



# HASC BRIEFS

## HASC Holds Readmissions Reduction Collaborative Kickoff Meeting

HASC's Readmissions Reduction Collaborative (RRC) held its kickoff session June 1 and 2 at the L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce in downtown Los Angeles. Thirty participants from seven area hospitals attended the two-day session, which included a focus on health care reform and the business case for preventing hospital readmissions, as well as interactive sessions to help hospitals evaluate their current discharge processes, discuss resources and barriers, and design initial action plans.

This Collaborative work is funded by a grant from L.A. Care Health Plan for hospitals with whom they contract for acute care services. Experts serving on the Collaborative include several

physicians from the Society for Hospital Medicine, who bring national expertise in implementing the BOOST (Better Outcomes for Older adults through Safer Transitions) initiative and toolkit all over the United States.

While strategies and tools to improve the initial post-acute phase of a patient care episode will benefit all patients, certain patients--particularly those who are elderly, have chronic conditions and/or who take multiple medications--are at a greater risk for readmission. The BOOST strategies and tools are aimed at addressing the special needs of these patients during the acute hospitalization phase, and improving planning and follow-through for the subsequent weeks.

HASC's RRC is unique compared to other BOOST Collaboratives across the country in that it will add another dimension to the teamwork. Each participant hospital will engage a facility in the post-acute setting, such as a nursing home or home health agency, to reach across the continuum of care to improve the hand-off for patients at highest risk of medical error or readmission. The goal is to gain shared knowledge about accountability for and coordination of the post-acute care episode, as the Collaborative focuses on patient-centered care during this year-long process.

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## Lean Practitioners Training Beginning June 24 Will Offer Certification Opportunity after Course Completion

The first session of the five-week *Lean Practitioners Course*, set for Friday, June 24, will focus on an overview of Lean and its application to health care enterprises.

The subsequent four weeks of the training will focus on the following topics:

- July 8 - Introduction to the Measure Phase of Lean.
- July 15 - In-depth overview of waste and waste assessment techniques.
- July 22 - In-depth overview of

the Improve Phase of Lean.

- July 29 - Introduction to the Control Phase of Lean.

Designed for health care professionals, this five-session workshop provides a comprehensive introduction to Lean methods and tools proven to eliminate waste, reduce costs, improve quality, and deliver greater value to organizations. Each session incorporates real-world simulations and exercises. Qualified participants may enroll for the Lean Practitioners Certification Exam at

UCLA Extension to become a Certified Lean Practitioner after completing the course.

The course is presented by HASC in collaboration with the University of California Los Angeles, School of Public Health, and the Institute for Performance Excellence. Registration is available online at <http://www.cvent.com/events/lean-practitioners-course/event-summary-309165d161964fb8b1d42e654d581073.aspx>.

*Continued on page 2*

## Registration Now Open for Hospital Wellness Conference

Registration is now available online for the First Annual Hospital Wellness Conference at <http://www.event.com/d/zdq63b>.

HASC has partnered with the Corporate Health and Wellness Association to provide an educational platform surrounding employee health and wellness within hospitals and health care providers in the region. One of the key reasons for hospitals to improve their health and wellness programs, as mentioned by the American Hospital Association's January 2011 Call to Action, is to

provide an example of health to the community. Top challenges hospitals have faced when attempting to implement effective health and wellness programs include motivating employees over time, managing financial restraints or limitations, measuring program effectiveness and ROI, and creating a culture of health.

"HASC is proud to partner with the Corporate Health and Wellness Association to sponsor this important conference that will highlight the critical role hospitals and other health care providers play in their

communities in creating a culture of health," said Teri Hollingsworth, vice president of Human Resources Services at HASC. "This informative event will present examples of employee wellness initiatives from leading hospitals and provide strategies and tactics to assist organizations seeking to start or enhance their existing wellness program."

A full program brochure is available at <http://www.hasc.org/download.cfm?ID=31421>.

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## Still Time to Register for Administrative Professionals Forum June 17

Please mark your calendar for the third annual Administrative Professionals Forum sponsored by HASC. This is a free event for administrative professionals from HASC member hospitals.

Among the key topics for this year's forum:

- Health Care Reform – What Does It Mean?

Jim Lott, Executive Vice President, Health Care Policy Development

& Communications

- Directors Desk – Board Portal  
Tina Buringa, Directors Desk Demonstration
- Lean Six Sigma Training  
Michele Graynor, Vice President, Hospital Operations
- Taking Control of Your Job and Your Life  
Julia Slininger, RN, BS, CPHQ, Director, Quality Improvement

The program will take place at

the HASC Los Angeles Office from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., with registration and continental breakfast at 8:30. The registration deadline is June 10. A complete brochure and registration form is available online at <http://www.hasc.org/download.cfm?ID=31376>.

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### *Lean Course from page 1*

The workshop is intended for health care professionals interested in delivering greater value to the organization, including nursing, allied health, business office, support services, service line, admissions, planning, development, ambulatory care, emergency room, laboratory, pharmacy, safety, and

quality professionals. The course will be taught by Jennifer Wortham, Dr.PH, a Certified Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt. Dr. Wortham has previously held positions as managing director of American Health Management and service-line administrator for outpatient and post-acute care services at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

The full-day sessions will take

place from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Fountain Valley Regional Hospital & Medical Center. The cost is \$1,250 for HASC members and \$1,500 for non-members.

Visit <http://www.hasc.org/download.cfm?ID=31295> for a complete program brochure.

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