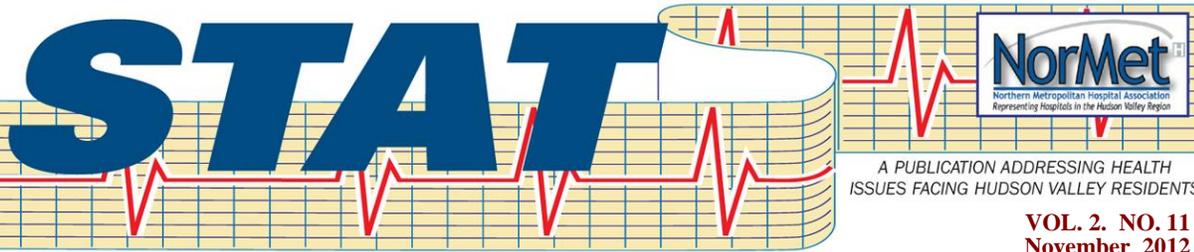


# NORTHERN METROPOLITAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

400 Stony Brook Court,  
Newburgh, New York 12550  
845-562-7520  
Fax: 845-562-0187  
www.normet.org

## MEMBER HOSPITALS

Benedictine Hospital  
Blythedale Children's Hospital  
Bon Secours Community Hospital  
Burke Rehabilitation Hospital  
Catskill Regional Medical Center  
Ellenville Regional Hospital  
Good Samaritan Hospital  
Helen Hayes Hospital  
Hudson Valley Hospital Center  
Keller Army Community Hospital  
The Kingston Hospital  
Lawrence Hospital Center  
The Mount Vernon Hospital  
The New York Presbyterian Hospital - Westchester Division  
Northern Dutchess Hospital  
Northern Westchester Hospital  
Orange Regional Medical Center  
Phelps Memorial Hospital Center  
Putnam Hospital Center  
St. Anthony Community Hospital  
Saint Francis Hospital  
St. Joseph's Medical Center  
St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital  
St. Vincent's Westchester (Division of St. Joseph's Medical Center)  
Sound Shore Medical Center of Westchester  
Vassar Brothers Medical Center  
VA Hudson Valley Health Care System  
White Plains Hospital Center



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## \* \* \* SPECIAL POST STORM REPORT \* \* \*

Superstorm Sandy tested the resolve and emergency preparations of hospitals throughout the Hudson Valley region when it hit on October 29, 2012. Hospital staff demonstrated remarkable dedication and courage during the storm and continue to do so now, as recovery efforts continue. In the immediate aftermath of the storm, the region's hospitals reported full or near full capacity and a surge in emergency department visits. Inpatient volume increased due to patient transfers from hospitals and nursing homes in flood zones in New York City and other nearby areas.

Hospital employees have been working 24/7 to accommodate surge capacity, and their dedication to their patients is unmatched. In downstate coastal areas, many hospital employees suffered personal loss of property and homes. The Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association is joining with its sister organization, the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council, as well as the Healthcare Association of New York State and other regional partners, to establish the Hurricane Sandy Health Care Employee Relief Fund for hospital workers impacted by the storm. NorMet is also contributing to other agencies that are assisting storm victims. Look for more details in the coming days.

The Regional Resource Center (RRC) provided situational reports to all its regional partners, and NorMet's director dedicated to emergency preparedness operations supported the regional Mutual Aid Coordinating Entity (MACE) and regularly received updates about weather conditions, hospital personnel and supply needs before, during, and after the storm. There was ongoing communication between the RRC, hospital emergency management leaders, the NYSDOH, and NorMet's director during the storm and in the days following. We are now coordinating with HANYS, the State Department of Health, and other regional hospital associations to quantify the impact and seek federal relief. The hospital and nursing home evacuations resulted in increased hospital staffing, cash flow, and other operational challenges, as well as policy and regulatory rules requiring exceptions from statutes.

## Elections Report: Implications for Hudson Valley Region

**Nationally:** With President Barak Obama securing another four years in the White House, health care reform through provisions of the Affordable Care Act will move forward as planned. For hospitals, that means continuing in the direction of more outpatient-based care and delivery models based on quality performance and coordinated care. Republicans held onto their majority in the House, while Democrats maintained their majority in the Senate. Efforts at true bi-partisanship will be tested once again. That could happen as early as next week when the White House and congressional leaders are expected to discuss the impending "fiscal cliff."

Democratic challenger Sean Patrick Maloney overtook Congresswoman Nan Hayworth and will serve as the region's delegate in the House of Representatives for the new 18<sup>th</sup> district. Congressman Christopher Gibson retained his seat in the new 19<sup>th</sup> district. Representatives Nita Lowey and Eliot Engel maintained their strongholds in Westchester and Rockland counties. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, a Democrat, retained her seat in the U.S. Senate.

**Locally:** The Hudson Valley/NorMet region will play a decisive role in the outcome of control of the state Senate. Two races remain too close to call – District 41 in Poughkeepsie, currently occupied by Republican Stephen Saland, and newly created Senate District 46, that includes part of Ulster County, between Republican George Amedore and Democrat Cecilia Tkaczyk. It will be days, even weeks, before the races are resolved. And even then, the final control of the chamber will likely be influenced by the allegiance pledged by Senator Klein and the other three members of the independent caucus.

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