

# *Employee benefits Managed Care Briefs*

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A new report on medical errors says **Connecticut hospitals** disclosed more than 400 mistakes and other "adverse events," some of which resulted in the deaths of patients, from October to January. The report was the first to chronicle hospitals' compliance with a new mandatory reporting law. The document says 39 of the reported errors involved a patient death or the immediate risk of death, while another 136 incidents involved serious injuries such as broken bones or the immediate risk of disability, The Hartford Courant reported. The rest of the errors involved minor injuries. Hospitals also reported 13 cases of physical and sexual abuse against patients during the three-month period.

ING's employee benefits division, a unit of **ING's U.S.** financial services operations, and **Manulife Financial** have entered into an agreement to allow the two companies greater cross-border accommodation for their respective clients with employees in both the U.S. and Canada. The agreement will strengthen the bond the two companies share through their membership in MIA Benefits, a network of insurance companies that provide employee benefits in more than 30 countries.

**New York Governor George E. Pataki** announced new significantly reduced premium rates for **Healthy NY**—lowered by an average of 17 percent. Additionally, the eligibility guidelines have been expanded so that more New Yorkers can qualify.

The more affordable rates for the Healthy NY program will be available June 1 and go into effect July 1. Additional changes to the Healthy NY program that will take effect June 1 include the choice of Healthy NY with or without prescription drug benefits. Other changes to increase eligibility include:

- \* Broader employment standards;
- \* Simplified re-certification;
- \* Exempt child support from income eligibility requirements;
- \* No co-payments for well child visits;
- \* Small employers can choose the level of premium contribution for their part-time workers; and
- \* Greater flexibility in employer contribution requirements. □