Mandatory Reporting of Impaired Practitioners

Prior to October 1, 2015, ONLY physicians and physician assistants were required to report a colleague that is or who may be unable to practice his or her profession with reasonable skill or safety for any of the following reasons:

- Physical illness or loss of motor skill, including, but not limited to, deterioration through the aging process;
- Emotional disorder or mental illness;
- Abuse or excessive use of drugs, including alcohol, narcotics or chemicals;
- Illegal, incompetent or negligent conduct in the practice of the profession of the health care professional;
- Possession, use, prescription for use or distribution of controlled substances or legend drugs, except therapeutic or other medically proper purposes;
- Misrepresentation or concealment of a material fact in the obtaining or reinstatement of a license to practice the profession of the health care professional; or
- Violation of any provision of the chapter of the general statutes under which the health care professional is licensed or any regulation established under such chapter.

The Fairfield County Medical Association recognized an inconsistency in the state statute and it petitioned the state legislature last year advocating the same responsibility to report a colleague who is or may be impaired should apply to ALL licensed health care professionals. The state legislature agreed. Public Act 15-5, Section 480 (http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3121&q=571532) broadened the mandate to report a colleague who may be impaired to include ALL licensed health care professionals effective October 1, 2015.

The duty to report can be fulfilled by either contacting the Connecticut Department of Public Health (http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3121&q=571532) or HAVEN (http://www.haven-ct.org/) – the confidential assistance program for health care professionals. If the issue includes inappropriate prescribing of a controlled substance, the matter should also be reported to the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection, Drug Control Division (http://www.ct.gov/dcp/cwp/view.asp?a=4332&q=273650).