



# News from the Foundation for Healthy Communities

April 24, 2013

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## CALENDAR

**SAVE THE DATE**

**May 31**

**Health & Equity Partnership Spring Convening**

Manchester Health



Kyle Hultgren from the Purdue University Center for Medication Safety Advancement was among the presenters at the Partnership for Patients forum on preventing adverse drug events.

## Preventing Adverse Drug Events is Partnership for Patients Focus

The Foundation for Healthy Communities brought together more than 100 healthcare providers from hospitals and other organizations throughout New Hampshire last month for its Partnership for Patients workshop aimed at preventing adverse drug events. Attendees included 25 pharmacists representing 15 hospitals and more than 70 nursing professionals representing 18 hospitals.

Workshop faculty from the Purdue University College of Pharmacy and its Center for Medication Safety Advancement focused on pro-active hospital practices that can prevent medication errors and omissions from occurring, not only in the hospital, but also in the post-hospital environment where they can result in otherwise preventable hospital re-admissions.

New Hampshire faculty from Concord Regional VNA presented strategy to address post-hospital medication problems from the perspective of Home Care Nursing and Pharmacist intervention, and a case study on the reduction of problem-prone drug administration in the nursing home environment was presented by the Northeast Health Care Quality Foundation.

Department  
9 am - Noon  
**Sept. 22-24**  
**NHHA, FHC Annual Meeting**  
Omni Mount Washington  
Resort, Bretton Woods,  
NH

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The Pharmacist directed anti-coagulation outpatient clinic at Lakes Region General Healthcare was the peer-to-peer learning opportunity. More than 60 front-line nursing staff and pharmacists from the Foundation's Hospital Engagement Network are continuing the study of safe medication practices for the next several months through their enrollment in the Medication Safety Essentials course conducted by Purdue University.

## NH CCC 8th Annual Conference Draws 200 to Address Health Care Reform

The impact of health care reform and how it affects the delivery of cancer care was the focus when healthcare providers, clinicians and patient advocates attended the New Hampshire Comprehensive Cancer Collaboration's (NH CCC) eighth Annual Conference last month in Concord.

Changes in the delivery of healthcare, along with innovations in patient navigation and efforts to diminish health care disparities, were addressed by 18 speakers and panelists, including nationally recognized health care experts.

One of the keynote speakers, Dr. Tracy Battaglia, MD, MPH, Associate Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology at Boston University Schools of Medicine and Public Health, addressed the shift toward patient-centered care and how patient navigators can be used to help overcome barriers to care.



Dr. Tracy Battaglia

"There is a shift from pay for volume to pay for quality," Dr. Battaglia said. "Studies show that face-to-face navigation with patients has the best results in overcoming barriers to care."

To view presentations from the conference, visit the new NH CCC website at [www.nhcancerplan.org](http://www.nhcancerplan.org)

## Medication Bridge Program Expands with 'NHRx Connects' Pharmacy

A pilot program coordinated by the Foundation for Healthy Communities that makes use of "unused medications" for people waiting for medication through Prescription Assistance Programs (PAPs) has served more than 140 people since starting last summer.



The "NHRx Connects Pharmacy" is distributing unused medications from nursing homes to eligible patients enrolled in SeaCare Health Service's Medication Bridge Program. These patients consist of seniors in their Medicare Part D "donut hole," as well as low income people who do not qualify for, or cannot afford, prescription insurance.

The unused medications are used to "bridge" the gap until medications arrive from the pharmaceutical companies' PAPs, which generally take 4-6 weeks to arrive.

The Foundation received a planning grant from the Endowment for Health for the pilot program, and these resources were extended through the donation of space from the Rockingham County Nursing Home, unused medications from Omnicare, a nursing home medication distributor, and the many hours of donated time from volunteer pharmacists. This follows six years of effort among the New Hampshire Legislature, NH Board of Pharmacy and the Unused

Medication Committee.

## NH Health & Equity Partnership to Host Spring Convening May 31

The NH Health & Equity Partnership has issued an open invitation to all to come celebrate its second anniversary on May 31 in Manchester.

Participants will be able to share their organization's successes toward achieving the shared vision outlined in the H&EP's benchmark [Plan to Address Health Disparities and Promote Health Equity in NH](#).

The program will also highlight an initiative in which an adult education specialist, a community health center, and community health workers co-created and used a health education curriculum and a home visiting program within Swahili and Nepali speaking communities.

To register for the Spring Convening, which will be held from 9 a.m. to noon at the Manchester Health Department at 1528 Elm St., [click here](#). Registration deadline is May 23.

One note of progress sure to be celebrated is the report from the NH Center for Public Policy Studies entitled "Health and Equity in New Hampshire: 2013 Report Card," which examines data regarding health disparities in New Hampshire. To read the full report, [click here...](#)

## Study Finds Advance Directives for Only 33% of Acutely Ill Patients

A new survey of all 26 community hospitals in New Hampshire found that only one out of three acutely ill adult patients had an advance directive in their hospital medical chart to guide health care decision-making if they were unable to do so.

The Foundation for Healthy Communities recently joined with many other organizations in New Hampshire to highlight the importance of advance health care directives with National Healthcare Decisions Day on April 16. Governor Maggie Hassan also issued a proclamation to mark the date.

"National Healthcare Decisions Day is a reminder to talk with family or friends about your wishes in the event of a medical crisis," said Shawn LaFrance, executive director of the Foundation.

According to the statewide survey conducted last month, of the 1,419 patients who took part, only 491 patients had documentation in their medical charts of who they would want to make decisions for them if they lacked capacity to do so. There were an additional 237 patients who reported completing an advance care directive but it was not available to medical staff in the hospital.

Four hospice programs in New Hampshire also participated in the chart audit survey this year. Together, they had 174 patients and 92 percent of the patients were reported to have completed an advance directive.

A free video regarding advance directives is available [on this link](#) to the Foundation's website.



## HEAL NH Joins With HNH Foundation to Educate Communities About Obesity

The HNH Foundation recently announced a new year-long initiative designed to focus public attention on the obesity epidemic. Plans call for communities throughout the State to host public screenings of the "Challenges" segment of HBO's award-winning [Weight of the Nation](#) documentary series, which informs viewers about how public policies and our built environment have contributed to escalating obesity rates.

So far, the initial group of "collaborating partners" includes HEAL (Healthy Eating Active Living) communities in Laconia, Franklin, the Lakes Region, Ashland, Nashua, Concord and Manchester.

[To read more...](#)

## Walk NH Week Steps Off June 1-7



The "Granite Walk of Ages," to be held May 31 at White Park in Concord, will mark the official kick-off to Walk NH Week, which runs from June 1-7.

The "Walk of Ages," formerly known as the "Intergenerational Wellness Walk," is a statewide health initiative centered on bringing together towns, cities, schools, organizations and businesses in NH.

Registration and sign in for the walk will begin at 10 a.m. At 10:30, the procession will step off the for one-mile walk to the State House for the reading of a proclamation from Gov. Maggie Hassan, followed by a return stroll to White Park.

To see registration materials for the event, which is co-sponsored by the Foundation for Healthy Communities, the Governor's Council on Physical Activity & Health and the NH Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, [follow this link...](#)

## Don't Forget to Check Your Bookmark...



The Foundation for Healthy Communities has a new website, and if you haven't updated the bookmarks on your computer - also known as "Favorites" - you may be missing out on the latest news regarding the Foundation and its many initiatives.

It only takes a minute.

Just click on [this hyperlink](#) and save the new URL to your bookmarks and you'll be able to keep up with the latest developments with HEAL, CATCH Kids Club, the Partnership for Patients and all of the programs that fall under the umbrella of the Foundation for Healthy Communities.

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