



## Recuperative Care Program Results in Savings for Los Angeles Hospitals

For the period April 1, 2011 to June 30, 2011, the Recuperative Care Program, which serves both Los Angeles and Orange Counties, resulted in estimated savings of \$495,720 for Los Angeles County hospitals using the program.

The estimated cost to Los Angeles hospitals is \$2,279 per day, with patients staying an average of four additional days. (Source: *Kaiser Family Foundation State Health Facts*; figures reflect 2008 data, the most recent data available as of March 2011).

The Recuperative Care Program provides post-hospitalization health care services to homeless patients transitioning out of an acute care hospital. Patients receive basic

medical oversight in a clean, safe environment for an average of 10 days in order to recover from minor physical injuries or illnesses. Patient referrals are submitted by hospital case managers or discharge planners. The program was re-opened on Oct. 1, 2010 with a new service provider, Illumination Foundation.

Patients must meet the following criteria for admission into the program:

- Homeless and have an acute medical condition with an identifiable end point of care.
- Independent in mobility (walker, wheelchair accepted if able to transfer self).
- Independent in Activities of

Daily Living and medication administration.

- Continent of bladder and bowel. Medically and psychiatrically stable at discharge.

Billing for hospitals is based upon a hospital's actual program utilization at a per diem rate of \$200 per day and will occur at the end of each month. Hospitals may use the program as little or often as needed. It is estimated that as a result of participating in this program, a hospital will significantly reduce the costs (about \$1,200 per day) associated with caring for homeless inpatients for an extended period of time.

In order to use the program, a

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## Los Angeles Environmental Health Cancels Permit for Hospital Cafeterias

The Los Angeles County Public Health - Environmental Health Division is a regulatory agency responsible for enforcing state and local laws for the protection of public health. The division regulates a variety of entities that include restaurants, retail and wholesale markets, mobile food vehicles, farmer markets among others.

Public Health recently proposed to increase permit fees in FY 2011-12 in order to recover actual costs associated with these inspections.

Under this plan, cafeterias would have been tiered based on seating capacity and food handling risk, and most hospital cafeterias would have been placed either in a moderate or high-risk category.

HASC contacted Environmental Health (EH) to obtain clarification on the plan's proposed impact on a hospital cafeteria that serves both hospital inpatients and the public. EH was informed by the Department of Public Health that its Health Facilities Division is responsible for inspecting hospital

cafeterias that serve both patients and the public. EH will cancel the restaurant permit for any hospital cafeteria under the jurisdiction of the Health Facilities Division in order to prevent the duplication of services. A policy will be distributed to EH staff to prevent the permitting of these facilities in the future.

This policy change does not affect cafeterias that exclusively serve the public. In addition, all remodel or construction of a new

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## Riverside and San Bernardino Providers Commit to Health Information Exchange Project

The following providers have agreed to participate in the initial pilot for the Inland Empire Health Information Exchange:

### Riverside County

- Parkview Community Hospital
- Riverside Community Hospital
- Riverside Medical Group

### San Bernardino County

- Beaver Medical Group

• Loma Linda University Medical Center

The Riverside and San Bernardino County Boards of Supervisors have passed a resolution endorsing IEHIE as the Health Information Exchange for both counties. With a contribution from Inland Empire Health Plan, both counties' public hospitals, health

departments and clinics are participating in the program.

The IEHIE Committee is still in final negotiations with the vendor for the program, which is expected to be finalized at the end of August.

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## Thank You, Hospital Wellness Conference Sponsors

Thank you to the following sponsors and exhibitors of the first annual Hospital Wellness Conference, which is sold out for Aug. 4 at the California Endowment in Los Angeles.

### Platinum

- HealthHub
- USI Insurance

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- CARE Ambulance Service

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- Aetna
- TelePacific Communications

### Exhibitors

- Aetna
- CARE Ambulance Service
- GE Healthcare
- Keenan Health Care
- PayFlex
- Sprint Corp
- TelePacific Communications
- USI Insurance
- WellSource

The conference is presented by HASC and the Corporate Health & Wellness Association and will feature case studies of successful wellness program implementation and employee engagement practices. It has been approved for 4.75 HR Certification Institute recertification credits.

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## July 13 Southern California Patient Safety Collaborative Track III Meeting Focuses on Perinatal Safety

The July 13 Track III meeting of the Southern California Patient Safety Collaborative, focusing on Perinatal Safety, drew 75 attendees.

*Fast Facts*, a one-page meeting summary of highlights, is distributed after the meeting. This communication tool is designed to offer senior leaders the information shared and to provide a tool that can be used to facilitate a short debriefing with meeting attendees. For *Fast Facts* from this meeting, please visit [http://www.hasc.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/fastfacts\\_track\\_iii\\_071311.pdf](http://www.hasc.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/fastfacts_track_iii_071311.pdf).

Key topics from the meeting included:

- TeamSTEPPS helps prevent birth trauma
- Quantitative Progress - Reaching for our Goal!  
*Julia Slininger, RN, BS, CPHQ, Hospital Association of Southern California*
- The Neurologically Compromised Newborn: A Checklist for the First 24 Hours  
*Larry Veltman, M.D., FACOG, Risk Management & Patient Safety Institute*
- Connecting the Docs! Can

regional collaboration and telemedicine in the IE improve patient outcomes and ease the burdens of providing complex care?

*Gretchen Page, MPH, CNM Inland Counties Regional Perinatal Program, Glen Thomazin MD, IEHP, Denise Cummins, LLUMC Perinatal Institute, Rosa Ortega, MCH Director St. Mary Medical Center*

- The March of Dimes Perinatal Safety Project Update  
*Victoria Lombardo, Associate State Director of Program Services*

SCPSC meetings are presented

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## New Lean Practitioners Course Scheduled for October

Mark your calendar now for the next session of *HASC's Lean Practitioners Course* in collaboration with the University of California Los Angeles, School of Public Health, and the Institute for Performance Excellence. Course dates are set for Oct. 14, Oct. 28, Nov. 11 and Dec. 2 at Valley Presbyterian Hospital.

The final course of the Lean workshop that began June 24 took place July 29. Over the five-course session, the curriculum for health care professionals covered a comprehensive introduction to Lean methods and tools proven to eliminate waste, reduce costs, improve quality, and deliver greater value to organizations. Each session incorporated real-world simulations and exercises.

The course focuses on how to:

- Align performance improvement initiatives with your organization's strategic plan
- Use lean tools to create a Lean Improvement Pathway and standardize work
- Use Value Stream Management for improvement planning
- Lead a Kaizen improvement event

The workshop is intended for health care professionals interested



Students participated in a group session to document and increase the efficiency of their class railway project in this segment of the Lean Practitioners course.

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 and consultant with more than 20 years of experience in the development and implementation of performance improvement programs, market development, and strategic alignment for health plans and

health care delivery systems. Qualified participants may enroll for the Lean Practitioners Certification Exam at UCLA Extension to become a Certified Lean Practitioner after completing the course.

The session beginning in October will be a four-course, eight and a half hour series. The cost is \$1,250 for HASC members and \$1,500 for non-members. Space is limited; register today at [www.cvent.com/d/vcqn31/4W](http://www.cvent.com/d/vcqn31/4W).

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hospital cafeteria will still require plan review and approval by the Environmental Health Division's Plan Check Section. Once EH issues approval to operate, hospital cafeterias that serve a dual function will be transferred to the Health Facilities Division for inspection.

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by HASC, Health Services Advisory Group and the National Health Foundation, and take place at Pacific Palms Conference Resort, Industry Hills.

Partners for *Patient Safety First...a California Partnership for Health* include:

- Anthem Blue Cross

- The three regional hospital associations of California: Southern California, San Diego & Imperial Counties, and Northern & Central California

- The National Health Foundation

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## Next HASC/Wound Care Education Institute Training and Certification Will Take Place Oct. 10-14

The next session of HASC and Wound Care Education Institute's training and certification will take place Oct. 10-14 at Children's Hospital Orange County.

Registration is \$2,297 with coupon code HASC2010. The registration form is available at <http://www.hasc.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/has-capp12.7.10.pdf>.

HASC member hospitals, in partnership with the Health Services Advisory Group (the California QIO), are working to

accelerate improvement in wound care and pressure ulcer prevention through the Southern California Patient Safety Collaborative. This collaborative is part of *Patient Safety First... a California Partnership for Health*, which is funded by Anthem Blue Cross.

Toward this end, HASC and Wound Care Education Institute have joined forces to significantly reduce the incidence and severity of pressure ulcers among patients served by Southern California's hospitals, long-term care providers

and home health agencies. By offering the skin and wound management course with the WCC® certification exam, their goal will be to improve specialized wound care education, skills and certification of nursing staff, and to dramatically expand the pool of talent available to hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities and home health agencies trained in the prevention and treatment of pressure ulcers.

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## News from PDS

PDS welcomes Torrance Memorial Medical Center to its expanding community of PDS hospitals.

PDS is a web-based tool providing hospital market intelligence and revenue management based upon paid claims data. Uses include strategic planning,

market analysis/benchmarking, business development and contract negotiation via case-mix and volume adjusted reporting in user defined peer groups.

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### *Recuperative Care*

one-page preliminary referral form is emailed or faxed from the hospital to National Health Foundation (NHF). NHF will fax the form to Illumination Foundation, which will make the determination within

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four business hours as to whether or not the patient is eligible for recuperative care services at the facility.

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