CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Friday, March 12, 2010

HB 5450, An Act Concerning Expedited Partner Therapy For Sexually Transmitted Diseases

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to present testimony concerning **HB 5450, An Act Concerning Expedited Partner Therapy For Sexually Transmitted Diseases**.

HB 5450 would authorize "expedited partner therapy" (EPT) in Connecticut. EPT is the clinical practice of treating the sex partners of patients diagnosed with chlamydia or gonorrhea by providing prescriptions or medications to the patient to take to his/her partner without the healthcare provider first examining the partner. This "expedited partner therapy" strategy is recommended by the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

CHA supports HB 5450 but requests that the Committee amend the bill to ensure the new statutory language does not conflict with section 19a-216. Section 19a-216 relates to examination and treatment of minor for venereal disease and should be amended as follows:

> Subsection (a) of section 19a-216 of the Connecticut General Statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:
>
> (a) Any municipal health department, state institution or facility, licensed physician or public or private hospital or clinic, may [examine and] provide treatment for venereal disease for a minor, if the physician or facility is qualified to provide such [examination and] treatment. The consent of the parents or guardian of the minor shall not be a prerequisite to the [examination and] treatment. The physician in charge or other appropriate authority of the facility or the licensed physician concerned shall prescribe an appropriate course of treatment for the minor. The fact of consultation, examination [and] **or** treatment of a minor under the provisions of this section shall be confidential and shall not be divulged by the facility or physician, including the sending of a bill for the services to any person other than the minor, except for purposes of reports under section 19a-215, and except that, if the minor is not more than twelve years of age, the facility or physician shall report the name, age and address of that minor to the Commissioner of Children and Families or his designee who shall proceed thereon as in reports under section 17a-101g.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

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