

NASSAU-SUFFOLK

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MEMBER HOSPITALS

Brookhaven Memorial
Hospital Medical Center
East Patchogue

Catholic Health Services of Long Island

- Good Samaritan Hospital
Medical Center
West Islip
- St. Catherine of Siena
Medical Center
Smithtown
- St. Charles Hospital
Port Jefferson
- St. Francis Hospital
Roslyn
- St. Joseph Hospital
Bethpage
- Mercy Medical Center
Rockville Centre

East End Health Alliance

- Eastern Long Island
Hospital
Greenport
- Peconic Bay
Medical Center
Riverhead
- Southampton Hospital
Southampton

Long Beach Medical Center Long Beach

John T. Mather
Memorial Hospital
Port Jefferson

Nassau University
Medical Center
East Meadow

North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System

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

Stony Brook
University Hospital
Stony Brook

Veterans Affairs
Medical Center
Northport

Winthrop South Nassau University Health System

- South Nassau
Communities Hospital
Oceanside
- Winthrop-University
Hospital
Mineola

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Federal Update: Hospitals Heed Fiscal Cliff

Shortly after President Barak Obama secured his second term, he turned his attention toward the impending “fiscal cliff” crisis, calling upon congressional leaders to work quickly and in a bi-partisan fashion to avert drastic tax increases and spending cuts that will take effect January 1, 2013. The President and congressional leaders have talked several times about the crisis, but no definitive solution has emerged. The White House and majority of House members remain far apart on the issue of raising tax rates for the wealthy.

Sequestration – automatic across-the-board cuts to defense and domestic spending, including Medicare – are most worrisome for hospitals. On Long Island, hospitals would collectively absorb \$375 million (2013 – 2021) in new Medicare cuts come January 1, 2013. Sequestration is the result of the bi-partisan super committee's inability to reach a deficit reduction agreement in November 2011. The idea a year ago was that sequestration cuts would be so massive and burdensome that Congress would never let such cuts happen. Now, that scenario becomes more likely as each day passes.

Economists from both sides of the aisle agree that the “cliff” would short-circuit the nation’s fragile economic recovery and affect the pocketbook of every American. Scheduled to expire January 1, 2013 are the Bush-era tax cuts and the Social Security payroll tax holiday and scheduled to take effect that same day is a 27 percent Medicare pay cut to the nation’s physicians. The “doc pay cut” is not a new threat, as Congress has failed to fully fix the flawed sustainable growth rate formula in prior years, opting instead to move the issue further down the road. In the past, hospitals helped fund the temporary fixes through Medicare cuts. The industry remains especially vulnerable, as defense spending cuts are less popular.

A new poll, conducted by Public Opinion Strategies and commissioned by the American Hospital Association, found that American voters do not want payments to hospitals cut.

State Update: Legislature Under Bi-Partisan Control

Although the outcome of the State Senate race in the 46th district remains unknown, control of the State Senate was ultimately decided when Senator Dean Skelos, leader of the Senate Republican Conference, and Senator Jeffrey Klein, leader of the Independent Democratic Conference (IDC), announced a bi-partisan governing coalition. The outcome of the 46th district race is now a moot point. Under the agreement, the IDC will be formally recognized as a third, permanent Senate conference. Senators Skelos and Klein will alternate the Senate leadership post every two weeks. The arrangement is unprecedented in state history.

Superstorm Sandy Update: In early December, Governor Cuomo traveled to Washington, DC to press the case for New York State’s request for emergency aid for storm recovery and damage mitigation costs. Jointly, New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut are seeking \$82 billion in federal storm relief. The White House submitted a request to Congress for \$60.4 billion in aid on Friday, December 7, 2012; Congress will decide the final aid amount. The Governor’s office estimates storm costs to the health care sector in New York State at \$2.8 billion. Hospitals in the hardest hit areas are continuing to assess the total damage. The impact on hospitals’ bottom lines will not be known for some time. Thousands of health care workers were severely impacted by the storm. The Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council (NSHC) and other hospital associations helped establish the *Hurricane Sandy Health Care Employee Relief Fund* to directly assist these workers. To donate go to: http://www.uhfnyc.org/hurricane_sandy_relief_fund.

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