



L.A. Department of Health Services Proposes Reduced Reimbursement Rate for PSIP

The Department of Health Services (DHS) has informed the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors that, due to the FY 2009-2010 state budget funding reductions to the Physician Services for Indigents Program (PSIP), the continued increase in claim volume, and a slight increase in payment per claim, DHS is proposing a reduction in the PSIP reimbursement rate from 18 percent to 12 percent for all outstand-

ing claims FY 2010-2011, and a reduction in the rate for FY 2011-2012 to 14 percent of the Official County Fee Schedule. DHS has stopped payment of FY 2010-2011 claims and will resume payment when the Board approves the reduced rate.

PSIP has historically been funded by a combination of EMS/Maddy Funds, Los Angeles County Measure B property assessment funds and EMSA funds.

This reduced reimbursement rate could result in PSIP ER reimbursement rates falling below 50 percent of Medi-Cal payments, which will exacerbate an already challenging situation by limiting the availability of physicians willing to be on-call to a private ER.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors will take action on this matter in the coming weeks.

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HASC Opposes Proposed Solid Waste Franchise for Los Angeles Hospitals

The comment period for the issue of Solid Resources Citywide Recycling for Los Angeles has been extended to Friday, Oct. 7.

HASC believes the current exclusive franchise proposal plan is silent on the unique service and need of hospitals as it relates to the handling of regulated medical waste and pharmaceutical disposal. The creation of waste sheds will impair a hospital's ability to contract with a specialized waste hauler, which the California Department of Public Health regulates. Health and Safety Code Section 118000, under the Medical Waste Management Act, outlines

the manner in which such waste shall be transported, as well as addresses the requirement that such waste be separated from other types of waste.

A hospital may also contract with multiple companies to handle its various waste streams. Factors taken into consideration include pricing, experience, environmental goals and regulatory compliance. Under the exclusive waste shed franchise proposal, the option and ability for a hospital to select and negotiate with a particular waste hauler would be eliminated.

For these reasons, HASC encourages the Bureau of

Sanitation to exempt hospitals from the exclusive waste shed concept based on the regulatory requirements they must adhere to. An attempt to incorporate hospitals into a waste shed proposal can place a local ordinance in conflict with state and federal requirements as outlined in the Medical Waste Management Act.

Hospitals can continue to provide comments to HASC regarding this issue. Organizations can also submit comments directly to the City of Los Angeles - Department of Public Works at <http://san.lacity.org/>.

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Session on Nurse Staffing Will Take Place Nov. 2 at HASC Los Angeles Office

Understanding the Journey in Nurse Staffing, a half-day interactive seminar that will provide information on the current and future state of the nursing workforce, is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 2 at the HASC Los Angeles Office.

Participants will learn strategies to proactively develop an effective nursing workforce staffing plan that will lead to quality patient care. Course objectives include identifying current nursing workforce trends; describing the steps to create a succession plan for management and staff RNs; defining the staffing climate of an organiza-

tion; and explaining the key considerations for building an internal staff float pool.

After an introduction from Christian Hon, regional sales director, ShiftWise, the event will include the following topics/speakers:

- *Nursing Workforce Trends*
Deloras Jones, RN, MS, executive director, California Institute for Nursing & Health Care
- *Succession Planning*
Patricia Hines, PhD, RN, vice president, The Camden Group
- *The Staffing Climate in Nursing: Concept and Application*
Holly A. De Groot, PhD, RN,

FAAN, chief executive officer, Catalyst Systems, LLC

- *How to Build an Internal Float Pool*

Christian Hon, Regional Sales Director, ShiftWise
Jeff Niles, Vice President, Sales and Marketing, ShiftWise

This session is open to HASC hospital members and is free of charge. Seating is limited. To register online for this event, please visit <http://events.SignUp4.com/nursingstaffprogram>.

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November CalFresh Orientations Will Focus on Connecting Medi-Cal Patients with Food Programs

HASC and the Los Angeles County of Department Social Services will host a community outreach orientation for Los Angeles County HASC hospitals focusing on connecting Medi-Cal patients with access to the benefits of CalFresh, the new name for California's Food Stamp Program (also known on the Federal level as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP).

CalFresh provides assistance for low income individuals and families to purchase nutritious foods. A cost-benefit analysis examining 10

common nutritional-related diseases/conditions such as colorectal cancer, heart disease, stroke hypertension, Type 2 diabetes and obesity, indicated that every \$1.00 invested in an a nutrition access program produces \$10.64 in benefits from reduced health care cost, according to a 2009 Year-End Report from the North Carolina Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program.

The orientations are scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 9, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. or Tuesday, Nov. 15, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. The orientations

will take place at Beverly Gain Region, 2910 W. Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles. Sessions are geared toward hospital staff in the following areas: admitting, business office, patient financial services, social work, case management/discharge planning, human resources, and dietitians/nutritionists.

Space is limited. To register by Nov. 2, please contact Dominique Diaz at (714) 750-0788, ext. 16 or ddiaz@hasc.org.

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PDS University Presents Webinar on Contract Negotiations

PDS University presents *Getting Ready for Contract Negotiations*, a webinar scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 6 at 11 a.m. The 20-minute interactive session will focus on

how PDS data can be a powerful tool to help hospitals prepare for negotiating contracts.

Register today at <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/reg>

ister/210899298. You may also contact PDS to schedule a one-on-one training.

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Hospitals Are Encouraged to Sign Up for Partnership for Patients Initiative

CHA and HASC's Public Advocacy Program is launching a statewide patient safety campaign that will showcase efforts by California community hospitals to reduce hospital-acquired infections and other preventable conditions like pressure ulcers and patient falls. The campaign, titled *Caring is Our Calling*, will positively position hospitals and highlight shared responsibility with patients and their families. The public campaign will include earned media placement, digital and social media, and

paid advertising components.

One of the cornerstones of the earned media program will be California's universal commitment to the *Partnership for Patients* program, a U.S. Health and Human Services initiative aimed at reducing hospital-acquired conditions nationally by 40 percent by 2013. To date, approximately 240 hospitals throughout California have signed the pledge.

The goal is to have 100 percent of California hospitals join the partnership. The *Partnership for*

Patients initiative will build on the numerous steps hospitals are already taking to develop a culture of safety and improve quality outcomes within their organizations, and position California hospitals as leaders in the area of patient safety.

For more information and to sign the *Partnership for Patients* pledge, go to <http://partnershippledge.healthcare.gov>.

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Sept. 21 Southern California Patient Safety Collaborative Track II Meeting Focuses on Pressure Ulcers, Readmissions and Care Transitions

The Sept. 21 Track II meeting of the Southern California Patient Safety Collaborative, focusing on Pressure Ulcers, Readmissions and Care Transitions, drew 105 attendees.

Key topics from the meeting included:

- *National Initiative, Local Implementation: Care Transitions*
- *Support from Hospital to Home for Elders Intervention*

Panel presentations from Newly Formed Care Transition Community Coalitions in California focused on the following topics:

- *San Diego's Area Agency on*

Aging and the Aging and Disability Resource Center

- *San Fernando Valley's Care Transition Experiences*

SCPSC meetings are presented by HASC, Health Services Advisory Group and the National Health Foundation, and take place at Pacific Palms Conference Resort, Industry Hills. Final meeting dates for 2011 are:

- Track I (Hospital-Acquired Infections, Sepsis Mortality and Surgical Care Improvement Project) - Nov. 8
- Track III (Perinatal Safety) - Nov. 15

- Track II (Pressure Ulcers, Readmissions and Care Transitions) - Dec. 13

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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Visit HASC on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/socalhospnews>.

Visit HASC on LinkedIn at www.linkedin.com/company/hospital-association-of-southern-california.

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Space Available for October HASC/Wound Care Education Institute Training

Register now for HASC and Wound Care Education Institute's (WCEI) training and certification, scheduled to 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](http://www.hasc.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/has-capp12.7.10.pdf).

HASC and WCEI have joined forces on a new initiative that will bring the Wound Care Certified (WCC®) credential to Southern California's hospitals, long-term care providers and home health agencies. The goal of this collaboration is 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 skin and wound issues.

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Limited Spaces Still Available for 2011 HASC Charity Golf Classic

Register your players for the 2011 Charity Golf Classic, set for Monday, Oct. 17, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Oakmont Country Club in Glendale.

The annual event allows c-suite health care executives, physician leadership and other hospital staff to enjoy a day of golf with colleagues while supporting the National Health Foundation (NHF) and their work to improve care in

underserved communities. NHF, a charitable, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation, is at the forefront of recuperative care in Los Angeles and Orange Counties, as well as teen pregnancy education and chronic disease management.

The event includes breakfast and an evening reception, with opportunities to win prizes and network with HASC members and other

key representatives in health care.

Tax deductible sponsorship opportunities are available for member hospitals and corporate partners. For more information about sponsorship, visit www.hasc.org/CharityGolfClassic. To participate, register online at <http://bit.ly/qkJ4xn>.

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Palliative Care Committee Renamed Care Transitions

At its most recent meeting, the HASC Palliative Care Committee officially changed its name to the Care Transitions Committee. The change better reflects the efficiencies gained through patient care integration across the post-acute care continuum. The committee will continue to encourage the growth of hospital-based palliative care programs and represent palliative care professionals in the HASC membership.

The Palliative Care/Care Transitions Committee serves as a network for health care professionals to exchange information and help create and strengthen existing palliative care programs. Members

now include physicians, nurses, social workers, chaplains, nurse practitioners, hospice and other post-acute care providers. The group's goal is to establish palliative care programs in 50 percent of Southern California's acute-care hospitals. The next committee meeting is scheduled for Dec. 1 at the HASC Los Angeles Office.

Also at the most recent meeting, guest presenters from the Joyce Eisenberg Keefer Medical Center-- Molly Forrest, president/CEO; Arnold Possick, vice president, Community-Based Services; and Dr. Esiquio Casillas, associate medical director & Home/Community-Based Services--

-demonstrated a comprehensive service model addressing care transitions, short-term rehabilitation, psychiatric care, palliative care, hospice and community-based care for seniors. Sixty percent of the population served by the medical center's parent organization, the Jewish Home, were in diverse post-acute care settings.

The meeting agenda also included:

- Training updates for POLST implementation
- 2012 Palliative Care Conference planning
- Joint Commission Palliative Care certification information

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