Wisconsin Hospitals Continue to Prepare Staff to Identify, Isolate and Provide Initial Treatment to Suspected or Confirmed Cases of Ebola

WHA commends three health systems for stepping forward

While the likelihood of an Ebola case in Wisconsin remains low, hospitals across the state are actively drilling, reviewing infection-related protocols and training on the newest standards for personal protective equipment to ensure they are prepared for the possibility of an Ebola case in Wisconsin. The safety of patients, health care workers and the community is at the forefront of all their planning and response efforts.

On October 28, three health systems—Froedtert Health, UW Hospitals and Clinics, and Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin—stepped forward to accept the critical role in providing treatment to Ebola patients, if the situation presents anywhere in the state.

“WHA commends these three exemplary health systems for assuming this important role and in ensuring that if Wisconsin has a confirmed case, the patient will receive the crucial care they need to fight this terrible disease,” said Wisconsin Hospital Association President Steve Brenton. “The designation of these three hospitals for treatment is just one piece of an overall, statewide coordinated strategy that

The next weekly webcast for Wisconsin’s Ebola response will be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2014 at 2:00pm. A link for this webcast and previous webcasts can be found at: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/diseasepages/ebolawebcasts.htm.

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WHA Health Law Manuals Webinar Series Attracts Over 1,000 Participants

WHA concluded its nine-part webinar series showcasing the 2013 WHA Health Law Manuals, which were updated from their original 2005 publication date and republished last year. The webinar series was hugely popular, with over 1,000 registrants participating over the summer through fall this year. The webinars, along with the manuals themselves, were available exclusively to WHA members.

The manuals provide WHA members a concise and centralized resource for state and federal health law issues. Titles of the individual manuals are: Consent; Deaths and Donation of Blood, Organs & Tissue; Managing Health Information; Medical Staff, Labor & Employment; Mental Health Issues; Patient Discharge & Transfer; Patients’ Rights, IRB, HIV & Other Miscellaneous Issues; Record Retention; Reproduction; Signs & Postings in Hospitals; and Special Issues Facing Tax-Exempts.

WHA partnered with several law firms to bring its members the updated manuals and the webinar series: Hall Render Killian Heath & Lyman, Quarles & Brady, Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren, von Briesen & Roper, Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek. WHA acknowledges these firms for their excellent work and for offering WHA members these valuable educational opportunities. (continued on page 3)
The manuals are available for WHA members to view and download at www.wha.org/healthLawManual.aspx. WHA members who would like to access the manuals should contact webmaster@wha.org to request a username and password. If you missed any of the webinars, you may contact Andrew Brenton, WHA assistant general counsel, at abrenton@wha.org for copies of the PowerPoint presentations associated with each webinar.

**Member News: Mercy Health System and Rockford Health System to Merge**

Mercy Health System and Rockford Health System announced they are merging to create a multi-regional health system comprised of five hospitals, more than 550 physicians, and 80 outpatient clinics and other service sites in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. The Boards of Directors of the two organizations approved the creation of the new, as yet unnamed health system on October 23. The new system will continue to operate as a not-for-profit organization with a charitable mission to provide excellent medical care close to home.

“Rockford Health System is an exceptional health care provider with an outstanding group of well-respected specialists, sub-specialists and primary care providers with a mission, vision and values that mirror our own,” said Mercy Health System President/CEO Javon R. Bea. “By thoughtfully aligning our organizations, Mercy Health System and Rockford Health System will create a regional system that honors our existing legacies while strengthening both systems for the future.”

Mercy Health System and Rockford Health System will both maintain their respective names.

**Webinar Examines Effect of ICD-10 on Data Analytics and Reporting**

On December 4, WHA is offering a complimentary webinar intended to help health care providers develop an understanding of the far-reaching scope of ICD-10 implementation on data analytics and reporting.

This free webinar, “ICD-10 Intersects Data Analytics: Evaluating the Impact on Financials, Quality Metrics and Other Reporting,” will be presented by Debbie Rickelman, vice president and privacy officer for WHA Information Center. She will discuss the projected impact of the ICD-10 implementation on financial performance, quality metrics, public health reporting, research and state data reporting within and outside an organization. Rickelman will also highlight some strategies to assess impact and provide examples where changes occur.

Full information on this free webinar, along with online registration, can be found at http://events.SignUp4.net/ICD-10DataAnalytics.

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**WHA Physician Leadership Development Conference**

*The American Club, Kohler*** March 13-14, 2015

Early Bird Registration: Register by January 15 to qualify

More information and online registration can be found at: http://events.SignUp4.net/15PLD

Need Hotel Reservations? Contact The American Club at 800-344-2838 ASAP.

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**WHA Health Law Manuals Webinar Series Attracts Over 1,000 Participants**

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