



*Representing the shared advocacy interests of the
Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC) and
the Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association
(NorMet)*



Statement on the Debt Ceiling/Deficit Reduction Agreement

Kevin Dahill

President and CEO

Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council and Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association

August 2, 2011

Contact: Janine Logan, Director of Communications, 631-334-8321(cell)

“The debt ceiling/deficit reduction agreement reached by the White House and Congress thankfully averts economic disaster for the United States and world markets, but it does not ensure that seniors covered under the Medicare program will be shielded from uncertainty when accessing care. The agreement indicates steep Medicare cuts to hospital providers in the near future. These reductions, combined with the \$155 billion in Medicare reductions the nation’s hospital industry voluntarily agreed to as one way to fund the health care reform law, will ultimately mean reduced services for our seniors and indigent populations. At a time when our hospitals are responding to the nation’s call to innovate and implement delivery system reforms, this agreement jeopardizes their progress, along with any savings these reforms will generate.

Additionally, Medicare reductions upset the job growth and stability the health care sector has offered during the recession and now during this fragile period of economic recovery. It is clearly counter intuitive to place so much of the deficit reduction agreement on the backs of hospital providers.

We are hopeful that the future congressional committee charged with identifying program savings will not abandon our nation’s seniors and most vulnerable, but will work with us to achieve real reforms that will ensure Medicare for our future generations.”

Long Island Office: 631-435-3000

Hudson Valley Office: 845-562-7520

The Suburban Hospital Alliance was formed in 2006 to ensure that the specific concerns of hospitals in the nine suburban counties immediately north and east of New York City were heard by lawmakers in Albany and Washington.