

October 14, 2005

ChimeData Publishes New Fact Sheet On Mental Illness

One-quarter of all Americans met the criteria for having a mental illness within the past year, and fully a quarter of those had a "serious" disorder that significantly disrupted their ability to function day to day, according to a new ChimeData [Fact Sheet](#) on mental illness.

The *Fact Sheet* also notes that mental disorders accounted for 2 million emergency department (ED) visits and 2.5 million hospital discharges in 2002. By comparison, in 2004 Connecticut's acute care hospitals had 60,870 ED non-admissions and 26,343 hospital discharges for patients with mental disorders.

The *Fact Sheet* provides an overview of Connecticut mental illness-related trends and describes characteristics of patients treated for mental illnesses in Connecticut, who accounted for about 5% of ED non-admissions and 7% of inpatient admissions at the state's 30 not-for-profit acute care hospitals.

With psychiatric hospital bed capacity decreasing in Connecticut over the past several years, the responsibility of providing inpatient mental health care has shifted to the state's acute care hospitals in their role as the state's healthcare safety net. Mental health system reform remains a key issue for Connecticut hospitals, and a critical part of CHA's advocacy agenda.

CDC Posts Materials For 2005-06 Flu Season

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has posted [educational materials](#) for use in promoting flu vaccination and a

checklist to help determine who should get a flu shot before October 24, based on CDC recommendations that only certain priority groups receive the inactivated vaccine until that date. CDC has cited uncertainties regarding the production of flu vaccine for the recommendations, which prioritize vaccination for people 65 and older, residents of long-term care facilities, people ages two and older with co-morbid conditions, pregnant women, children ages 6 to 23 months, healthcare workers providing direct patient care, and household contacts and caregivers of infants younger than six months.

To help Connecticut hospitals combat influenza this season, the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) has proposed regulations entitled "Medical Protocol for the Administration of Influenza and Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccines for Patients in Hospitals," which CHA supported in a [comment letter](#) submitted in July. The regulations are scheduled for consideration on October 25 by the Legislative Regulations Review Committee.

The rapid adoption of these regulations, which now include the modifications suggested in CHA's comment letter, will enable hospitals to more effectively protect hospitalized patients from influenza and pneumonia through widespread vaccination of patients at risk. The regulations also will facilitate Connecticut hospitals' ability to comply with Medicare's recommendations for screening and administration of influenza and pneumonia vaccinations for patients in the inpatient setting, which is one of the measures reported on the [Hospital Compare](#) website, as well as CHA's [Hospital Performance Reporting](#) website.

UPDATE

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Yale New Haven Health System To Present At National Workforce Conference

Yale New Haven Health System and the Workforce Alliance of Connecticut will present their internal [School at Work](#) program's successes at the National Council for Continuing Education and Training (NCCET) conference, which begins this weekend in Jacksonville, Florida.

School at Work offers entry-level staff in hospitals an opportunity to continue their education on the hospital campus during their day. The flagship workforce development course used in Connecticut hospitals, "Building a Career Ladder in Healthcare," offers coaching aimed at entry-level workers within the hospital. Several other Connecticut institutions also participate in School at Work, including Middlesex Hospital, the Hospital of Saint Raphael, and the Masonicare Senior Center.

Hospitals across the nation are looking at initiatives to maintain and grow their internal workforce to meet the demands for healthcare professionals. School at Work was designed and developed by Louisville-based Catalyst Learning in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor. The eight-month curriculum for hand-picked participants within each hospital includes hands-on computer skills training, coaching and DVD training, as well as live instruction within the hospital. The program is developmentally aimed at diverse populations, including Hispanics and other minorities.

"We liked the School at Work concept because our employees can attend a two-hour class at the hospital one day a week, during the work day," explained Pat Worthy, R.N., Manager of Yale New Haven's Workforce Diversity and one of the presenters at the upcoming NCCET conference. "We worked with hospital managers to find those employees who would be good candidates for this pilot and managers have already noticed a difference in the students in the program."

The first 10 graduates from Yale New Haven Health System's program have begun to consider allied health and nursing community college programs, and two new School at Work classes are already under way.

JCAHO Accepting Applications For Codman Award

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations is seeking applications for its 2006 [Ernest Amory Codman Award](#), which recognizes achievement by organizations and individuals in the use of process and outcomes measures to improve organization performance and quality of care.

Applications are due by February 17, 2006.

The Stamford Hospital was recognized as a [2004](#)

[Codman Award recipient](#) in the hospital category for creating a protocol of intensive monitoring and treatment to maintain proper blood glucose levels in critically ill patients. Mortality for these intensive care unit (ICU) patients was reduced 29% and length of stay in the ICU decreased by nearly 11%.

CHA To Host Institutional Review Board Program

CHA, in conjunction with the Donaghue Initiative in Biomedical and Behavioral Research Ethics at the Yale University Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics, the Yale University School of Medicine's Human Investigation Committee, and the University of Connecticut Health Center, will present a *Connecticut Institutional Review Board (IRB) Educational and Networking Symposium* from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Thursday, November 3, 2005.

Robert Levine, M.D., Director, Donaghue Initiative in Biomedical and Behavioral Research Ethics at the Yale University School of Medicine, Co-Chair, Yale University Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics, and Professor of Medicine and Lecturer in Pharmacology will deliver the opening remarks for the symposium, which will feature general sessions throughout the morning on the following topics:

- *Central Review of Clinical Trials: Has its Time Come?*, presented by Lowel E. Schnipper, M.D., Harvard Medical School, Theodore and Evelyn Berenson Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, and Chief, Hematology/Oncology, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
- *How the Consent Process and Forms Have Been Affected by Recent Litigation*, presented by Barbara Mishkin, Partner, Hogan & Hartson, LLP
- *Approving Research for Adolescent Subjects: Sixteen is Not the Same as Six*, presented by Audrey Smith Rogers, Ph.D., M.P.H., Pediatric, Adolescent and Maternal AIDS Branch of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development at the National Institute of Health

After lunch, the presenters will also offer concurrent sessions on *The Centralization of IRBs*, *Informed Consent*, and *Research with Adolescents*, concluding with a general session that will feature reports on the concurrent session case studies.

To register, or for more information on this program, visit the education section of the [CHA website](#) or contact Rhonda Bates at (203) 294-7267 or bates@chime.org.