Health Outcomes in the Bronx Improving

In a recently published report, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute ranked the nation's counties on various measures of health, and the Bronx ranked 62nd out of all 62 counties in New York State. Despite this ranking, Bronx County performed better in 2015 than in 2014 for a number of health outcomes and factors, including fewer premature deaths, improved food selection, fewer sexually transmitted infections, a lower teen birth rate, more mental health providers, fewer preventable hospital stays and a lower unemployment rate.

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Montefiore Health System, the Bronx Borough President's office and other partners have joined forces to highlight the various programs that have helped lead to these improvements. They have created a new social media hashtag, #Not62, to encourage community partners and residents to join the discussion about creating a healthier Bronx.

"The health disparities that arise in the Bronx are a reminder that we need to do more to address the health needs of populations that face the most significant social, economic and health challenges," said Health Commissioner Mary T. Bassett, MD. "With our partners in both the public and private sectors, we have started to see improvements in some key areas, including Health Department programs designed to promote a healthier environment for school aged children."

Steven M. Safyer, MD, President and CEO, Montefiore, says, "The rankings are a call to action on the generation-spanning obstacles to good health that continue to face the Bronx, including poverty, unemployment and underemployment, and diminished access to education. Every day, we see that improving health outcomes in the Bronx takes more than excellent healthcare."

For these reasons, Dr. Safyer says, Montefiore has partnered with community-based service providers, the City Departments of Health and Education, elected officials, and the private sector to make steady progress in addressing the socioeconomic causes of the borough's health challenges.

To combat these challenges, Montefiore and its academic partner Albert Einstein College of Medicine have demonstrated sustained commitment to the shared values of social justice and community service. For nearly 20 years, Montefiore has pioneered innovative programs to address the socioeconomic determinants of health, dedicating resources to help people obtain stable housing, access transportation, and navigate benefits programs.

For more information on Montefiore's deep commitment to the community, visit www.montefiore.org/community.

Montefiore Hosts Rollin' Colon

To celebrate the close of Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, Montefiore hosted the Rollin' Colon, a 20-foot inflatable human colon and pop-up health exhibit on March 31 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm in the East Garden on the Moses Campus. With the aim of increasing screenings for colon cancer, the nation's second leading cause of cancer death, the Rollin' Colon provides a multimedia educational experience for all who enter. This event was free and open to the public.

Associates from Montefiore's Department of Digestive & Liver Diseases (Gastroenterology) were on hand to staff the event. From left: Denise Fontanez-Rodriguez, Program Manager, Patient Navigator Program; Evelyn Lopez-Castillo, Patient Navigator; Elizabeth Concepcion, Patient Navigator; Elyssa Lopez, Patient Navigator; Claribel Ortiz, RN, Patient Navigator; Xavier Lopez, Patient Navigator; Verenice Mackey, RN, Patient Care Coordinator, Patient Navigator Program; Maria Ferrari, RN, Patient Navigator; Irma Pumarejo, Patient Navigator; Krefeld Gilot, RN, Patient Navigator; Diana Zayas, Patient Navigator; Eunice Miranda, Patient Navigator and Chinyere Mba-Jonas, MPH, Administrator, Gastroenterology & Liver Diseases.

Epic@Montefiore Innovations Enhance Patient Experience

With the implementation of new patient-facing devices at Montefiore, associates will have greater ease in accessing patient information and engaging with patients using Epic@Montefiore, a fully integrated electronic medical record system.

Initially going live in May at Montefiore Medical Group (MMG) sites, Epic@Montefiore supports the use of e-signature pads that capture patient signatures on privacy documents (HIPAA) and other registration and consent forms stored within the Epic@Montefiore system. Front desk associates are being prepared for the more efficient workflow, which will enable them to print and scan fewer documents, instantly store and retrieve completed forms, and focus more on patient care.

Epic@Montefiore's self-service registration kiosks will allow patients to conveniently check-in for appointments, electronically sign registration forms, and securely make a co-payment before seeing a provider. Patient registration kiosks are initially being installed at Montefiore Medical Group's Cross County and Via Verde sites.

The rollout of Epic@Montefiore supports Montefiore's aim of delivering seamlessly integrated, high-quality care to its diverse patient population. Epic@Montefiore will streamline associates' workflows, reduce patient wait times, and provide instant access to comprehensive patient information in one central location.

For more information, visit "Epic@Montefiore" on the intranet.

EPIC@Montefiore

Accessing Patient Health Information? What You Need to Know About Fair Warning

Montefiore does not permit associates to use its medical record systems to look at anyone's health information, unless you have a job-related reason. All patients have the right to privacy, and Montefiore is committed to respecting that right. Access to patient information is appropriate only when it is based on the role of the associate in providing care, handling payment, or otherwise being involved in the operations of Montefiore.

Montefiore uses FairWarning, a privacy surveillance tool that assists the Compliance Department in figuring out when access is appropriate. FairWarning continuously collects data from both Montefiore's electronic medical record systems and from our associate database. FairWarning generates reports to proactively detect improper access to medical or billing information by associates, contractors, physicians and others.

The Compliance Department's Privacy Team reviews the reports generated by FairWarning and investigates to determine whether the access was in fact role-related. When the Privacy Team is unable to confirm that access in a particular instance was role-related, they send an e-mail to the user and, if necessary, the user's manager, asking for an explanation. If, after investigation, the Privacy Team determines that the access was not role-based, the user will be subject to disciplinary action.

Patients trust their care providers with sensitive health information, and our patients, including associates who seek care at Montefiore, should feel confident in Montefiore's ability to safeguard that information. Studies have shown that when patients trust their providers' ability to keep their information secure, they have the confidence to share sensitive information with those providers. Our goal is to have zero instances of inappropriate access.

What you can do to protect patient privacy:

- Only access patient health information (PHI) when you have a business need to do so, within the scope of your role.

- Never look at any PHI of your family members, co-workers, friends or others outside the scope of your employment.

- Do not let the fear of an "audit hit" hinder your job performance—if looking at the records is within your role, then you should do it.

- Become familiar with Montefiore's policies and procedures on patient privacy and security. Look in the HIPAA section of the Administrative Policy & Procedure manual, available on the intranet.

- Contact Mary Scranton at privacyofficer@montefiore.org if you have questions about FairWarning or HIPAA; if you fear that your privacy has been compromised; or to schedule HIPAA training at your site.

Clinical Trial Spotlight

Research Study for Adults with Depression

Are you depressed and not responding to treatment? You are not alone. You may qualify for a clinical research study to investigate the safety and efficacy of an investigational drug while receiving an FDA approved antidepressant.

To be eligible to participate, you must be:

- 18–65 Years Old
- Currently taking an antidepressant

For more information, contact Margaret Henderson at 718-920-2933 or mahender@montefiore.org.

Montefiore Einstein Center for Cancer Care
How to Access Clinical Trials in Your Community

Thursday, April 16, 2015
Sheraton Tarrytown Hotel
600 White Plains Road
Tarrytown, New York
Refreshments and registration: 6:30 to 7:00 pm | Program: 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Visit the intranet for more information.

2015 Westchester Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk

This event aims to increase funding for research and raise awareness for pancreatic cancer. The Montefiore Einstein Center for Cancer Care is a gold sponsor and will have a table at the event.

Sunday, April 19, 2015
Registration: 8:00 am | Walk starts: 9:30 am
Rye Playland Park
Rye, New York

Participants can register in advance or at the event: www.montefiore.org/cancer.

Run for the Wild

Join in the Wildlife Conservation Society's 7th Annual Run for the Wild 5k Run and Family Fun Run. This year's theme is "Make Tracks for Gorillas," with Montefiore as a featured sponsor. Come out and enjoy a great way to exercise with Montefiore.

Saturday, April 25, 2015
8:00 am for runners | 8:45 am for the Family Fun Run/Walk
Bronx Zoo, Bronx River Parkway parking lot
Bronx, New York

To register: www.wcs.org

Montefiore registrants should use the promo code "RFTWMontefiore" to save $10 on registration.

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