

Progress Notes

November 2014



Published monthly by the **Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State LLC** . . . a consortium of 52 not-for-profit and public hospitals advocating for better health care policy for all those living and working in the nine counties north and east of New York City.

Health Insurance Marketplace Opens for Season Two

The New York State of Health insurance marketplace opened for season two on November 15, 2014. Input from consumers, navigators, and other stakeholders account for improvements to the portal and application process for the second enrollment season.

New this year is an online Plan and Compare Guide that allows consumers to shop for plans and get a personalized quote without having to enter personal information and complete an application. Four metal tier levels – Bronze, silver, gold, platinum – continue. Monthly premiums, deductibles, and co-insurance amounts vary between tiers and plans

The state is promoting greater accessibility to diverse populations across the state and materials are now available in at a dozen languages. There is also a dedicated Spanish version of the state’s website.

On Long Island, Suburban Hospital Alliance regional affiliate the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC) is one of three state-appointed navigator agencies for the Long Island region. The Hudson Valley region is serviced by the Community Service Society of New York, Maternal Infant Services Network of Orange, Sullivan and Ulster counties, and the Westchester County and Rockland County Departments of Health.

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NSHC navigators answer questions, review health plan choices, and enroll individuals at a community health fair on Saturday, November 15, 2014. The fair was organized by John T. Mather Memorial Hospital. Hundreds of similar enrollment events took place throughout the state on Day One of Season Two.

Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), individuals and businesses with 100+ employees must obtain health insurance by January 1, 2015 or face penalties. Enrollment in Medicaid and Child Health Plus continues throughout the year. The NY State of Health Small Business Marketplace for employers with 50 or fewer employees is open for enrollment throughout the year.

The marketplace for individuals closes February 15, 2015. Enrollment options include in-person assistance with a navigator, the state's customer service line – 1-855-355-5777- or through the state's website – www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov.

“Nearly one million New Yorkers enrolled during the 2014 enrollment season. The majority of them were uninsured at the time of enrollment,” said Kevin Dahill, president/CEO of the Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State (SHANYS). “Having insurance improves access to more timely and consistent care. This is especially good for those with chronic illnesses.”- Janine Logan, jlogan@nshc.org or jlogan@normet.org.

Hospital Senior Staff Discuss Concerns at Regional Policy Forum

Senior staff members from the Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS) are traveling the state presenting regional policy forums for members. State and federal legislative and regulatory issues affecting hospitals now and into 2015 are the focus of these up close and personal member meetings. The HANYS strategic team conducted a forum at the offices of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council on Monday, November 17, 2014.

The push for Ebola funding, questions surrounding DSRIP and anti-trust regulations, and what piece of the projected \$6 billion state budget surplus hospitals may realize are some of the core issues facing hospitals. Other trends include calls for more price transparency, more quality and efficiency measurement, and even greater collaboration among providers.

“Government wants consolidation and integration on one hand, but provides no maneuverability on the other,” said Kevin Dahill, president/CEO of SHANYS. “Are we going to fight to maintain a free market?” – Janine Logan, jlogan@nshc.org or jlogan@normet.org.



From left: HANYS President Dennis Whalen confers with Kevin Dahill, SHANYS President/CEO and Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council member Craig Rizzo from Nassau University Medical Center.

HANYS Regional Policy Forum Heads to NorMet Region December 1st

Forum begins at 10:30 a.m. and ends at 12:15 p.m. Doubletree Hilton in Tarrytown

There is still time to register for the forum that will look at critical issues facing hospitals in the Hudson Valley region. Register online at <http://www.hanys.org/events/>.

Photos and report from this event will appear in the December issue of *Progress Notes*.

Medicaid Waiver Update . . .

The new deadline for DSRIP Project Plan applications is December 22, 2014 and PDFs of the applications will be posted on the state's website for viewing and public comment on December 24. That comment period ends January 26, 2015. DSRIP Project Plan awards are expected in early March.

In related DSRIP news, the state released the **Capital Restructuring Finance Program (CRFP)** request for applications. This program will be coordinated with DSRIP applications that are due in December. The CRFP is jointly administered by the DOH and the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York. It will make available \$1.2 billion over the next six years for capital projects that aim to enhance quality, financial viability, and efficiency of the healthcare delivery system in New York State. CRFP funding will be made available to DSRIP and non-DSRIP applicants.

The DSRIP [dashboard](#) on the state's website includes Medicaid data, which can assist applicants with their project plan applications, community needs assessments, prioritizing clinical projects, and understanding network utilization patterns.

HANYS' [Medicaid Waiver website](#) is also another very useful resource.

Community Service Plan Updates Due

The annual progress report that captures work hospitals have completed regarding the Prevention Agenda priorities noted in their 2013 full Community Service Plan (CSP) submission is due to the state December 30, 2014. The update is in the form of an online survey. The survey asks hospitals to provide brief, and in most cases, multiple choice answers to

questions about the progress that has been made since the submission of the hospital's 2013 Plan on two Prevention Agenda priorities and focus areas and interventions selected for implementation. Go to the state's [prevention agenda page](#) on its website for more resources and helpful information.

AHA Launches Hire a Veteran Campaign

The American Hospital Association (AHA) has available a toolkit that provides specific information on how hospitals can hire veterans in four advanced medical occupations: licensed practical nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and registered nurses. Veterans with medical backgrounds can be excellent hospital employee candidates due to the numerous skills instilled through military training. These include leadership, problem solving, and adaptability. Many veterans have the necessary credentials and licensure to practice immediately upon separating from the military.

The Suburban Hospital Alliance initiated **Vet Connect**, a public awareness initiative in 2012. It is coordinated by the hospital



associations in each region for the benefit of all veterans throughout Long Island and the Hudson Valley. It is a one-stop online resource for veterans connecting them with employment, health, and community programs and services. All Suburban Hospital Alliance members have taken the Vet Connect pledge to: recognize the extraordinary service that veterans have made to our country and to commit to assisting veterans with their employment and healthcare needs.- *Janine Logan, jlogan@nshc.org or jlogan@normet.org.*

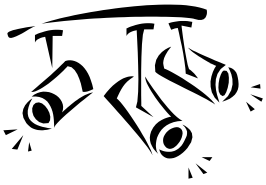
News Briefs

High Marks for Quality . . . fifteen hospitals in the Suburban Hospital Alliance regions were recognized as Top Performers on Key Quality Measures® for 2013 by The Joint Commission (TJC). The TJC published a list of 1,224 hospitals that are recognized as Top Performer on Key Quality Measures® representing 37 percent of all accredited hospitals. Top Performers on Long Island: **South Nassau Communities Hospital; St Charles Hospital; Mercy Medical Center; and Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center.** Top Performers in the Hudson Valley: **Putnam Hospital Center; Hudson Valley Hospital Center; HealthAlliance of the Hudson Valley – St. Mary’s Avenue Campus; Orange Regional Medical Center; VA Hudson Valley Health Care System; Northern Westchester Hospital; St. Luke’s Cornwall Hospital; Vassar Brothers Medical Center; Northern Dutchess Hospital; Phelps Memorial Hospital; St. Joseph’s Hospital.**

Who Are the Hospital Heroes . . . is a new online initiative sponsored by the Coalition to Protect America’s Health Care and the American Hospital Association. The program showcases hospital caregivers and many others, from administrative staff and nurses, to physicians and other allied health professionals, maintenance and security, who go above and beyond in their work to help patients in their communities. Visit the [Hospital Heroes website](#) to view featured heroes and to nominate a hospital hero.

Hospitals Adhere to the Triple Aim . . . and varied stories about how New York’s hospitals are doing so are highlighted on the HANYS website through its “NYS Triple Aim’ campaign. The campaign captures the widespread efforts of hospitals that are pursuing the Triple Aim approach of improving population health, enhancing the quality of patient care, and reducing the cost of healthcare. New York’s hospitals are actively engaged in implementing new and innovative approaches to healthcare delivery despite fiscal constraints. Go to www.HANYS.org/tripleaim. Feel free to re-tweet and post the outstanding work performed by hospitals. To submit a story for the campaign, contact Steve Kroll at skroll@hanys.org or Michael Pauley at mpauley@hanys.org.

Educational Discount . . . available to employees of Suburban Hospital Alliance of New York State, LLC, hospital members. Mercy College and the Suburban Hospital Alliance entered into a partnership that will allow employees of member hospitals a 15 percent discount on all undergraduate and graduate classes at Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, NY. The Suburban Hospital Alliance includes all member hospitals of the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council and the Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association. For more information contact Mercy College at: 1-877-MERCY-GO.



SPOTLIGHT ON: *Quality*

By Kate Warner, Director of Quality and Education

DOH Announces Revised Flu Mask Mandates

The New York State Department of Health has revised regulations its flu regulations that first went into effect last year. That rule requires all hospital employees choosing not to get vaccinated for the flu to wear surgical masks in areas where patients may be present. Under the original regulation, hospital staff was responsible for collecting and storing documentation on each employee's vaccination status and for monitoring and enforcing mask use by unvaccinated employees. The regulations created significant workflow issues and administrative burdens for hospitals and other healthcare providers required to implement them.

Changes to the regulation for this year were minor, but could offer some relief. Hospitals will now be able to accept attestations, in lieu of official documentation of vaccination for students and some employees. For the 2014-2015 flu season, educational institutions can provide hospitals with attestations that students completing practical experience requirements at their facility have been vaccinated for the flu. For hospital employees that are employed by a healthcare facility other than the one in which they are providing services, an attestation from the primary employer will be accepted in lieu of the original vaccination documentation. There were also changes to the

documentation requirements of vaccinated employees. Healthcare providers will only be asked to obtain documentation that includes the date of vaccination and the formula used from the provider administering the vaccine.

Clarification was provided in the revised regulations regarding where masks are required to be worn. The previous language

mandated that masks be worn in areas where patients MAY be present. New language indicates that employees must wear masks in areas where patients are TYPICALLY present.

Under the revised regulations, some employees will be exempt from wearing masks based on the services they provide. Unvaccinated speech therapists will no longer have to wear masks if they are providing services that require visibility of their mouths. Similarly, caregivers for patients that may need to read lips or those that provide services outside of the hospital and/or the patient's home will also be exempt from the mask mandate. As in the previous year, hospitals may implement stricter policies than those set forth by the state.

The revisions were approved by the Public Health and Health Planning Council October 2, 2014 and became effective November 19, 2014 when they were published in the State Registrar. To review the changes to the regulatory language, [click here](#).



Under the revised regulations, some employees will be exempt from wearing masks based on the services they provide.

News from the Long Island Region . . .

A Report on Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council member hospital achievements and notable activities



Top Patient Safety Scores . . . awarded by the Leapfrog Group, a private, independent rating agency went to **St. Francis Hospital, The Heart Center; St. Charles Hospital; Nassau University Medical Center; and John T. Mather Memorial Hospital**. Each attained an “A” score from the latest Hospital Safety Score administered by Leapfrog. Of the more than 2,500 hospitals assigned scores for fall 2014, only 31 percent nationwide and only 22 percent of hospitals in New York achieved and “A”.

New York State Obstetrical Improvement Award . . . was presented to **St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center**. St. Catherine’s is among the 98 of 128 statewide hospitals that actively participate in the Obstetrical Improvement Project, part of the New York State Perinatal Quality Collaborative. The project’s main goal is to reduce scheduled deliveries without medical indication between 36 and 39 weeks gestation through the translation of evidence-based guidelines into clinical practice. This October, St. Catherine’s was awarded the 2013 Quality Improvement Award for reporting fewer than three scheduled deliveries without medical indication for the entire year. This is the highest level of achievement possible from the Obstetrical Improvement Project.

Healthcare Heroes Recognized . . . on November 6, 2014 at the *Long Island Business News*’ annual salute to those who made a significant difference. Category winners include: Achievements in Healthcare – **St. Charles Hospital** for Makoplasty Knee Replacement and **Barbara Mills RN**, who leads the Rapid Response Team, Code Resuscitation, at **Stony Brook University Hospital**; Community Outreach – **John T. Mather Memorial Hospital** for Lung Cancer Screening Program, **Linda Bily**, Cancer Patient Advocacy and Community Outreach Coordinator at **Stony Brook University Cancer Center**; Healthcare Professional Hero – **Edward Fraser**, Regional Director of Community Relations, **North Shore LIJ Health System**, **Dante Latorre**, Vice President of Quality and Regulatory Affairs, **St. Charles Hospital**, **Edward Stapleton**, Associate Professor and Director of Pre-Hospital Education, Department of Emergency Medicine, **Stony Brook Medicine**; Nurse Educator – **Theresa Criscitelli**, Assistant Director of Professional Nursing and Education, **Winthrop-University Hospital**; Nurse Hero – **Melody Butler**, **Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center**, **Carlene Williams**, Assistant Nurse Manager, Labor and Delivery, **Huntington Hospital**, **Mary Ferrara**, Nurse Manager, Inpatient Oncology Unit/Outpatient Infusion Center, **John T. Mather Memorial Hospital**. **Renee Gilchrest**, Cardiothoracic Nursing/Critical Care, **North Shore University Hospital**, **Jair Bentos-Pereira**, RN Care Manager-Primary Care, **Northport VA Medical Center**, **Margaret O’Donnell**, Nurse Practitioner, **South Nassau Communities Hospital**, **Marianne Rodriguez**, Administrative Supervisor, **St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center**, **Theresa Tomkin**, Nursing Care Coordinator, Emergency Department, **St. Charles Hospital**, **Sandra Bastidas**, Clinical Nurse III, Emergency Care, **St. Francis Hospital**, **Yun Qian**, Registered Nurse, Med/Surg, **St. Joseph Hospital**, **Stacy Heuschneider**, Nurse Practitioner, **Stony Brook Medicine**; Physician Hero – **Charles Dennis**, Associate Medical Director, **Brookhaven Memorial Hospital Medical Center**, **V. William Caracci**, Physician, **Good Samaritan Hospital**

Medical Center, Joan Faro, Chief Medical Officer, **John T. Mather Memorial Hospital**, **Neil Kirschen**, Chief of Pain Management, **South Nassau Communities Hospital**, **Jeffrey Wheeler**, Director, Emergency Services, **St. Charles Hospital**, **James Vosswinkel**, Chief of Division of Trauma, Emergency Surgery and Surgical Critical Care and Medical Director of the Surgical Intensive Care Unit, **Stony Brook University Hospital**; Volunteer Hero – **Therese Weber**, **Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center**, **James Lundgren**, **Stony Brook University**

If you have news to share about your hospital's achievements, please send to Janine Logan at jlogan@nshc.org.

News from the Hudson Valley Region. . .

A Report on the Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association member hospital achievements and notable activities



*Helen Hayes Hospital New CEO . . . is **Edmund J. Coletti**.* He previously served the rehabilitation hospital from 2001 through 2008 as senior vice president of operations and director of facilities management.

Outstanding Nursing Quality Award . . . was presented to **Putnam Hospital Center**. The hospital won the 2014 Press Ganey NDNQI Award for Outstanding Nursing Quality, which recognizes excellence in nursing performance and patient outcomes.

Patient Satisfaction Award . . . was bestowed upon the **Hudson Valley Hospital Center**. It received the Press Ganey Guardian of Excellence Award. This is the fourth time the hospital received this prestigious award.

State Award for Mother/Newborn Care . . . was earned by the maternity department of **HealthAlliance Hospital's Broadway Campus**. The Quality Improvement Award – part of the state health department's Perinatal Quality Collaborative Obstetrical Improvement Project – recognized the hospital's Family Birth Place for reporting zero scheduled deliveries without a medical indication in 2013.

An "A" for Patient Safety . . . was the grade four hospitals in the Hudson Valley achieved. Each attained an "A" score from the latest Hospital Safety Score administered by Leapfrog, a private, independent rating agency. Of the more than 2,500 hospitals assigned scores for fall 2014, only 31 percent nationwide and only 22 percent of hospitals in New York achieved an "A". Achieving the "A" grade were **Phelps Memorial Hospital Center, Hudson Valley Hospital Center, Putnam Hospital Center, and White Plains Hospital**.

If you have news to share about your hospital's achievements, please send to Janine Logan at jlogan@normet.org.

NorMet Member Hospitals

Blythedale Children's Hospital
Bon Secours Community Hospital
Burke Rehabilitation Hospital
Catskill Regional Medical Center
Ellenville Regional Hospital
Good Samaritan Hospital
HealthAlliance Hospital Broadway Campus
HealthAlliance Hospital Mary's Avenue Campus
Helen Hayes Hospital
Hudson Valley Hospital Center
Keller Army Community Hospital
Lawrence Hospital Center
MidHudson Regional Hospital
Of Westchester Medical Center
Montefiore Mt. Vernon Hospital
Montefiore New Rochelle Hospital
The New York Presbyterian Hospital, Westchester Division
Northern Dutchess Hospital
Northern Westchester Hospital
Orange Regional Medical Center
Phelps Memorial Hospital Center
Putnam Hospital Center
St. Anthony Community Hospital
St. Joseph's Medical Center
St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital
St. Vincent's Westchester (Division of St. Joseph's Medical Center)
Vassar Brothers Medical Center
VA Hudson Valley Health Care System
Westchester Medical Center

NSHC Member Hospitals

Brookhaven Memorial Hospital Medical Center
Catholic Health Services of Long Island

- Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center
- Mercy Medical Center
- St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center
- St. Charles Hospital
- St. Francis Hospital
- St. Joseph Hospital

Eastern Long Island Hospital
John T. Mather Memorial Hospital
Nassau University Medical Center

North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System

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

Peconic Bay Medical Center
Southampton Hospital
Stony Brook University Hospital
Veterans Affairs Medical Center – Northport
South Nassau Communities Hospital
Winthrop-University Hospital