



September 1, 2008

Skyline news

Reporting on New York's Health Care News

NYS Legislature Rejects Paterson Cuts, Reaches Budget Agreement

The New York State Legislature rejected nearly \$2 billion in cuts to hospitals and nursing homes proposed by Governor David Paterson during a Special Economic Session on August 20. Although most of the potential damage was contained, the final budget agreement includes measures to limit growth in Medicaid provider rates and a reduction in the 2008 trend factor for hos-

pitals, nursing homes, and home health care providers. The cut of 1.3 percentage points on an annualized basis would take place in early 2009. In addition, the budget measure also reduces the 2009 trend factor projection by 1 percentage point on an annualized basis.

Although the final legislation avoided most of the major health care cuts originally proposed by the Governor, GNYHA

President Kenneth E. Raske noted "the cuts that were enacted will still inflict real pain on health care providers, health care workers, and the New Yorkers they serve."

GNYHA believes that, based on State Division of the Budget (DOB) estimates, these actions will result in a reduction in fee-for-service hospital spending, which includes the Federal share, of about \$107 million through the next fiscal year. Since Medicaid managed care payments are similarly impacted, the overall reduction is around \$200 million. Again using DOB estimates, GNYHA projects reduced nursing home payments of approximately \$148 million. Home health agencies will see a cut of about \$40 million and personal care providers stand to lose about \$45 million. In addition, the budget agreement reduces grants to public nursing homes by \$25 million this fiscal year and \$100 million next fiscal year.

Elsewhere, the budget agreement cuts Medicaid managed care premiums by 1.45 percentage points and Family Health Plus premiums by seven-tenths of a percentage point. The agreement also includes a 6% across-the-board cut to some State-only funded programs, but does not apply to the Professional Education Pool (PEP), also known as the GME pool. The agreement also benefits physicians by essentially holding medical malpractice insurance premiums at last year's rates for July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009. It was previously believed that physicians faced a

HHS Proposes Adoption of ICD-10 Code Sets

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published the proposed regulation that would replace the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9-CM) code sets now used to report health care diagnoses and procedures with greatly expanded ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS code sets, effective October 1, 2011. These codes are used by hospitals to report diagnoses and procedures for inpatient services and diagnoses for outpatient services. Developed almost 30 years ago, ICD-9 is now widely viewed as outdated because of its limited ability to accommodate new procedures

and diagnoses. For example, ICD-9 contains only 17,000 codes and is expected to start running out of available codes next year. By contrast, the ICD-10 code sets contain more than 155,000 codes and can accommodate a host of new diagnoses and procedures.

Significantly, the additional codes will help to enable the implementation of electronic health records, as the expanded codes will provide more detail in electronic transactions. In 2000, under authority provided by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), the ICD-9-CM code sets

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FDNY, GNYHA Members to Partner for “Project Hypothermia”

The Fire Department of New York City (FDNY) is continuing its collaboration with New York City hospitals to implement an initiative called

Attention Residents & Fellows!



Upstate New York “Where to Practice” Open House

Sunday, September 28, 2008

Sheraton New York
Hotel and Towers
53rd Street & 7th Avenue
New York, NY

Come meet with physician recruiters from more than 30 Upstate New York hospitals to learn about practice opportunities and incentives and about the Upstate lifestyle.

Representatives from the NYS Department of Health will also be available to answer questions about J-1 visa waivers, loan forgiveness, and how to apply for the Doctors Across New York practice incentive program.

The event is open to all physician residents and is free of charge. Refreshments will be provided.

Email openhouse@gnyha.org with any questions or call 212-246-7100

Sponsored by:



“New York City Project Hypothermia.” Project Hypothermia builds upon medical literature and findings that indicate that induced hypothermia through the cooling of patients suffering from certain types of cardiac arrests improves both survival rates and functional outcomes. It is anticipated that ambulances operating within the New York City Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system will transport certain cardiac arrest patients only to hospitals that provide therapeutic hypothermia. Eventually FDNY intends to introduce therapeutic hypothermia as part of the EMS system’s pre-hospital transport services.

Background: Project Hypothermia evolved from an educational program offered in December 2007 by the GNYHA/United Hospital Fund Critical Care Leadership Network (CCLN). Launched in September 2006, CCLN was created to provide a regional forum for critical care and emergency department physicians and nurses across the region to come together and share clinical protocols, standardize practices, and develop educational programs. One of CCLN’s first programs highlighted the benefits

of therapeutic hypothermia for patients suffering from cardiac arrest. Subsequent to the symposium, FDNY invited the directors of all of the intensive care units and emergency departments across New York City to discuss the development of a comprehensive, citywide protocol for providing therapeutic hypothermia to eligible cardiac arrest patients. Currently, representatives of 26 hospitals from all five boroughs participate in FDNY’s workgroup.

Data Collection: As part of Project Hypothermia, FDNY proposes to collect information from hospitals specific to each patient transported under Project Hypothermia for the purposes of quality assurance, research, and, ultimately, publication related to the protocol. GNYHA understands that FDNY has applied for approval of its protocol from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene’s Institutional Review Board. GNYHA will continue to monitor the progress of Project Hypothermia and develop additional educational programs for members. For further information about CCLN, contact Terri Straub or Zeynep Sumer at GNYHA. ■

ICD-10 Code Sets *continued*

were adopted for use in the administrative transactions by both the public and private sectors to report diagnoses and inpatient hospital procedures. Covered entities required to use the ICD-9-CM code sets include health plans, health care clearinghouses, and health care providers who transmit any electronic health information in connection with a transaction for which a standard has been adopted by HHS.

HHS has also issued a proposed regulation to update the ASC-X12 HIPAA electronic standard transactions to Version 5010, and the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs standard

(NCPDP), Version D.0, for electronic transactions, such as health care claims. Version 5010 is essential for the industry to be able to report ICD-10 codes on health care claims. Both notices of proposed rule making (NPRM) were published in the Federal Register on Friday, August 22, 2008, vol. 73, No 164. GNYHA will hold a special session of its HIPAA Transaction Sets Workgroup to update members on Version 5010 on September 15, 2008. In addition, GNYHA in the near future will announce a schedule of educational programs to help hospital staff transition to ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS. ■

GNYHA's Summer Enrichment Program Class of 2008 Graduates

On August 13, GNYHA hosted a graduation for the 27 students participating in the Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) Class of 2008. The SEP seeks to promote diversity in health care management through internships for undergraduate and graduate students pursuing degrees in the field. Participating students are assigned to members of the management staff at GNYHA member facilities to gain first-hand experience with the operations and management issues facing health care organizations. GNYHA launched New York's SEP in 1997 by forming a collaborative relationship with the Institute for Diversity in Health Management (IFD), the National Association of Health Services Executives (NAHSE), and the Association of Hispanic Healthcare Executives (AHHE). In the 11 years since its inception, the New York metro area SEP has become the most successful program of its kind in the nation, with more than 250 graduates.

In addition to their internship placements, SEP students take part in various programs over the summer beginning with an orientation session to discuss intern roles and responsibilities and to meet fellow interns. On July 8-9, GNYHA sponsored a trip to Washington, D.C., during which SEP interns met with health care policy staff from various Congressional offices and Federal agencies, as well as New York Governor Paterson's Washington Office. SEP interns also attended a two-day educational seminar on July 22-23, which showcased various health care management careers. During the seminar, health care leaders working in a variety of sectors spoke about their own careers and their current roles and responsibilities, as well as the paths they took to get to where they are today. The featured speakers included Assemblyman Darryl Towns (D-Brooklyn), Chair of the NYS Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, and Asian Legislative Caucus, who spoke

about his own health care background and the Caucus' commitment to health care issues. Finally, on August 13, GNYHA hosted a graduation for 2008 SEP interns, inviting their sponsors and preceptors to attend. Each student made a presentation based on his or her internship work experience and received a certificate of completion.

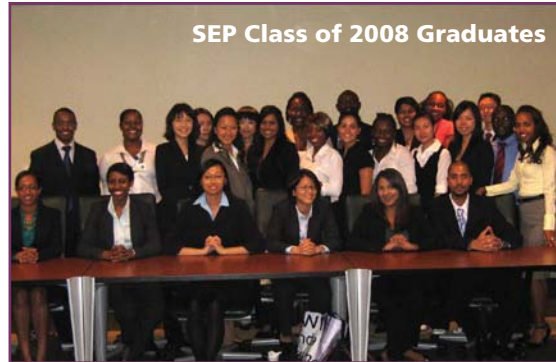
GNYHA would like to recognize the following facilities for participating as sponsors in this summer's program: Bellevue Hospital Center, Beth Israel Medical Center, East New York Diagnostic Treatment Center, Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center, Interfaith Medical Center, Jacobi Medical Center, Kings County Hospital Center, Long Island College Hospital, Montefiore

Medical Center, The Mount Sinai Hospital, The New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, New York Hospital Queens, New York-Presbyterian Hospital, NYU Langone Medical Center, St. Francis Hospital, St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center, SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Westchester

Medical Center and Wyckoff Heights Medical Center.

GNYHA also thanks NAHSE for providing mentors for each SEP student and helping to position

them for postgraduate fellowships and/or employment. GNYHA looks forward to sponsoring and hopefully expanding the program in the future. For more information about the Summer Enrichment Program, contact Amy Kaufman at GNYHA at kaufman@gnyha.org. ■



Health Care Cuts *continued*

double-digit percentage increase in premiums.

Much of the success in minimizing the proposed cuts can be attributed to the Healthcare Education Project, a joint project of GNYHA and 1199 SEIU, which ran advertisements in newspapers including the *New York Times* and *Newsday* explaining the impact the cuts would have on health care and encouraging New Yorkers to call their legislators in Albany. Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos and Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver also played key roles in opposing the cuts. Although GNYHA is pleased that the Medicaid savings target is much lower than originally proposed, the modified trend factor proposal will still affect providers' bottom lines, many of which are already operating with negative

profit margins. The Governor has said this budget re-opening is just the beginning of his savings plan to address the State's SFY 2009 projected deficit of \$6.4 billion. To head off devastating cuts in next year's budget, GNYHA, working with 1199 SEIU and its national partner, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), will continue to lobby Congress to pass a national economic stimulus package, which proposes to deliver \$1.8 billion over five quarters in increased Medicaid matching funds for New York State. GNYHA will also continue to work with Majority Leader Skelos, Speaker Silver, and Governor Paterson to minimize harm to health care providers while working to make responsible fiscal choices to strengthen the State's economic condition. ■

UPCOMING GNYHA MEMBER BRIEFINGS

Briefing on Self-Audits for Billing, Coding and Documentation Compliance

Date: *Wednesday, September 10, 2008*

Time: *2:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.*

Location: *GNYHA Conference Center
555 West 57th Street, 15th Floor*

On Wednesday, September 10, 2008, GNYHA will hold a briefing entitled "How to Conduct Self-Audits for Billing, Coding and Documentation Compliance in Light of Ongoing Federal and State Reviews." The briefing will provide an overview of ongoing Federal and state audits and a discussion of their significance for providers and will detail how providers can establish effective self-audits for billing, coding, and documentation compliance. The program will be led by attorneys from King & Spalding LLP, joined by independent billing and coding consultants from Ernst & Young. If you have questions about the briefing, please contact

Deborah Brown (brown@gnyha.org) at GNYHA. To register, please email Laurie Sangirardi (sangirardi@gnyha.org) at GNYHA. ■

GNYHA Green Conference

Date: *Wednesday, September 10, 2008*

Time: *9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.*

Location: *GNYHA Boardroom
555 West 57th Street, 15th Floor*

On Wednesday, September 10, 2008, GNYHA will hold a conference entitled "Going Green: A Multidisciplinary Approach" to educate membership on a variety of green topics. The conference will be led by Gina Pugliese, Vice President of the Premier Safety Institute and Robin Guenther, principal at architecture firm Perkins + Will, which specializes in sustainable design. For more information about the seminar, email David Moser at dmoser@gnyha.org. To register, email Candace Currie at [\[ha.org\]\(http://ha.org\). For those unable to attend, the event will be Web cast live and archived for 30 days. ■](mailto:currie@gny-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Social Work and Mental Health Licensure and Practice Briefing

Date: *Friday, September 12, 2008*

Time: *10:00 a.m.–12:00 noon*

Location: *GNYHA Boardroom
555 West 57th Street, 15th Floor*

On Friday, September 12, 2008, GNYHA will hold a briefing on social worker, mental health counselor, marriage and family therapist, and psychoanalyst professions licensure requirements. The briefing will be led by representatives from the New York State Education Department (SED), Office of the Professions, who will update members on licensure requirements. For more information, email Alison Burke at aburke@gnyha.org. To register, email Rosanne Casey at rcasey@gnyha.org. ■

GNYHA Services, Inc. 2008 Symposium on Selected Suppliers: September Webinars

This fall, GNYHA Services, Inc. will hold an informational series about suppliers with which we have agreements for products or services are intended to address members' needs in such areas as financial and operational efficiency, workforce development, and regulatory compliance. This is a good opportunity to become more familiar with the products and services provided by suppliers with which we have favorable pricing agreements. Below, you will find details for the first three webinars in the series. If you have questions or need further information, please contact Barbara A. Green, Senior Vice President, New Business Initiatives (212-259-0720 or green@gnyha.org) or Lauren Glasser, Account Manager, New Business Initiatives (212-258-5304 or lglasser@gnyha.org) at GNYHA Ventures, Inc.

Gateway Travel Management

Date: *Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Time: *10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.*

Gateway Travel Management (GTM), a full-service corporate travel management company that provides state-of-the-art travel booking and management tools, will present an overview of its service during this hour-long webinar. ■

Stream 57

Date: *Wednesday, September 24, 2008*

Time: *2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.*

GNYHA Services, Inc. will host a webinar on Stream 57, a full-service streaming media company owned in part by GNYHA Ventures, Inc., to demonstrate how its streaming media technology can assist health care institutions in delivering online continuing education programs and marketing/communications services. ■

Allscripts, LLC

Date: *Tuesday, September 30, 2008*

Time: *2:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m.*

In this webinar, Allscripts, LLC, through its recent acquisition of Extended Care Information Network (ECIN), will present and explain the software solutions originally provided by ECIN that help health care facilities automate utilization management and the discharge planning process. ■