

## PARTNERSHIP FOR PATIENTS- NJHIIN UPDATES

NJHA’s Institute for Quality and Patient Safety hosted its Antimicrobial Stewardship Learning and Action Collaborative on July 12. The full-day conference focused on improving antimicrobial use across healthcare settings and sharing best practices to promote antimicrobial stewardship programs and improved patient outcomes.

Fifty acute care hospitals and several post-acute facilities have actively participated in the collaborative since its launch in January. The collaborative, led by physician champion Cindy Hou, DO, MBA, physician infection control officer for Kennedy Health, had more than 150 people in attendance, including physicians, nurses, pharmacists and infection preventionists from acute and post-acute facilities.

Dr. Hou presented an update on the Antimicrobial Stewardship Collaborative Data and provided a summary of the 2017 assessment of current antimicrobial stewardship practices in acute care hospitals throughout the state, benchmarking against the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Seven Core Elements for an Antibiotic Stewardship Program.

The mission of the NJHA Antimicrobial Stewardship Learning and Action Collaborative is to promote the use of the appropriate agent, dose, duration and route of administration of antimicrobial agents both in acute care and post-acute settings to improve quality of patient care and patient safety while reducing excessive cost.

For more information on the collaborative and upcoming webinars, contact Shannon Davila ([sdavila@njha.com](mailto:sdavila@njha.com)) or Lauren Rava ([lrava@njha.com](mailto:lrava@njha.com)).

## HENtrack DATA REMINDER

Please remember to enter your May 2017 data for the following areas of harm:

- Adverse Drug Events - Warfarin Events
- Falls and Pressure Ulcers (*for those hospitals that do not submit to NDNQI*)

**Link to HENtrack data portal:**

<https://hentrack.njha.com/Account/Logon>

*(Please enter data going back to January 2015 so we may have a continuous trend of your progress.)*

## SPOTLIGHT ON SAFETY

### St. Joseph’s ALTO<sup>SM</sup> Program

Pain is the chief reason nearly 75 percent of patients seek emergency treatment. It is what happens after patients leave the emergency department (ED), though, public health experts believe has contributed to a crisis of addiction in the United States. Although emergency physicians write less than 5 percent of opioid prescriptions, EDs have been identified as a starting point on a patient’s path to opioid and even heroin addiction.

In January 2016, St. Joseph’s Regional Medical Center launched the Alternatives to Opiates (ALTO<sup>SM</sup>) Program, the first program of its kind in the United States. Led by Dr. Mark Rosenberg, chairman of emergency medicine and medical director for population health at St. Joseph’s Healthcare



*(Pictured: Drs. Mark Rosenberg and Alexis LaPietra and St. Joseph’s RMC staff.)*

System, and spearheaded by Dr. Alexis LaPietra, medical director of pain management in the ED at St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center, ALTO's goal is to stem the use of opiates whenever possible.

ALTO is a multi-pronged solution that includes alternatives to opioids, overdose prevention and recovery programming, harm reduction centers and medical-assisted treatment. Alternatives to opioid treatment are used to successfully treat patients with acute pain diagnoses including headaches, long bone fractures, kidney stones, back pain and other musculoskeletal pain. While opioids are still used by St. Joseph's staff to treat chronic pain, they are no longer the first line of treatment.

During the first year of the program, the hospital reduced opioid use by 58 percent treating more than 8,500 acute pain patients with non-opioid protocols. At discharge patients are educated on medication risks and ways to help prevent acute pain from becoming chronic by connecting patients with hospital physical therapists, pain management specialists, psychiatrists and primary care physicians who have committed to sticking to the program's goals. For patients reversed from an overdose with Narcan, or patients seeking help with their opioid addiction, peer recovery counsellors from Eva's Village, the St. Joseph's opioid overdose recovery program, meet with individuals in the ED to plan for follow-up recovery care. During the first six months of the program more than 215 referrals were made and 54 percent of total calls were admitted into treatment. Today approximately 35 percent of patients have chosen to stay in active treatment for their addiction.

This program, in New Jersey's busiest EDs and one of the busiest in the country at about 170,000 patients, is overseen by Dr. Rosenberg and Dr. LaPietra. The ingenuity of these thought-leaders to stem the use of opiates whenever possible in the ED, and connect individuals with prevention and recovery services, has gained recognition by federal and state legislators, law enforcement and was part of a special CNN event *Anderson Cooper 360* Town Hall Meeting focusing on the opioid epidemic in America. The live national broadcast was hosted by Anderson Cooper and chief medical correspondent Dr. Sanjay Gupta with addiction medical specialist Dr. Drew Pinsky. The work has also been featured in *The Guardian*, *The D.O.*, *The New York Times*, and on National Public Radio, NBC Nightly News and Fox News.

## MEET YOUR NJHA HIInnovators!



### Mary Ditri

Mary Ditri is the director of professional practice at NJHA. She is responsible for facilitating patient safety

and quality improvement efforts in partnership with our members and acts as a liaison to several state-level advisory groups in the population health arena. She is responsible for advocacy and policy efforts with a particular focus on mental health and substance use disorder services and corporate compliance. She also staffs HRET's efforts for improved care for Veterans and military families, diabetes prevention and breastfeeding. Under the original Partnership for Patients funding, Mary led the Statewide Patient Throughput Collaborative and is currently project manager to the New Jersey HRO Collaborative, an initiative involving 12 of the state's hospitals on their journey to high reliability.

Mary has led quality management, organizational development and patient satisfaction initiatives in hospitals throughout New Jersey and served in the Office of the Medical Director at the Department of Human Services before moving into her current role. She has published and spoken in her areas of specialty on national and international fronts. She holds a number of professional certifications, received her BS in Education and her MA in Community Counseling and Personnel Services from Trenton State College in Ewing, N.J., and is currently in the final weeks of her doctoral journey in Healthcare Administration.

## In Case You Missed It

To access the select previously recorded webinars, click on the links below:

- May 26 – Opioid Misuse Series: Responding to the Prescription Opioid & Heroin Crisis – [PLAY RECORDING](#)
- June 8 – NJHA Antimicrobial Stewardship Collaborative Webinar: The Role of Nursing in Stewardship – [PLAY RECORDING](#)
- June 9 – The Power of Zero: HAI Kills – Construction and Environmental Concerns for Infection Prevention – [PLAY RECORDING](#)
- June 14 – Opioid Misuse Series - Physical and Mental Effects of Opioid Addiction – [PLAY RECORDING](#)
- June 23 – Opioid Misuse Series - Overdose death, Narcan Administration data and changing trends with NJ State Police – [PLAY RECORDING](#)
- June 29 – New Jersey Sepsis Learning and Action Collaborative - Preventing Sepsis-Related Readmissions – [PLAY RECORDING](#)
- July 6 – NJHA Patient and Family Engagement Collaborative - Building Blocks for a Successful Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFE Metric 4) – [PLAY RECORDING](#)
- July 13 – The Power of Zero: HAI Kills – Infection Prevention in Ambulatory Care – [PLAY RECORDING](#)

## UPCOMING NJHIIN OFFERINGS

All face-to-face learning session brochures can be accessed by visiting our website at <http://www.njha.com/education/education-calendar/>

### Webinars

*\*\* To register for webinars, visit [njha.webex.com](http://njha.webex.com) and go to “Institute for Quality and Patient Safety” \*\**

Call-in numbers for all webinars:  
1-877-668-4490 / 1-408-792-6300

#### NJHA Antimicrobial Stewardship Collaborative

- August 10, 12 noon EST
  - *“NJHA Antimicrobial Stewardship Collaborative Webinar: Interventions Targeted at Specific Interventions”*
  - Presenter: Payal Patel

#### The Power of Zero: HAI Kills

- August 17, 1 p.m. EST
  - *“Antimicrobial Stewardship: What Nurses and IPs need to know”*

#### Opioid Misuse Series

- July 19, 2 p.m. EST
  - *“Joint Commission Update”*
  - Presenter: David W. Baker, MD, MPH, FACP, Executive Vice President, Healthcare Quality Evaluation, The Joint Commission

#### Pressure Injury Prevention Learning and Action Collaborative

- July 17, 12 noon EST
  - *“The International Buzz on Pressure Injuries”*
  - Presenter: TBD