerings on HealthStream Temporarily Unavailable

As we continue to enhance our eLearning through our new system-wide version of HealthStream, we will also be enhancing our online CME offerings.

As of December 1, the current CME programs are no longer be available via HealthStream. Once we have completed the upgrade, we will announce their availability and instructions on how you can access them.

We appreciate your patience during this transformation.

HH In the News

Hartford Hospital's Black & Red Gala Nets More Than \$1 Million

Hartford Courant

Hartford Hospital held its annual Black & Red Gala at the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts on Saturday, Jan. 28. The funds will benefit the Neuroscience Institute.

<http://www.courant.com/java/hc-hartford-hospital-black-red-gala-2017-20170130-story.html>

In the HHC System

Windham Hospital, union agree on new 3-year contract

Norwich Bulletin:

A mediator has helped Windham Hospital and its largest union come to terms on a new three-year contract. The American Federation of Teachers Locals 5099 and 5041 reached an agreement with the hospital and has ratified a new three-year contract.

The agreement comes just weeks after the hospital revealed it suffered another year of financial losses. "Our No. 1 priority has been protecting community access to vital services," said Leigh Johnson, a registered nurse who has worked at the hospital for 29 years. "That meant defending contract provisions which allowed us to negotiate changes or cutbacks in services and jobs."

The contract approval comes after nine months of negotiations, according to union leaders and covers about 350 caregivers at the 130-bed facility owned by Hartford HealthCare.

"This contract approval is the result of good-faith negotiations on the part of hospital management and the two bargaining units," said Bimal Patel, Windham Hospital President, in a statement. "We are

pleased that union members accepted the agreement," Patel added. "As always, our goal is to work together so all of us at Windham Hospital can do our very best to provide high-quality, affordable healthcare - especially during these highly uncertain times for the healthcare industry."

For Windham Hospital the uncertainty has resulted in a \$13 million loss in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30. It is the seventh straight year the hospital has been in the red and the biggest financial loss in those years.

Shawn Mawhiney, director of communications for Hartford HealthCare, said the new contract is an integral part of the organization's plan for Windham Hospital moving forward. "This contract, coupled with some of the recent investments at Windham Hospital - new robotic surgery technology, new physicians, access to new services - brings hope for the future," Mawhiney said.

According to union leaders, the contract indexes wages by linking them to the hospital's profitability summary during the term of the contracts. Annual and periodic pay increases would be frozen following any year in which the facility reported a loss to the state health department's Office of Health Care Access. When the facility posts a positive operating margin, members would receive increases of up to 3 percent for the following year.

"As caregivers, we understand the challenges facing our community hospital," said Heidi Kolle, president of Windham Memorial Community Hospital Employees United, AFT Local 5099 and a patient access services associate who has worked at Windham Hospital for 26 years. "We entered negotiations last spring knowing that years of staffing and service cuts had taken their toll. That's why our members approved an agreement with significant sacrifices and that links our success to the hospital's success."

Mawhiney said despite the hospital's financial losses there are no plans to cut staffing. Instead, Hartford HealthCare is looking to add services. Mawhiney said the hospital has added four new orthopedic surgeons, and will add three more cardiologists as well as improving on its hospitalist program. The hospital will also soon offer makoplasty robotic surgery for hip and knee procedures, he said. "There has been a lot of really good news at Windham Hospital recently," Mawhiney said. "We have been focusing on growth."

Hartford HealthCare says Queen Street office will supplement Bradley campus

Record Journal

Hartford HealthCare officials plan to open a new Queen Street medical building in August, offering specialty and outpatient services. Construction of the \$6.5 million, 45,000-square-foot building at 462 Queen St. started in 2015 after the Knights Inn and two other buildings were demolished.

The building will offer primary care, neurosciences, physical therapy, behavioral health, endocrinology and an aging center.

"We are proud of our investment to meet demand for outpatient services, and offer convenient access to quality care," said Hartford HealthCare spokesman Shawn Mawhiney.

Hartford HealthCare originally planned to use the Queen Street location for a new emergency room, but changed plans after town officials and residents asked for the emergency room to remain at the Bradley campus, formerly Bradley Memorial Hospital. Hartford HealthCare officials said they're committed to keeping Bradley open and that they're proud of the state-of-the-art facility under construction on Queen Street that'll supplement hospital services.

Mawhiney said Tuesday that the new building will also house specialty services that haven't yet been determined.

Hospitals blast Malloy's proposal to subject them to property taxes

CT Mirror

Gov. Dannel P. Malloy is proposing that cities and towns be allowed to levy a property tax on nonprofit hospitals, and would offset their liabilities with new state and federal funding. But hospitals blasted the concept, calling it a dangerous precedent.

The governor's plan also would cut an \$11.8 million fund that has provided money to small, independent hospitals. And it would restore the administration's ability to unilaterally cut more than \$120 million in funding to hospitals if the state faces a budget shortfall.

The Connecticut Hospital Association called it "a direct attack on the fabric of our communities." Hartford HealthCare, the parent company of five nonprofit hospitals, said the property-tax proposal could cost it \$52 million per year.

"In addition to being patently unfair, this will raise the cost of health care for all our state's residents and businesses," CEO Elliot Joseph said in a statement.

Malloy's budget plan aims to close a nearly \$1.7 billion deficit in the upcoming fiscal year while also providing assistance to struggling cities. His proposal would allow cities and towns to levy property taxes on real estate owned by nonprofit hospitals.

The change would apply to acute care hospitals, as well as psychiatric hospitals such as Natchaug Hospital in Mansfield and Silver Hill Hospital in New Canaan, and chronic disease hospitals such as the Hospital for Special Care in New Britain, Gaylord Hospital in Wallingford, and Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford.

To offset the hospitals' new costs, the state would give hospitals \$250 million in the form of supplemental Medicaid payments, a method that allows the state to generate federal matching dollars. As a result, the state would effectively pay just under \$88 million toward the hospitals, while the other \$162 million would be covered by federal funding. The Malloy administration estimates that hospitals would pay approximately \$212.2 million if they were subject to local property taxes.

Connecticut Hospital Association CEO Jennifer Jackson said the organization would "vigorously fight" any new attempt to tax hospitals. "We've been down this road before, with a budget gimmick that already resulted in more than \$2 billion taxed and cut from hospitals, she said. "The hospital tax has increased costs for patients, caused the loss of thousands of health care jobs, extended wait times, and reduced access to care for those who need it most.

"Twice before, the state has promised us adequate funding for Medicaid services through the federal hospital tax program. Both times, that promise was broken," Joseph said.

Hartford Courant: Connecticut Children's Electronically Integrates Records With Prescription Monitoring Program

Connecticut Children's Medical Center was the first health care organization in the state to connect electronically to the state's prescription monitoring program, a key tool in attempts to curb the opioid crisis, officials announced Friday.

"Too often, health care topics we discuss are more related to adults. We forget that children can be impacted," James Shmerling, president and CEO of Connecticut Children's, said during an announcement Friday. "The misuse, abuse and overprescription of opioids is a very real problem for children. At Connecticut Children's, we have a commitment to patient safety."

The prescription monitoring program is a centralized database updated by practitioners and pharmacies. Recent legislation requires medical practitioners who prescribe greater than a 72-hour

supply of a medication to consult the database, according to the Department of Consumer Protection.

Integrating the hospital's electronic records with the monitoring system will allow doctors to have access to prescription histories in real-time, officials said. "This important integration makes it easier for our providers to do the right thing for our patients and prevent overprescribing," Shmerling said.

Legislation passed into law in recent years has expanded the scope and access of the prescription program as officials work to head off overprescribing of opioids, which is viewed as an increasingly common avenue to addiction.

But the prescription drug monitoring program also serves as a powerful tool to allow doctors to have the most accurate information, DCP Commissioner Jonathan A. Harris said.

"Our goal is to continue to grow the [monitoring program] so that it can be the best possible tool to give health care providers the most and best information possible to do what they do best," Harris said.

Hot Topics in Health Care

Hospitals Worry Repeal Of Obamacare Would Jeopardize Innovations In Care

NPR

Much has been written about the 20 million people who gained health insurance under the Affordable Care Act, and what could happen to these patients if the ACA is repealed without a replacement. But some people don't realize that hospitals nationwide could take a big financial hit on several fronts, too.

<http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2017/01/27/511753125/hospitals-worry-repeal-of-obamacare-would-jeopardize-innovations-in-care>

Coming Events

28th annual Mary Mulready Sullivan Oncology Symposium

Wednesday, May 24

Non-small cell lung carcinoma: A personalized approach in the complex patient

7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Heublein Hall

Audience: internal medicine practitioners, family practitioners, thoracic surgeons, pathologists, radiologists, oncologists, pulmonologists, APRNs, RNs.

Sponsored by the HHC Cancer Institute at Hartford Hospital

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 harthosp.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.

[Update your profile](#) | [Manage your subscriptions](#) | [View as a web page](#)

This email was sent by: **Hartford HealthCare**
1 State Street Hartford, CT, 06103