



HASC Briefs

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Proposed Cuts to Orange County MSI Program

In the face of spiraling enrollment in the program, the Orange County Budget office has proposed a \$1 million reduction in the Hospital Pool for fiscal year 2013-14, anticipating the transition of most MSI patients to Medi-Cal in January. This has been under discussion between HASC, the County Budget office and the Health Care Agency, and it was also discussed in HASC's MSI Committee last week. HASC and other stakeholders are hopeful the County will agree to maintain stable funding in

the program to offset increased enrollment.

Enrollment in the program has spiked significantly, from 41,156 in program year 2010-11 to a projected 57,220 in program year 2012-13. The state's anticipated \$350 million to encourage expanded enrollment in local programs such as MSI and the Low Income Health Program will serve as pre-enrollment in the transition of most of this population to Medi-Cal in 2014 and grow the program even further during the current year.

In the meantime, counties are experiencing cash flow issues in these programs due to delays in payments from the state. In Orange County, this will result in temporary cuts in monthly payments to hospitals. While hospitals will recover these funds at the end of the program year, they had counted on these funds to at least partially cover the actual costs of services as the year progressed.

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New ED/ICU for San Geronio Memorial Hospital

San Geronio Memorial Hospital's new Emergency Department and Intensive Care Unit was celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Jan. 18. The new facility will be open to patients this spring.

The new ED more than doubles the number of available beds—from 10 to 23. The number of ICU beds nearly tripled—from 6 to 16. The new ED has private rooms, and the ICU, which occupies the second floor, has rooms large enough for families to stay overnight.

ED utilization continues to rise throughout the state, with significant growth in ED utilization in the current economy and with the current number of uninsured. The location of San Geronio is significant as there are no other hospitals in the immediate vicinity, and without the new facility, patients would have to drive back to Riverside for access to care.

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Hundreds of locals and visitors from as far away as Redlands toured the new facility, above. The new ED more than doubles the number of available beds—from 10 to 23.

Hospitals Unite in Partnership to Enhance Quality of Patient Care

California now leads the nation in the number of hospitals voluntarily pledging to participate in the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) *Partnership for Patients* initiative, with nearly 400 hospitals signing on. By endorsing the initiative, hospitals throughout California have agreed to participate in two specific quality improvement programs: 1) Keep patients from getting injured or sicker; and 2) Help patients heal without complications.

As part of the broad *Partnership for Patients* program, CMS developed a

federally funded initiative known as the Hospital Engagement Network (HEN). More than \$200 million has been designated for 26 state, regional and hospital system organizations in an effort to reduce inpatient harm by 40 percent and hospital readmissions by 20 percent by the end of 2013.

In addition to the national *Partnership for Patients* program, a majority of hospitals in California participate in patient safety collaboratives aimed at reducing hospital-acquired conditions like infections and medical errors. The collabora-

tives bring together groups of hospitals in peer-to-peer learning networks at the local, regional and statewide levels. Collaboratives and other patient safety organizations review data, evaluate best practice approaches and help accelerate the adoption of quality improvement programs.

To view a complete list of participating hospitals and to learn more, visit www.CaringisourCalling.org.

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Register Now for 2013 HR Issues

HR leaders seriously interested in the engagement culture in their organizations and considering revising or developing new strategies to better prepare for the impact of health care reform can mark their calendars for *2013 HR Issues: Are You Ready?* The Feb. 21 program will cover a host of pertinent topics relating to the impact of health care reform.

Among the key learning objectives:

- Steps HR leaders should initiate

and implement to help their organization move through the changes of health care reform

- Strategies utilized by organizations to proactively prepare their organization to maintain a union-free environment
- How to determine the vulnerability of their organization to organizing
- Key issues for HR leaders to successfully manage a merger, acquisition or affiliation
- How to link strategic workforce

planning to your business and strategic plans

Featured speakers include Kevin Haerberle, Integrated Healthcare Strategies; Jo Zamora, IRI Consulting; Mary Novak-Jandrey, HR Advantage; and Jim Finkelstein, FutureSense®, Inc.

Program cost for the Montebello session is \$250 for members and \$350 for nonmembers. To register online, go to <https://www.signup4.net/Public/ap.aspx?EID=2013527E>.

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Palliative Care Transitions a Hot Topic for Hospital Industry

With attention on Medicare spending and the coming silver Tsunami, health care business-focused magazine *Modern Healthcare* recently featured alternatives to repeated hospitalization, namely community-based care, written by HASC's VP of Payer/Provider and Member Relations George Mack and Companion Management Group's Sr. VP Steve Nahm.

As the population ages and the number of people on Medicare increases, so will health care costs, rendering unsustainable the care delivered using the same pathways. More comprehensive and engaged caregiver teams that include physicians, palliative care

specialists, geriatric practitioners, pharmacists, social workers and patient navigators in community-based care settings, will help provide appropriate care in settings outside of hospital settings.

Models for this new era of care will be presented by Dr. Mark Livingston of CareRx at the upcoming Palliative Care Transitions Conference, Feb. 26, at the Hilton Pasadena. Also featured will be other experts in palliative care including Dr. Robert Bear; Dr. Richard Brumley, GeriNet; Pat Forman, The Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare; Dr. Parag Bharadwaj, Cedars-Sinai Medical

Center; and Dr. Mark Leenay, OptumHealth.

Themed *Growing Continuum Conversations*, the conference aims to widen the discussion on care beyond the acute-care settings and break down barriers inhibiting optimal care delivery at all points in the care continuum.

For more information about the conference, please visit www.hasc.org/2013palliativecareconference.

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2013 Colloquium A Success

HASC hosted its 5th Annual Southern California Patient Safety Colloquium January 23, at the Hyatt Regency, Orange County. Two keynotes and 18 different breakout sessions presented on the theme “*What’s Best and What’s Next*” to inform and inspire 370 attendees from more than 75 hospitals and other health care organizations in their efforts to improve quality and patient safety.

Covered topics spanned critical issues impacting quality, availability and cost of care today, including surgical



Left to right: Julia Slininger, HASC VP, Quality & Patient Safety; Jim Barber, HASC president/CEO; keynote Charles Denham, chairman, Texas Medical Institute of Technology/CEO, Healthcare Concepts Corporation.

safety, wellness in the workplace, sepsis management, palliative care, acute hemorrhage, Lean-centered approaches to HAI prevention, and much more. Opening keynote speaker Charles Denham personalized stories of loss and reform in health care; preparing for the future and partnering with physicians was the strategic focus of the Executive Track; and the closing keynote, Julia Slininger, HASC VP, Quality and Patient Safety, refocused the room with her presentation, “A Patient-Centered Approach to Building a JUST Culture - with Justice, Understanding, Safety, and Trust.”

HASC would like to thank the many sponsors for their generous support of this year’s event.

Generally held in January, planning is underway for 2014. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

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Executive Track speaker Michael Hunn, Sr. VP/Regional Chief Executive Providence Health & Services – Southern California, presents practical pointers for maintaining successful partnerships with physicians.



More than 360 health care professionals filled the main ballroom to hear keynote Charles Denham address *Chasing Zero*.



Upcoming Events

Feb. 22
[Lean Practitioners Course](#)

March 29
[LEAD Academy, Verdugo Hills Hospital](#)

May 8-10
[HASC Annual Meeting, St. Regis Monarch Beach Resort](#)

For more upcoming events, visit www.hasc.org/calendar.