



HASC Briefs

In This Issue:

- [Los Angeles County Issues Order for Annual Influenza Vaccination Programs for Health Care Personnel](#) 1
- [Disaster Network Expansion Includes Non-Acute Care Providers](#) 1
- [Innovative Approaches to Senior Care the Focus at Conference on Aging](#) 2
- [HASC, CDPH Sponsor Inland Roundtable Focusing on the Survey Process](#) 2

Los Angeles County Issues Order for Annual Influenza Vaccination Programs for Health Care Personnel

To lower the risk of transmission of influenza to patients in licensed acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities and intermediate care facilities in Los Angeles County, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has issued an order mandating that licensed facilities supplement their existing obligation to assist their health care personnel to obtain influenza vaccinations by requiring that those personnel who decline to be vaccinated wear a mask when they are in contact with patients during the annual influenza season, Nov. 1 to March 31. Facilities in Pasadena and Long Beach are excluded as these cities operate their own public health departments.

By law, acute care hospitals in California must annually offer free influenza vaccinations on-site to their employees and require all to be vaccinated; any employee who elects not to be vaccinated must provide the hospital with a written declaration that he or she has declined the vaccination.

For additional information regarding this Health Officer Order, a fact sheet and FAQs can be found at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Immunization Program website at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip/>.

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Disaster Network Expansion Includes Non-Acute Care Providers

Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMS) has partnered with HASC (ReddiNet) and the California Association of Health Facilities (CAHF) to define and activate emergency responder roles for 300 long-term care facilities (LTCs) in the County. In a major disaster such as an earthquake, fire, flood, or epidemic, long-term care facilities are an essential part of the health care network in providing assistance for patients. Beds, supplies and personnel are all key resources. In its role as emergency medical coordinator, the EMS Agency needs to have quick, easy access to all available resources to effectively manage an event.

by CAHF and using ReddiNet, these organizations will exchange information on facility service level, patients and resources. Including these facilities greatly enhances the ability of EMS to identify and allocate resources, optimizing assistance.

“Having ReddiNet at LTCs will allow LA County to quickly send out messages and assessment polls, making emergency response coordination for this sector of the health care system more efficient – from a simple generator or air conditioner request to a facility evacuation and patient placement,” said Roel Amara, Chief, Disaster Medical Management for LA County.

After the drill, the objective is to add 100 LTCs each year and look for value-added communication features on ReddiNet for LTCs to use on a daily basis.

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Recent news in the HASC region: Temecula Valley Hospital opens for patient care. See page 2.

Starting in November with the statewide emergency drill, 11 LTCs will participate in responding to a food borne illness. Selected

Innovative Approaches to Senior Care the Focus at Conference on Aging

HASC's first Conference on Aging, held Oct. 15, at Crowne Plaza Resort Anaheim-Garden Grove, offered an audience of more than 70 people insight on improving health care for seniors. The event drew a variety of professionals working with the aging population including doctors, nurses, social workers, hospital and health plan administrators, counselors, and community educators.

Keynote speaker W. June Simmons, president and CEO of Partners in Care Foundation, presented ways to bring medicine, patients and community-based services together to avoid unnecessary readmissions and make a critical difference in the way care is delivered to seniors.

Karol Swartzlander, ADRC program director for California Health and Human Services Agency, highlighted changes trending in community-based government services. Three breakout tracks examined financial elder abuse, innovations in senior care and community resources for caregivers.

The event's timely topics come just as changes get underway for Medicare and as the Accountable Care Act rolls out addi-

tional provisions that impact hospitals' ability to deliver on the greater demands for care.

Innovations in care delivery, like telehealth services or remote monitoring technology, offer opportunities to provide better, more cost effective care to populations that often use services at a higher frequency, the result of chronic conditions and insufficiently connected care networks. Telehealth brings care to the person wherever they are, reducing the burden going back and forth to non-essential appointments can place on seniors.

A recurring theme of this event was the importance of developing community partnerships and the ways in which quality of care and quality of life are intertwined for these vulnerable populations. Access to patient/family/caregiver collaborations, community linkages, and tools to prevent or treat caregiver burnout were some key resources cited.

"I'm not from this area and I came to get insight about the resources [available] and to get connected to

things down here," said Kathy Lee, social worker with Community Memorial Hospital in Ventura.

Event organizer Ana Reza, vice president of Patient Access Services for HASC, reiterated the value of making these connections.

"Patients and their caregivers need access to programs and resources appropriate for their needs and interests," Reza said. "These may include medical care, healthy living activities, educational programs, caregiver support, and community referrals through the most up-to-date technologies and evidence-based information. Continued effort is needed to implement innovative strategies that promote healthy aging."

Presentation slides are available online at www.hasc.org/photo-gallery/2013-hasc-conference-aging.

Thank you to our sponsors, L.A. Care Health Plan and Dignity Memorial, for supporting the event. For more information about the event, or to provide feedback, please contact Maria Velez, (714) 750-2688, mvelez@hasc.org.

HASC, CDPH Sponsor Inland Roundtable Focusing on the Survey Process

HASC, in conjunction with the California Department of Public Health - Licensing & Certification (San Bernardino District Office & Riverside District Office), convened a roundtable last week with area hospitals to discuss different types of surveys, what triggers the survey, and what facilities can expect during the survey process.

The meeting took place at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center and included a

discussion of these specific topics:

- The role of consultants (medical, pharmacy and dietary) during the survey
- Overview of the adverse events/immediate jeopardy administrative penalty
- Issues/concerns with electronic medical records
- An opportunity for Q & A and dialogue with colleagues and CDPH

staff on shared issues of concern

Approximately 80 participants from both Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, including nine hospital CEOs, attended this first meeting. The intent was to provide a forum to network in a non-threatening environment, gain insight, ask questions and build relationships.

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Recent Events

Temecula Valley Hospital Opens for Patient Care

Temecula Valley Hospital opened its doors for patient care on Oct. 14. The emergency department went into operation quickly, seeing 12 patients by 4 p.m. and 24 patients by midnight. Temecula Valley Hospital provides a comprehensive range of hospital services including emergency care, surgical suites equipped with advanced technology and private patient rooms.

Riverside EMSA Designate Inland Valley Medical Center Level II Trauma

The Riverside County Emergency Medical Services Agency announced that Inland Valley Medical Center (IVMC) has completed all of the requirements to be designated as a Level II Trauma Center. This designation became effective Oct. 1, 2013. This designation now allows for neuro-trauma patients originating in the southwest part of Riverside County to be transported directly to IVMC.