

HOSPITALS and Population Health

Healthcare is profoundly changing, focusing on models of care designed to support keeping people healthy and reducing costs, and tying payments for hospital and provider care to the value of that care.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services refers to this as the Triple Aim: “Better Health, Better Care and Smarter Spending.” Establishing new delivery models and payment systems is under way nationally, and Connecticut’s hospitals are actively engaged in this transition. New investments, partnerships, and coordination across multiple healthcare and community settings are required to ensure that all patients are supported, prevent and manage acute and chronic disease, address the social determinants of health such as housing, food, and transportation, and improve health outcomes.

What is Population Health?

Population health addresses health outcomes of groups of people and can be focused on various priority areas such as geography, disease or condition, and socio-economic status. CHA is advancing population health strategies and health equity through data analysis, care coordination, and health improvement across the continuum. Population health management involves analyzing patient data, identifying trends and areas of need, and developing clinical and other supports to improve health and reduce cost.

The Role of Hospitals in Promoting Population Health

Hospitals play a continually expanding role in improving population health. Through their Community Health Needs Assessments and ongoing data analyses, and in collaboration with state and local public health and community organizations, hospitals are identifying community needs and finding solutions to improve the well-being of people in Connecticut. Hospitals provide a wide variety of outreach and support services aimed at improving population health, such as primary and preventive care to manage diabetes, asthma, and other chronic conditions, healthy lifestyle education programs, and crisis intervention. Hospitals frequently convene local healthcare and social service organizations and provide leadership and support in developing strategies to meet community needs.



Health Improvement: A Statewide Approach

CHA is focused on a statewide approach to improving the health of Connecticut’s communities and reducing health disparities. With member hospitals and a broad base of clinical, community, and agency partners, CHA works to improve health, reduce cost, and achieve health equity.

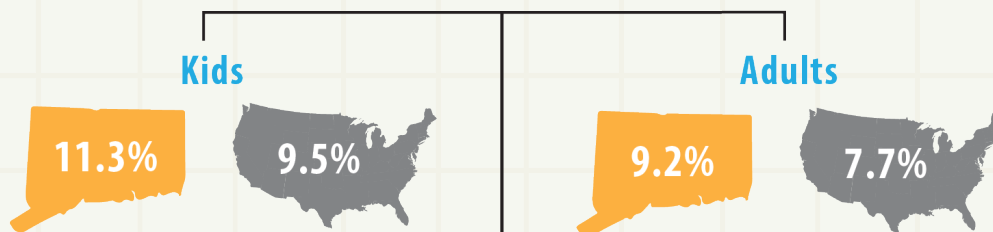
Connecticut Asthma Initiative

Through examination of multiple data sources, hospitals found asthma to be a common and persistent health issue that disproportionately affects certain populations. Not only are Connecticut’s asthma prevalence rates for children and adults higher than the national average, the data show that African American and Latino patients are more likely to end up in the hospital for asthma.

In response, CHA and member hospitals developed the Connecticut Asthma Initiative (CAI), a statewide collaborative of more than 200 members. The collaborative adopted clinical interventions in partnership with clinicians, asthma program experts, state officials, and other stakeholders. The interventions, drawn from nationally recognized evidence-based practices, are focused on patient teaching for effective use of medication, clear instructions and plans of care, and connection and follow-up with a primary care practitioner.

ASTHMA is a problem in Connecticut

More kids and adults in CT have asthma than the US average.



¹ BRFSS 2010, BRFSS 2008-20

Hospitals began implementing CAI interventions in January 2016 through “hospital-community partnerships” (HCPs) and diverse work groups that planned and facilitated the improvement of asthma care and outcomes. As HCPs continue to make significant progress, CAI is focused on social determinants of health such as housing, school practices, and transportation that must also be addressed if clinical interventions are to succeed.

Compassionate End-of-Life Care Initiative

In support of patients who contend with serious chronic illness and deserve the best quality of care to manage both symptoms of illness and family issues that arise, CHA and its member hospitals, as well as partners across the continuum, are creating a statewide, evidence-based, compassionate end-of-life care strategy. Representatives from hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home care and hospice, payers, and patient advocates meet regularly to review current data and best practices on end-of-life care. The resulting statewide initiative will support decision-making based on each patient’s goals of care, and ensure access to the highest quality healthcare and support services.

CHA Health Equity Collaborative

More than five years ago, CHA created an initiative to reduce healthcare disparities through increased diversity in hospital governance and management and improved cultural competence. The Health Equity Collaborative continues in this regard through education and promotion of the American Hospital Association’s #123for Equity Pledge to Act to Eliminate Health Care Disparities. The Pledge calls upon hospitals to examine quality data, identify and

address health disparities, provide cultural competence training, and assess how governance reflects the organization’s community.

Ongoing Population Health Work

CHA continues to analyze data for hospital utilization and readmission trends, community needs, social determinants of health, and other factors with the goal of improving healthcare and reducing disparities. The association also identifies programs that have been used successfully in other states to maximize care in the community, (e.g., employing community health workers in a variety of venues or implementing Mobile Integrated Health, a collaboration of emergency medical services and home care that has been shown to improve population health and decrease hospital utilization).

How Legislators Can Help

We ask that you support:

- Adequate reimbursement for the home visit/patient education model for asthma care.
- System-wide adoption of asthma plans of care in schools.
- Adequate reimbursement for Community Health Workers.
- Regulatory initiatives such as Mobile Integrated Health.

For additional information, please contact CHA Government Relations at (203) 294-7310.