

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

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Committee Releases Standardized Hospital Emergency Codes

Date: Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Time: 3:30 p.m.

Place: Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island, Main Lobby,
111 Brewster Street, Pawtucket

Event: Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island was the first to adopt statewide standardized hospital emergency codes. The codes, part of the Hospital Emergency Incident Command System (HEICS), were adopted by the Hospital Preparedness Planning Committee (HPPC) and will be implemented in all hospitals in Rhode Island by January 1, 2006. In addition to initial training, the codes will be available to staff on posters displayed throughout the building.

HEICS is a national system which provides clear terminology to facilitate an organized, efficient response to any type of emergency or disaster. Based on the Incident Command System used by all public safety and first responders, HEICS simplifies communications among hospitals and emergency management, law enforcement, fire and emergency medical personnel. All hospitals in Rhode Island have implemented HEICS into their emergency planning efforts.

Once all hospitals have implemented the standardized codes, the HPPC will work to educate first-responders. Further, the group will disseminate the information to institutions of learning for various health care careers.

The Hospital Preparedness Planning Committee was established to serve as a forum for cooperation among hospitals, the Rhode Island Department of Health, the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency and other appropriate agencies and organizations to develop a networked plan of cooperation and interaction involving the response of all hospitals in the state to a public health crisis. The HPPC is co-led by the Hospital Association of Rhode Island and Rhode Island Department of Health.

Guests at the photo opportunity will include: David R. Gifford, MD, MPH, Director, Rhode Island Department of Health; Francis R. Dietz, President Y CEO, Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island; and Cathy E. Duquette, PhD, RN, CPHQ, Senior Vice President, Hospital Association of Rhode Island.

