

**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 2, 2004**

**SB 443, An Act Allowing Outpatients to Receive
Collaborative Disease Therapy Management**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) supports **SB 443, An Act Allowing Outpatients to Receive Collaborative Disease Therapy Management**, which would extend collaborative drug therapy management agreements to the outpatient setting. Extending the ability to utilize collaborative agreements to the outpatient setting will facilitate the care of patients in outpatient settings such as Anticoagulation Clinics or Asthma Clinics. We believe this bill will promote patient care by allowing hospitals the flexibility to involve pharmacists more directly in drug management activities in all hospital settings.

We suggest that the Committee add language emphasizing that any action taken by a pharmacist pursuant to a drug therapy management agreement and protocol is equivalent to an order by a physician for purposes of conducting laboratory tests and administering medication. This change is necessary in part because Section 19a-36-D29 of the Connecticut regulations only permits laboratories to accept specimens “when requested by a licensed physician or other licensed person authorized by law to make diagnoses.”

We strongly support the concept of collaborative practice and believe that this minor modification to SB 443 will help to facilitate smooth implementation of collaborative practice relationships.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

JAP:mb