



CEO UPDATE

January 27, 2010

Haiti Relief Efforts. South Carolina hospitals are making news for their support of a local Haiti relief effort known as the Haiti Children Project. This is the same relief effort we shared with you late Sunday. Thanks to the generosity of Palmetto Health here in Columbia, the first plane left Columbia full of supplies. The story has been covered several times on local TV news stations, and this article appeared in today's edition of *The State*. <http://www.thestate.com/local/story/1129121.html>. There will be more plane trips this week, so please send more supplies if you are able.

Here's a related opportunity—one that involves caring for Haitian patients who are airlifted to the US for acute hospitalization. In yesterday's Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Region 4 conference call the state of Florida shared what they are experiencing in placement of patients from Haiti and the US Navy Hospital Ship Comfort. To date, Florida hospitals have received approximately 400 patients, some of whom have received serious injuries—crush injuries, burn injuries, etc.—requiring long-term hospitalization. Florida has run out of burn beds and has diverted patients to North Carolina. Florida hospitals have been told to expect between 30-50 patients per day for an unknown period. Florida has told the Feds their hospitals will soon run out of available beds and need to consider referring patients to other states. They have also requested that the Department of Health and Human Services activate the NDMS system. Patient movement is already being regulated through the Department of Defense.

That brings me to the purpose of this Update. The patients who need hospital care (Haitian citizens) are not eligible for Medicare or Medicaid funding. They are charity patients whose injuries warrant extended hospital care. DHEC has asked that the South Carolina Hospital Association (SCHA) survey our members to determine which hospitals would be willing to accept Haitian patients. DHEC recognizes that your hospitals are not required to do so, but when asked by the Feds how many patients South Carolina can receive they would like to have a reliable response. Please let SCHA know 1) if your hospital would be willing to take any Haitian patients, and 2) if so, how many (recognizing that these numbers may vary from day-to-day). If each hospital in our state took one, for example, South Carolina could accommodate 67. If each hospital accepted 2, we could accommodate 134. You get the point.

If you are willing to take one or more patients, please reply to Paul Richter, prichter@scha.org, by close of business Friday, January 29, 2010. Participation and numbers will only be shared with DHEC so they will have current information. Your response is not binding, though we hope you are able to assist with this endeavor. We may ask periodically for updated information depending on how soon South Carolina is called upon to support this effort. Thank you for the generosity so many of you have already demonstrated. When you contact Paul, please let him know if your hospital is participating in other Haiti relief efforts—we'd love to ensure you get credit for the great work you are doing.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions about this update.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shanta", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.