

April 30, 2018

# Seymour Street Journal



What's news...

## Critical Information

Everything you need to know

### EPIC Upgrade Coming Soon

Hartford HealthCare will adopt the latest version of Epic on June 23. Users will recognize the new version, Epic 2018, because it has a different logon screen which can be individually customized.

Training in HealthStream will be available May 28.

### New Policy Platform Coming May 15

To better serve you and safeguard our organization from ethics and compliance risk, Hartford HealthCare is adopting a new policy management platform that will standardize how we store and share policies and procedures across the system.

Hartford Hospital is the last of the acute care hospitals to implement the PolicyTech Policy and Procedure Management Software, which streamlines the complex tasks of writing, sharing, updating and attesting to policies, while helping our business units meet legal and regulatory requirements. Hartford Hospital and the Institute of Living will implement the system on Tuesday, May 15.

For questions regarding processing and managing documents, please contact Tracy Hespelt at 860.972.5525 or [tracy.hespelt@hhchealth.org](mailto:tracy.hespelt@hhchealth.org).

### A Review to Renew: Addressing the State Mandated CMEs for CT Medical License Renewal for Physicians and APRNs

#### Part 1

May 7, 4:30 to 8 p.m.

East Region Support Staff Office, 11 Stott Avenue, Norwich

- Discrimination Laws in HealthCare
- Infectious Disease and HIV
- Domestic Violence in the Clinical Setting

#### Part 2

September 23, 7:30 a.m. to Noon

Location TBD

- Sexual Assault and the Forensic Examination
- Opioids and Pain Management
- PTSD and Substance Abuse in Veterans
- Depression and Suicide in Veterans

Registration is required through the following steps:

1. Log in to your CME account [here](#). (If you don't have an account, use the same link and click "Create Account")
2. Choose "View Upcoming Events"
3. Register and pay for each day separately. Fee per day is \$15 for HHC Privileged Providers and \$20 for non-HHC Privileged Providers

Please contact [ContinuingEd@HHHealth.org](mailto:ContinuingEd@HHHealth.org) with any questions.

## Legislative Update

There is less than two weeks left in the legislative session and Hartford HealthCare's focus with lawmakers will be on preserving state Medicaid funding for Graduate Medical Education.

In February the governor recommended eliminating the state's share of GME funding, \$10 million. For HHC this is a \$3.8 million cut to GME, representing 30 residency slots. Republicans and Democrats released budgets last week and both budgets included the GME cut despite our advocacy efforts. We are redoubling our outreach to legislators. We will be using our voter voice tool this week and asking for your help in getting as many folks to reach out to legislators. Your outreach and advocacy are crucial to our efforts.

For further information, contact Kim Harrison at 860.263.4137.

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## Noteworthy and New

*Announcements, news and information*

### Four Years in a Row: Hartford Hospital Earns the Healthgrades® Distinguished Hospital for Clinical Excellence Designation

For the fourth consecutive year (2015-2018), Hartford Hospital is the recipient of the Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence™ from Healthgrades®, the leading online resource for comprehensive information about physicians and hospitals.

This distinction places Hartford Hospital in the top 5% for clinical performance among nearly 4,500 hospitals nationwide.

"Hartford Hospital is a premier quaternary care medical center in the company of centers based in Boston and New York," said Bimal Patel, president of Hartford Hospital, "and a world-class destination for patients from the region and beyond. We owe this distinction to our exceptional team of healthcare professionals who set new standards for excellence, providing deep clinical expertise layered with human touch and caring. Their dedication to the people we serve is matched only by their commitment to quality and safety."

Read the full announcement [here](#).

### Recovery Coaches to Help Opioid Addicted Patients at Hartford Hospital Connect to Treatment

With the continued rise in opioid related deaths in Connecticut, Hartford Hospital and the Hartford HealthCare Behavioral Health Network are taking action to help those battling addiction find recovery.

Hartford Hospital now has recovery coaches available seven days a week in its emergency department to help patients connect with services after they receive care in the ED.

[Click here](#) to read the full story.

### New Intranet Now Live

Our new Hartford Hospital intranet site is officially live. You can reach the site by visiting <http://hhconnect.org/hh>. Please bookmark this page for your convenience.

The new site is more efficient, functional and user-friendly. Planning & Marketing has spent time migrating content from our old site and making updates. However, should you notice any missing or incorrect content, please let us know by clicking on the "Feedback & Suggestions" link found on each page.

While the old intranet can no longer be updated, it will remain active in read-only only mode so that users can still access policies. Please note that policies will be available there until they transition to PolicyTech on Tuesday, May 15. The old intranet site will be taken completely offline on Friday, June 15.

If you have any questions, please contact Pamela Cruz, Marketing Manager, at 860.681.8161 or [Pamela.Cruz@hhchealth.org](mailto:Pamela.Cruz@hhchealth.org).

## Recognizing Excellence

*Awards, accolades and achievements*

### **Markowitz and Greene Invited to Speak in China**

Stuart Markowitz and Jack Greene were invited to speak at three hospitals in China that are owned and operated by the Zhejiang Tianrui Medical Corporation. The hospitals are in Hangzhou Province and surrounding region featuring Taizhou Boai Hospital. Their presentation entitled "Governing and Operating a Multi-Hospital Multi-City Health System" was targeted to share our operating mode with a growing health system in China.

### **Thompson and Fernandez Publish Three-Volume Book on Exercise and Sports Cardiology**

Dr. Paul D. Thompson, chief of cardiology at Hartford Hospital and co-physician-in-chief of the Hartford HealthCare Heart & Vascular Institute, and Antonio B. Fernandez, director of the coronary care unit at Hartford Hospital, have published a three-volume book titled "Exercise and Sports Cardiology."

According to the summary, "Cardiac problems in athletic individuals are rare, but when they occur can be devastating. This book provides a definitive review of current practice and thinking surrounding the often difficult and life-changing practice of sports cardiology. Topics which remain a challenge for practitioners, athletes and families are investigated, including cardiovascular screening, exercise participation prescription, and prevention strategies for sudden cardiac arrest. Also given are medical guidelines for diagnosis, management and treatment of specific cardiac illnesses.

To learn more, visit <https://www.worldscientific.com/worldscibooks/10.1142/q0045>.

### **Nouh Awarded AHA Fellow**

Dr. Amre Nouh was awarded the Fellow of the American Heart and Stroke Association. The Fellowship recognizes and awards premium professional members for excellence, innovative and sustained contributions in the areas of scholarship, practice and/or education, and volunteer service within the AHA/ASA.

"It is no surprise to those of us that have had the pleasure to work with Amre over the past several years that he has been awarded this status," said Wendy E. Elberth, vice president of the Hartford HealthCare Ayer Neuroscience Institute. "We look forward to his continued success in providing leadership of Hartford Hospital's Comprehensive Stroke Center and the HHC Stroke Clinical Council."

### **Cartun Presents at Conference, Publishes as Lead Chapter Author**

Dr. Richard Cartun, director of histology and the Martin M. Berman, MD Immunopathology/Morphologic Proteomics Laboratory in the Department of Pathology at Hartford Hospital, delivered two presentations at the 12th Annual International Retreat on Applied Immunohistochemistry and Molecular Pathology in Key Largo, FL. Participants from around the world learned the latest techniques and newest tests in these important diagnostic fields and how best to interpret the results to improve patient care.

Dr. Cartun is also the lead author of the first chapter in the 5th Edition of [Diagnostic Immunohistochemistry: Theranostic and Genomic Applications](#). The latest edition was recently published and Dr. Cartun's chapter is titled "Techniques of Immunohistochemistry: Principles, Pitfalls, and Standardization."

### **Bariatric Research Team Will Present at Upcoming ACS Conference**

The bariatric research team at Hartford Hospital had a total of four abstracts accepted for presentation at the upcoming 2018 ACS Quality and Safety Conference, scheduled for July 21 through 24 in Orlando, FL.

"Kudos to Pavlos Papisavas for leading our team and to Sally Strange, Andrea Stone, and the rest of the team for all of the hard work they have done with MBSAQIP and preparing these abstracts," said Dr. Darren Tishler, director of metabolic and bariatric surgery.

### **Thompson Interviewed for German Newspaper**

Dr. Paul Thompson appeared in an article in the Frankfurter Allgemeinen Sonntagszeitung, a national weekly

newspaper in Germany. He was interviewed about excessive endurance exercise and health.

## Welcome New Physicians to Hartford Hospital

Melissa Jourdain, PsyD	Psychiatry - Psychology	<a href="https://hartfordhospital.org/MelissaJourdain">https://hartfordhospital.org/MelissaJourdain</a>
Lawrence Lampson, MD	Emergency Medicine	<a href="https://hartfordhospital.org/LawrenceLampson">https://hartfordhospital.org/LawrenceLampson</a>
Heather Latin, PhD	Psychiatry - Psychology	<a href="https://hartfordhospital.org/HeatherLatin">https://hartfordhospital.org/HeatherLatin</a>
Lidia Mikolaenko, DO	Medicine - Family Medicine	<a href="https://hartfordhospital.org/LidiaMikolaenko">https://hartfordhospital.org/LidiaMikolaenko</a>
Laura Saunders, PsyD	Psychiatry - Psychology	<a href="https://hartfordhospital.org/LauraSaunders">https://hartfordhospital.org/LauraSaunders</a>
Ian Schein, MD	Medicine - Internal Medicine	<a href="https://hartfordhospital.org/IanSchein">https://hartfordhospital.org/IanSchein</a>
Cristina Tellechea, MD	Medicine - Family Medicine	<a href="https://hartfordhospital.org/CristinaTellechea">https://hartfordhospital.org/CristinaTellechea</a>
Kashmeer Zablan, MD	Psychiatry - Child & Adolescent Medicine	<a href="https://hartfordhospital.org/KashmeerZablan">https://hartfordhospital.org/KashmeerZablan</a>

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## Coming Up

*Education and events*

### May 2

#### Annual Mary Mulready Sullivan Oncology Symposium

Heublein Hall, ERC Building

7:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. (Optional basic research session from 2 to 4 p.m.)

This symposium for health care providers will provide attendees on the most up-to-date therapies for melanoma.

In this FREE educational seminar, learn to:

- Identify prevention strategies for melanoma and how to facilitate them in your patient population.
- Review surgical approaches to the melanoma patient, including role of excision and nodal surgery.
- Describe new molecular and immunotherapysystemic therapies for melanoma and how best to manage their adverse effects.

Registration is required. Visit [hartfordhealthcare.org/events](http://hartfordhealthcare.org/events) or call 1.855.HHC.HERE.

### May 3

#### Rx For Fun!

Dunkin' Donuts Park, Hartford

7 p.m.

Join the Hartford Hospital Auxiliary for the annual "Rx for Fun! Enjoy an evening with friends on the Sam Adams Party Deck while the Hartford Yard Goats play against the Portland Sea Dogs.

Tickets are \$65 and include the game, a buffet and two drink tickets. This year's event benefits the Sports Medicine and Athletic Training Service line of the Hartford Hospital Rehabilitation Network. Sports Medicine provides preventative care, injury care, educational information and clinics for local school sports programs and at community events. Your support will help Sports Medicine to enhance the outstanding programs that it provides to our community.

For more information and to purchase tickets, contact Rx for Fun! Co-Chair, Paige Abrams, at [pabrams@comcast.net](mailto:pabrams@comcast.net) or 860.212.3478.

### May 5

#### Ron's Run for the Roses

Folly Farm, Simsbury

2:30 to 7 p.m.

Join the Ron Foley Foundation for the 10th Annual Ron's Run for the Roses. Come and enjoy an elegant afternoon of fun, food, cocktails, Derby-style fashion, equestrian events, live and silent auctions and the viewing of the Kentucky Derby!

- Gates open at 2:30 p.m.
- Silent auction ends at 4:50 p.m.
- Program, Live Auction and Fund a Need at 5 p.m.
- Post time for the Kentucky Derby at 6:36 p.m.

This year, Hartford HealthCare is honored to have Dr. Peter Yu, physician-in-chief of the Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute, serve as the Honorary Medical Chair of the event.

For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit <http://www.ronsrun.org/2017-ron-s-run>.

**May 10**  
**Connecticut Consortium of**  
**Lymphedema Providers Meeting**

Eli's on Whitney, 2392 Whitney Avenue, Hamden  
 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Join us for a presentation on microsurgery and management of lymphedema. Come find out more about the developing field of microsurgical management of lymphedema. Presented by Dr. Dhruv Singhal, director of lymphatic surgery for Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and a member of Harvard Medical Faculty Physicians.

RSVP to Linda Hodgkins at [Linda.Hodgkins2@hhchealth.org](mailto:Linda.Hodgkins2@hhchealth.org).

**May 11**  
**Hartford HealthCare's Stars Dancing for Parkinson's**

Hartford Hilton Hotel, Hartford  
 6 to 11:30 p.m.

The Hartford HealthCare Ayer Neuroscience Institute is proud to present the inaugural Hartford HealthCare's Dancing for Parkinson's fundraising event. Come out and support your favorite local celebrities in a dance competition. The evening will include dinner, a cash bar, dance competition and music by the De Novo Band.

All proceeds will benefit the Hartford HealthCare Ayer Neuroscience Institute Chase Family Movement Disorders Center. Ramani Ayer has agreed to match the proceeds of this event up to \$10,000. For more information and to purchase tickets, [click here](#) or call 860.545.1078.

**May 23**  
**Spring Into Action: A fundraising event to benefit Women's Ambulatory Health Services**

Upward Hartford, 20 Church Street, Hartford  
 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Join YLAC for the 7th Annual Spring Into Action. Enjoy an evening of great company as we support Downtown Hartford businesses and raise money for Hartford Hospital's Women's Ambulatory Health Services. This annual fundraising event will include a silent auction, networking, beer and wine, and hors d'oeuvres from The Kitchen at Billings Forge. Ticket prices start at \$50.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit <https://giving.harthosp.org/SpringIntoAction>.

**May 24**  
**17th Annual HFMA Healthcare Conference Closing CEO Panel**

Mohegan Sun Resort, Uncasville  
 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Elliot Joseph will be a panelist at this year's Healthcare Financial Management Association Region 1 Conference at Mohegan Sun. Elliot will join CEOs from provider systems in each Region 1 chapter to discuss major issues facing New England providers.

For more information about the conference, visit <https://www.hfmaregion1.org/>.

**May 26 - 29**

**Conn. State Medical Society 2018 Clinical Conference**

Habana Libre Hotel in Havana, Cuba  
20 CME Credits

The 2017 Clinical Conference in Havana, Cuba was like no other for CSMS and the physicians who participated, so we are going again this year! We welcome all healthcare providers and their families/guests.

CSMS wanted the clinical conference in Cuba to be a unique continuing medical education opportunity for physicians to explore a different health care model during a time healthcare in the United States is experiencing significant transitions. Assumptions and misperceptions were challenged on both sides through a series of discussions in socio-cultural and historical contexts. American physicians were surprisingly impressed with their hosts' medical education, their pride of country, and how successful they are with limited resources. Cuban physicians were surprisingly impressed to know their guests provided the best possible care to poor patients, organized as a group to mentor, volunteer, and advocate for the profession and all patients.

Cuba's healthcare delivery model combines population-based public health principles building a foundation of wellness and preventative medicine. As the United States searches for ways to improve quality, decrease costs, and engage patients and their families, the integration of primary care in the community and public health approach in Cuba facilitated a powerful exchange of ideas and mutual professional respect. As physician participants on the trip, we both felt the experience reinvigorated the fire of why we went into medicine, and we planned this upcoming trip to share the experience with others.

Itinerary Includes:

- Full-Day Guided Tour of Old Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Visit Cuban hospitals and clinics outside of Havana
- Excursions for family and nightly entertainment
- Option of Veradero all-inclusive resort for 2 nights (May 30 - 31)

For information, visit <http://www.usa-cubatours.com/conference-csms/> or contact Catherine Wagner, EdD, CSMS, Vice President of Education and Health Information, at [cwagner@csms.org](mailto:cwagner@csms.org) or 203.865.0587, ext. 102.

**May 31**

**Annual Medical Staff/Board Spring Event**

Heublein Hall – ERC Building  
6 to 8:30 p.m.

The Annual Medical Staff-Board Spring Event will be held on Thursday, May 31, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in Heublein Hall.

Part of the event is the Annual Medical Staff Awards, which honor individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the medical community.

Please join your colleagues in recognizing the accomplishments of the recipients of our Annual Medical Staff Awards, and welcome new faculty members joining Hartford Hospital.

Awards will be presented to:

- Dr. Eric Oligino - *DAVID HULL, MD YOUNG PRACTITIONER AWARD*
- Dr. Peter Beller - *JOHN K. SPRINGER HUMANITARIAN AWARD*
- Dr. Paul Thompson - *PHYSICIAN IN PHILANTHROPY AWARD*
- Dr. Jack Greene and Dr. Lenworth Jacobs - *DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD*
- Danette Alexander, PhD and Dr. Avital Porat - *QUALITY & SAFETY AWARD*

**June 13**

**Hartford Medical Society Program**

Town & County Club, 22 Woodland St., Hartford  
5 p.m.

"The Proper Pirate: Robert Louis Stevenson's Quest for Identity" will feature Jefferson A. Singer, Dean of the College/Faulk Foundation Professor of Psychology, Connecticut College. Meet the writer of the book that applies the most up-to-date research on personality, identity and memory to the fascinating life of one of literature's most celebrated figures, Robert Louis Stevenson.

To learn more, visit [hartfordmedicalsociety.org/events](http://hartfordmedicalsociety.org/events).

## June 14 Semi-Annual Medical Staff Meeting

Gilman Auditorium  
6:45 to 7:45 a.m.

## September 21 End of Summer Event

New Britain Museum of American Art  
6 to 9 p.m.

Join the Medical Staff Officers and your colleagues from the Hartford Hospital Medical Staff for a unique opportunity to socialize and enjoy each other's company. More details to follow!

### Planning a CME Activity?

- The CME department encourages program planners to begin the application process as far in advance of the CME activity as possible.
- Visit the HHC CME [website](#) to learn more about CME Offerings
- Click [here](#) to request an application today
- Contact [continuinged@hhchealth.org](mailto:continuinged@hhchealth.org) to schedule a planning session

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## For Your Information

*Other things you ought to know*

### iRIS Training Classes

The Human Research Protections Program is pleased to offer a series of monthly iRIS training classes. iRIS is the online submission system for everything that pertains to research and the Institutional Review Board (IRB). If you are interested in honing your skills in iRIS or if you are completely new to iRIS, please take advantage of this opportunity. Visit the [iRIS Training Intake Sheet](#) to sign up for one of the upcoming trainings. Save this link to sign future employees up for iRIS training.

The training repeats each month at different times. If you only can make it for one hour, feel free to come for the session you think best applies to your needs. You are welcome to sign up for multiple training sessions. Please sign up in REDCap so we know how many people to expect and if our facility is large enough. Currently all trainings are scheduled to be held in the Robinson Library, classroom three.

If you have any questions please contact Pamela Johnson at [Pamela.Johnson@hhchealth.org](mailto:Pamela.Johnson@hhchealth.org) or 860.972.0141; or Sharice Brown at [Sharice.Brown@hhchealth.org](mailto:Sharice.Brown@hhchealth.org) or 860. 972.1251.

Click [here](#) to view a list of upcoming training dates.

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## In the News

*Media coverage, headlines and trends*

### Media Coverage

- [Facebook Live](#) with Dr. Stefan Kachala - Topic: Robotic Esophagectomy and Lung Cancer.
- Dr. Ahmad Daher, Neuro Oncologist, HHC CI [on WTNH](#)- Topic: Brain tumor treatment/clinical trials
- [CPTV](#) premiered its original documentary, "Power Over Parkinson's" on Thursday, April 5th at 8 p.m. Dr. Toni de Marcaida and her patient are the highlights of the documentary.
- Dr. Virginia Bieluch, HOCC on [WTIC AM](#) radio - Topic: Superbug bacteria
- [Facebook Live](#) with Dr. Caroline Rochon – Topic: Organ Donation
- Stephen Donahue on [WTIC AM](#) Radio – Topic: CESI Drill
- Dr. Virginia Bieluch on [NBC CT](#) – Topic: E. coli Outbreak
- MidState Medical Hazmat Scare on [FOX 61](#), [NBC CT](#), [WTNH](#)
- Dr. Laura Saunders on [Ch. 8](#) – Topic: Cyberbullying
- Dr. Maurice DeFina, GoHealth on [NBC CT](#) – Topic: Allergies

- Dr. Virginia Bieluch on [WTIC AM](#) - Topic: Noro virus
- Dr. Cheri Ye, Nephrologist on [FOX 61](#) - Kidney Donation
- Dr. Virginia Bieluch interviewed on E. coli outbreak on [Fox 61](#), [NBC CT](#), [WFSB](#)

## **Integrated Media Partnerships**

### Hartford Courant Facebook Live

- Hernia/General Surgery-Featuring Chike Chukwukah, MD: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vzJTY1TMpCU&t=294s>

### Advances in Health on WTIC Ch. 8

- Independence at Home- Automatic Medication Dispensers: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-xbJLOCZ0w&index=10&list=PL\\_WiVSjYjTmfcvb75ff8MgKb5Qr00rAQX](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-xbJLOCZ0w&index=10&list=PL_WiVSjYjTmfcvb75ff8MgKb5Qr00rAQX)
- What is Peyronie's Disease: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIXhzf36vX8&list=PL\\_WiVSjYjTmfcvb75ff8MgKb5Qr00rAQX&index=11](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIXhzf36vX8&list=PL_WiVSjYjTmfcvb75ff8MgKb5Qr00rAQX&index=11)

### Medical Rounds on WFSB, Ch. 3

- Abigail Chua- Why a migraine is not just headache: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2hbBGSyXdSc&index=4&list=PL\\_WiVSjYjTmeRv8Iz7aTsFal\\_iWCREI6F](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2hbBGSyXdSc&index=4&list=PL_WiVSjYjTmeRv8Iz7aTsFal_iWCREI6F)
- Stephen Kachala-Robotic esophagectomy: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9zm7Jy546XI&list=PL\\_WiVSjYjTmeRv8Iz7aTsFal\\_iWCREI6F&index=3](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9zm7Jy546XI&list=PL_WiVSjYjTmeRv8Iz7aTsFal_iWCREI6F&index=3)
- Dan Fisher-Back Pain: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bE2ycR-UkIU&list=PL\\_WiVSjYjTmeRv8Iz7aTsFal\\_iWCREI6F&index=2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bE2ycR-UkIU&list=PL_WiVSjYjTmeRv8Iz7aTsFal_iWCREI6F&index=2)
- Duarte Machado- What is Ataxia: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hyiogurSAWU&list=PL\\_WiVSjYjTmeRv8Iz7aTsFal\\_iWCREI6F](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hyiogurSAWU&list=PL_WiVSjYjTmeRv8Iz7aTsFal_iWCREI6F)

### Connect to Healthier on NBC-CT

- April Hartford HealthCare Happenings: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EgUWmKQXKYw&index=3&list=PL\\_WiVSjYjTmciEblE\\_QuEv1yzTkVt2bRD](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EgUWmKQXKYw&index=3&list=PL_WiVSjYjTmciEblE_QuEv1yzTkVt2bRD)
- Parkinson's and Dance: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uj\\_FNI2B0Gg&index=2&list=PL\\_WiVSjYjTmciEblE\\_QuEv1yzTkVt2bRD](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uj_FNI2B0Gg&index=2&list=PL_WiVSjYjTmciEblE_QuEv1yzTkVt2bRD)
- Kidney Donation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LWTVjej3poI>
- Heart Transplant: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rO7b5rI09Vg&index=1&list=PL\\_WiVSjYjTmciEblE\\_QuEv1yzTkVt2bRD](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rO7b5rI09Vg&index=1&list=PL_WiVSjYjTmciEblE_QuEv1yzTkVt2bRD)

## **Healthcare Trends**

### **Humana makes improving quality central to new hospital reimbursement program**

Humana on Wednesday unveiled a program to reimburse hospitals for improvement on quality measures related to patient safety, experience and outcomes.

### **CMS proposal for hospitals to publish prices raises tricky issues**

Few hospitals nationally offer patients accurate, individualized information about how much they'll have to pay for medical services, experts say. The CMS on Tuesday took an important first step to change that, heartening price transparency advocates.

### **Why Amazon just abandoned its big plan to sell Rx drugs to hospitals**

Amazon Business has suspended a plan to sell and distribute pharmaceutical products, opting instead to sell "less sensitive" medical supplies to health care facilities, according to sources familiar with the matter, CNBC reports.

### **UnitedHealth aims to boost Optum's market presence**

UnitedHealth Group CEO David Wichmann suggested the company is poised to further expand Optum's ambulatory platform during the company's first-quarter earnings call.

### **For Now, Hospitals Hang On Despite CVS, Optum And Walmart Threats**

The finances of hospitals and health systems are performing surprisingly well in the face of unprecedented competition coming their way from rapidly consolidating providers of outpatient care, according to a new Fitch Ratings analysis.

### **Optum, Quest And Humana In Blockchain Deal To Improve Doctor Directories**

An effort to apply blockchain technology to improve inaccurate doctor directories of health plans is the goal of a new partnership between UnitedHealth Group and its Optum unit, Humana, Quest Diagnostics and MultiPlan.

### **With scarce gun violence research available, clinicians and states look to fill the vacuum**

As Congress moved to clarify that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention can conduct research on gun

violence, a number of states and healthcare providers have taken it upon themselves to fill the gap in research left by decades of federal government inaction.

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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](http://harthosp.org/SSJ). This ensures that you will receive the newsletter at your preferred email address.

For any questions or suggestions, please contact editor Matthew Clyburn at [matthew.clyburn@hhchealth.org](mailto:matthew.clyburn@hhchealth.org) or 860.500.0464.

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