



The Statehouse glowed yellow on World Hepatitis Day, Saturday, July 26. Crowds gathered for a WaterFire installation and performances at Waterplace Park.

## WaterFire Raises Awareness of Hep C

C is for Cure: A WaterFire Lighting for RI Defeats Hep C was held July 26th on World Hepatitis Day to raise awareness, help diminish stigma, and inspire people to get tested and cured. There was also a Hep C Information and Resource Fair on the College Street Bridge and information tents for the Rhode Island Blood Center, the Rhode Island Organ Donor Awareness Coalition and the Alpert Medical School.

Torchbearers included many members of the Rhode Island medical community, who ringed Waterplace Basin at sunset to begin the lighting of 80 braziers, in an evening sponsored by Gilead in recognition of the millions of Americans suffering from hepatitis C. The C Project by Festival Ballet Providence was performed on the Waterplace Basin Stage and Gendo Taiko of Brown University and RISD played five Taiko drumming pieces as part of the opening ceremony dedicated to the spirit of healing. ❖



Cover photo by John Nickerson, Statehouse crowd by Jennifer Bedford, torchbearers by Emily Gauvin, all for WaterFire Providence

*Right:* The Torch procession leaders were **Dr. Scott Holmberg**, Chief of the Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch, Division of Viral Hepatitis, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and **Dr. Lynn E. Taylor**, Assistant Professor

of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases at the Alpert Medical School and a Rhode Island Foundation Innovation Fellow. As part of her RI Defeats Hep C initiative, she compiled a series of articles for the July issue of the Rhode Island Medical Journal. <http://www.rimed.org/rimedicaljournal-2014-07.asp>



## Cardiovascular Institute Expands Services at Newport Hospital

NEWPORT – The Cardiovascular Institute (CVI) at Rhode Island, The Miriam and Newport hospitals is enhancing cardiac care on Aquidneck Island by expanding the cardiovascular services offered at Newport Hospital. That expansion includes opening a new cardiovascular practice and adding two new cardiologists.

offered at Newport Hospital.”

Dr. Levick comes to Newport Hospital after serving for the last three years as the director of cardiology at King Edward VII Memorial Hospital in Bermuda. Prior to that, he was the managing partner for a large cardiovascular group in Concord, New Hampshire, a position he held for more than 25

preventive cardiology at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University with training at Rhode Island Hospital, The Miriam Hospital and the Providence Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Dr. Charlton is board certified in cardiovascular disease and internal medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine and is a diplomate of the National Board of Echocardiography. He is a member of the American College of Cardiology, the American Heart Association, the American Society of Echocardiography, the American Medical Association and the Rhode Island Medical Society. Charlton has clinical and research interests in valvular heart disease, echocardiography, and the promotion of cardiovascular wellness.



Carl Levick, MD



George Charlton, MD



Ned Gutman, MD

The new practice, which will be located in the hospital's Borden Carey Building, will include the addition of cardiologists **CARL LEVICK, MD**, and **GEORGE CHARLTON, MD**. They are joining long-time Newport Hospital cardiologist **NED GUTMAN, MD**.

“This is an exciting time for Newport Hospital as we extend the expertise and capabilities of the Cardiovascular Institute to residents of Newport County,” said **SAMUEL DUDLEY, MD, PHD**, chief of cardiology at the CVI. “In bringing together the strengths and talents of Drs. Levick, Charlton and Gutman, we will offer patients direct access to all of the specialized services that the CVI offers. This greatly enhances the cardiovascular services that have been

years. He is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts Medical School and completed a fellowship in cardiology at Vancouver General Hospital in British Columbia. He completed both an internship and a residency in internal medicine at The Miriam Hospital. Dr. Levick is certified by the American College of Cardiology and the American Board of Internal Medicine.

Dr. Charlton is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He completed his internship and residency in internal medicine at the University of Virginia Health System, followed by a year as an attending hospitalist at Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington, Virginia. He completed fellowships in both general cardiology and

Dr. Gutman moved to Rhode Island 25 years ago after graduating from The University of Maryland Medical School. He specializes in cardiovascular disease and internal medicine at The Miriam and Newport hospitals. He completed a fellowship at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University following his residency at The Miriam Hospital where he was also chief resident. Dr. Gutman is board certified in cardiology with additional board certification in nuclear cardiology. His areas of expertise include consultative cardiology, diagnostic catheterization and noninvasive diagnostic cardiac testing. He is a fellow of the American College of Cardiology and his research interests include atrial fibrillation. ❖

## Healthcentric Advisors Develops Guidelines for Urgent Care Settings *Standards may address concerns raised with MinuteClinic approval*

PROVIDENCE – With seven MinuteClinics slated to open their doors in late 2014, newly published standards for urgent care centers' communication may help ease primary care providers' concerns. Healthcentric Advisors led a collaborative process with providers and stakeholders to develop Safe Transitions Best Practice Measures for Urgent Care Centers, the first-known standards for urgent care communication during patient care transitions. The newly developed best practices:

- Are the first to define standards for urgent care communication with primary care
- Address primary care providers' concerns about urgent care interfering with team-based care
- Establish consistent expectations for urgent care centers across the state

The team used a multi-stage approach to develop the best practices, including reviewing the medical literature and obtaining provider input on the concepts and definitions.

"Urgent care isn't going away," says **DR. BRIAN MONTAGUE**, an internist at The Miriam Hospital whose clinical practice focuses on patients with HIV/AIDS. "There is an accessibility with urgent care that we can't seem to reproduce

in most clinical settings – but at the same time, we don't have good communication between urgent care and primary care. Issues identified in urgent care may not be communicated [to a patient's internist], and that can lead to gaps in quality of care. We really need to organize this communication and partner in the care of these patients."

The urgent care best practices can help urgent care centers partner effectively with their primary care colleagues.

"Setting standards for how urgent care centers communicate is a very positive development," says **GUS MANOCCHIA, MD**, senior vice president and chief medical officer at Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island.

Dr. Manocchia chairs the multi-disciplinary committee that helped Healthcentric Advisors to create the best practices. "Over the past few years, the Rhode Island health care community has worked hard to transform our primary care infrastructure, but after-hours care remains an issue. On nights and weekends, patients may go to urgent care centers – and primary care providers need to be aware of these visits to provide continuing care. Making communication consistent from urgent care back to primary care supports team-based care, and enhances patient safety." ❖

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## Hasbro Hospital Opens Pediatric Specialty Clinics in East Greenwich *Will be joined by a new Fall River pediatric specialty clinic later this year*

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Hasbro Children's Hospital has opened its new East Greenwich Specialty Clinic to provide high-level specialty care more conveniently to children in the community.

"We recognized that there is a significant need in our community for better access to pediatric subspecialties, such as GI or rehab services, which can require frequent visits," said **PATRICIA FLANAGAN, MD**, interim pediatrician-in-chief and chief of clinical affairs at Hasbro Children's Hospital. "Being able to provide the services of our specialists closer to home will allow more families seamless and convenient access to the care they need."

This new East Greenwich location is the latest offering in Hasbro Children's

Hospital's evolution from a provider of acute care for the region's children to a provider of health maintenance and wellness. The East Greenwich Specialty Clinic is part of an ambulatory clinic group that already includes an East Providence outpatient clinic for pediatric specialties, and will be joined by a new Fall River pediatric specialty clinic later this year.

"From the day that Hasbro Children's Hospital opened its doors 20 years ago, we have tried to address the health care needs of children across the state and region," said Dr. Flanagan. "This means that not only do families come to us at the hospital for world-class medical care, but also we as pediatric specialty providers can go out to

the families in their communities to meet their needs in partnership with their primary care providers."

Several pediatric divisions and programs at Hasbro Children's Hospital now offer additional clinics at the East Greenwich location, including:

- Gastrointestinal medicine
- Child and adolescent eating disorders
- Endocrinology
- Rehabilitation services
- Nephrology
- Pulmonology

The new East Greenwich Specialty Clinic is located at 1454 South County Trail in East Greenwich. ❖

## CNE Pilots Statewide Initiative for On-Call Recovery Coaches in EDs *Program implemented to help with drug overdose*

PROVIDENCE – In an ongoing effort to prevent drug overdose and substance abuse in Rhode Island and the region, The Providence Center, in collaboration with the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH), will provide on-call recovery coaches for patients in hospital emergency departments across Rhode Island with high rates of accidental opioid overdose.

The program, AnchorED, was first launched at Kent Hospital in Warwick last month and will expand to Memorial Hospital in Pawtucket. Other hospital emergency departments across the state will also be implementing the program.

The Providence Center, whose services include more than 40 programs and services for mental health and addiction treatment, offers AnchorED, a program intended to reduce the instance of accidental opioid overdose by connecting patients with certified recovery coaches. The program, was developed and funded by BHDDH and

will provide coaches on an on-call basis, in select emergency departments, every weekend from 8 p.m. Friday to 8 a.m. Monday.

"We are extremely pleased to offer the AnchorED program to our patients in need at Kent Hospital helping to provide a tremendous resource of support, education and eventual recovery," said **PETER GRAVES, MD**, chief of emergency services at Kent Hospital. "Drug overdose is a serious, ongoing occurrence in our emergency department, with a dramatic increase over the past few years in the number of patients we treat."

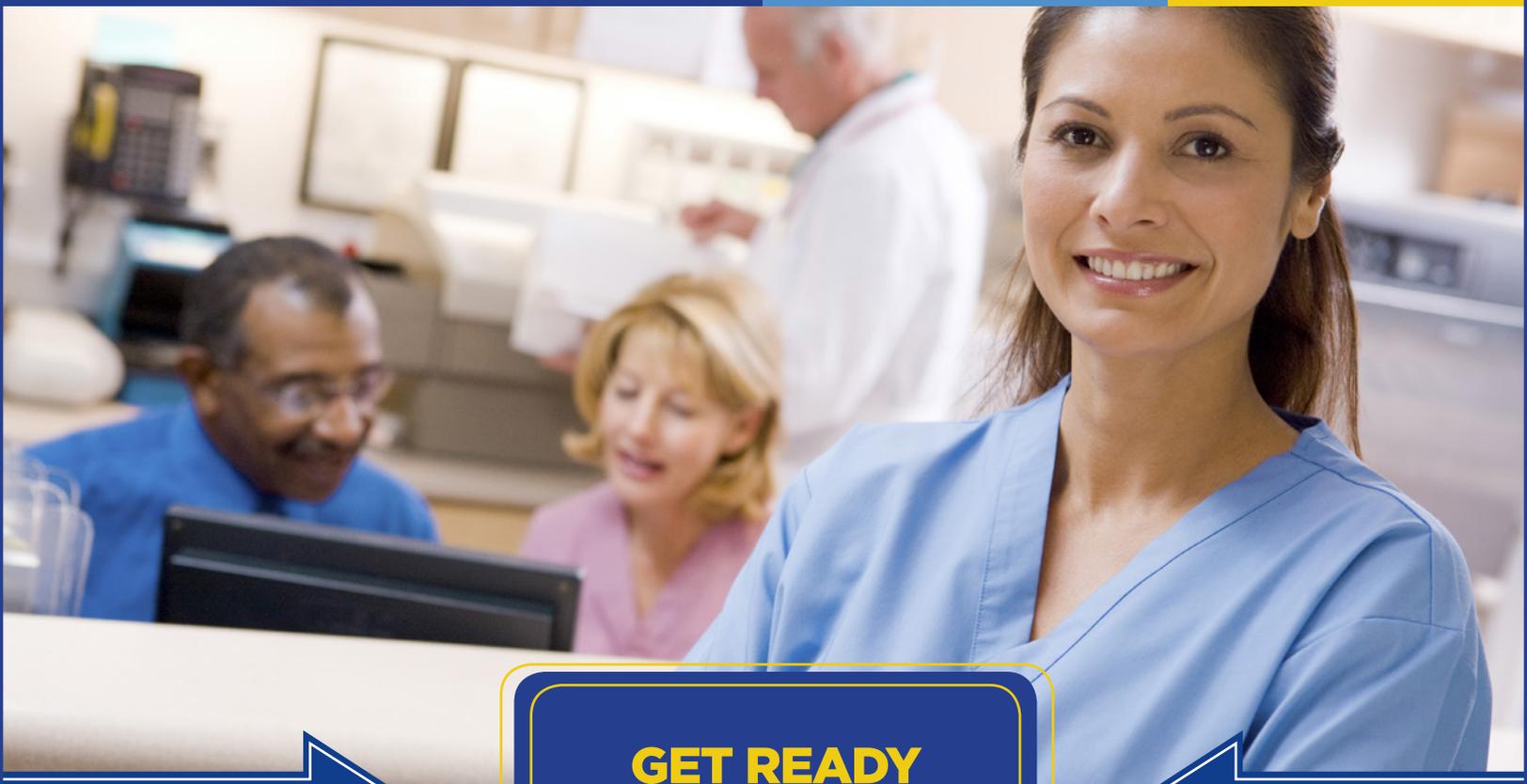
CNE announced recently it is negotiating the terms of an official affiliation with The Providence Center. The formal agreement seeks to solidify the integration of behavioral health services across community-based and hospital-based systems in order to provide comprehensive treatment and support across the full continuum of care to patients with mental illness and substance use disorders.

"AnchorED offers a unique opportunity for specialized coaches to connect

with and help those suffering from addiction, offering places to turn to for help," Jim Gillen, associate director, Anchor Recovery Community Center. "The goal of this program is to ensure patients and their families that addiction is a disease, and recovery is not only possible, it is a reality. The statistics of drug overdose in Rhode Island are alarming, so it is imperative we take the necessary steps to ensure emergency departments have the support they need to provide the best possible outcomes for their patients."

The hours immediately after an overdose are medically risky, but also present a unique opportunity to connect with and help those suffering from addiction. Certified Recovery Coaches will:

- Link individuals to treatment and recovery resources
- Provide education on overdose, prevention, and obtaining Naloxone
- Provide additional resources to patients and their family members
- -Contact the individual after they are released, with a follow-up call ❖



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## CMS Awards Healthcentric Advisors \$53M Quality Innovation Contract To partner with Qualidigm in CT. to serve New England

PROVIDENCE – The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently awarded a \$53 million Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) contract to Healthcentric Advisors, the incumbent Rhode Island Quality Improvement Organization (QIO).

The new QIN-QIO contracts, awarded to 14 organizations across the United States, represent a revitalization of CMS's long outstanding QIO work. In order to successfully execute the contract initiatives, Healthcentric Advisors, the prime contractor for this work, has formalized a strategic partnership with Qualidigm, the incumbent QIO for Connecticut.

Together, Healthcentric Advisors and Qualidigm will serve as a single QIN-QIO for the six New England states: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The five-year contract, which is the third-largest award in the country, will begin on August 1, 2014.

The new QIN-QIO contract awards represent the second phase of the restructuring of the QIO program, the largest federal program dedicated to healthcare quality. The previous QIO body of work will be split into

two separate contract structures: one for medical case review and appeals, performed by Beneficiary and Family-Centered Care QIOs (BFCC-QIOs), and one for quality improvement and technical assistance, performed by the QIN-QIOs. The medical case review and appeals responsibilities previously performed by Healthcentric Advisors, Qualidigm, Masspro (the incumbent Massachusetts QIO), and the Northeast Health Care Quality Foundation (the incumbent New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont QIO) will now be performed by Annapolis-based Livanta, LLC. This separation of work is a contract requirement set forth by CMS.

"Healthcentric Advisors and Qualidigm have a long history of working successfully with hospitals, nursing homes, physicians, and other providers and stakeholders in our respective states. We've created solutions to improve patient care and population health while lowering healthcare costs," said John Keimig, president and CEO of Healthcentric Advisors. "We look forward to bringing that same spirit of partnership and collaboration to the entire New England region. We will support and assist providers in all settings, share knowledge and best

practices, and accelerate improvements in health care throughout the six-state region."

Through a coordinated regional approach, Healthcentric Advisors and Qualidigm will work with providers and communities on data-driven quality initiatives to improve the quality of care across the New England region. While overseeing work for the entire region, Healthcentric Advisors will focus its efforts in Maine, Massachusetts and Rhode Island and Qualidigm in Connecticut, New Hampshire and Vermont.

Healthcentric Advisors and Qualidigm will work across New England on strategic initiatives such as reducing healthcare associated infections, reducing readmissions and medication errors, working with nursing homes to improve care for residents, supporting clinical practices in using interoperable health information technology to coordinate care, promoting prevention activities, reducing cardiac disease and diabetes, reducing health care disparities and improving patient and family engagement. The partnership will also provide technical assistance for improvement in CMS value-based purchasing programs, including the physician value-based modifier program. ❖

## New Law on Expediting COE Process Passed

PROVIDENCE – The governor has signed legislation passed recently by the General Assembly that is designed to help expedite the Department of Health "certificate of need" process and to help open doors for domestic medical tourism companies to locate in Rhode Island.

The legislation was developed to address a specific situation that arose last year involving an out-of-state health care provider in its attempts to obtain a home nursing care provider's license and meet other requirements set by the Department of Health.

Among the law's provisions are:

- In regard to the certificate of need process, it will provide for consideration of an expeditious review request and require that a decision in connection with that review be rendered within 30 days.
- It will, under certain circumstances, provide an exemption from the certificate of need requirements to the domestic medical tourism industry and multi-practice health facilities.
- It will reduce and restructure the composition of the Health Services Council from 24 to 12 members.
- It will set a moratorium on all new healthcare services and equipment until July 1, 2015, during which time the Department of Health in conjunction with the Health Care Planning and Accountability Advisory Council will conduct a statewide healthcare utilization and capacity study and prepare a statewide healthcare plan and inventory of healthcare facilities, equipment and health services. ❖