

# Montefiore Update

August 31, 2015 KEEPING ASSOCIATES IN THE KNOW

## Montefiore Delivers Quality & Cost Savings in Third Year of Pioneer ACO Program

**M**ontefiore announced another successful year in improving both the quality and experience of care of Medicare beneficiaries, reaffirming its position as one of the nation's top performing Pioneer Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs). A new analysis from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) shows Montefiore's ACO generated 3.6 percent in gross savings in 2014 for the Medicare Program—one of the highest financial performers among all Pioneer ACOs—and its providers earned an impressive quality score of 86.21 percent by delivering integrated care to more than 28,000 patients. This news illustrates Montefiore's achievement in improving outcomes and experiences for Medicare patients through delivery of sophisticated, comprehensive care at an average gross savings of nearly 6 percent off its benchmark over the three years of the model.

"For 20 years, Montefiore has invested in, developed and refined a forward thinking, innovative and responsive care model," says Steven M. Safyer, MD, President and CEO, Montefiore. "We take full responsibility for the care we provide—and are unwavering in our goal of optimizing health and wellness. The Montefiore model is the inevitable future of best practice in the delivery of high touch, high-quality healthcare."

This new analysis from CMS reports on the third year of a Medicare population, one in which 25 percent of the patients were over the age of 85. Montefiore's success is due largely to its comprehensive wrap-around services and collaborations with community private practice physicians. Overall quality scores in the third year increased more than 10 percent from the previous year. Significant gains were realized in quality metrics for preventive health measures critical to an elderly population, including screening and follow-up planning for clinical depression, colorectal cancer screening, and providing multidisciplinary care plans for patients identified as being at-risk for falls.

"We at Montefiore are setting the bar high for delivering quality healthcare while holding down costs," says Stephen Rosenthal, Senior Vice President, Population Health Management, Montefiore. "Performance-based care models like ACOs require the healthcare system to create new ways to meet all of our patients' health needs, especially those with chronic, worsening conditions."

Findings were released by CMS and included quality and financial results for the Medicare Shared Savings Program ACOs, in addition to the Pioneer program.

## Dr. Safyer Joins Senator Gillibrand to Tackle Asthma in Schools



Steven M. Safyer, MD, President and CEO, Montefiore Health System, and New York State Senator Kirsten Gillibrand introduce the School Asthma Management Plan Act at a recent press conference.

Steven M. Safyer, MD, President and CEO, Montefiore Health System, was invited by New York State Senator Kirsten Gillibrand to speak at a press conference addressing asthma in schools at the Children's Aid Society Health Center in the Bronx Wednesday, August 12. He spoke about Montefiore's efforts to treat asthma through the Montefiore School Health Program (MSHP), the nation's largest hospital-sponsored school health program focused not only on individual care, but also on prevention and intervention, in partnership with participating New York City Department of Education schools. Dr. Safyer and Senator Gillibrand were joined by Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., State Senator Gustavo Rivera and Assemblyman Mike Blake at the event, during which Senator Gillibrand unveiled her new School Asthma Management Plan Act, which is focused on ensuring that schools are equipped to prevent and respond to student asthma attacks through funding and emergency response training programs.

Dr. Safyer highlighted the MSHP's ongoing success. "We have found that elementary school children with asthma who attended schools with a Montefiore clinic had a 50 percent reduction in asthma-related hospitalizations and a three day per year improvement in attendance, compared with asthmatic children in schools without a Montefiore clinic," says Dr. Safyer.

## Epic@Montefiore Expands to Remaining Ambulatory Sites

Montefiore providers, clinicians and front desk associates in the Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery; Orthopaedic Surgery; Head & Neck Surgery and Neurological Surgery Departments, as well as those in Radiation Oncology, Pediatrics and Psychiatry, are scheduled for the next phase of the Epic@Montefiore roll-out. In this stage of the roll-out, the integrated electronic health record system will unite more than 80 remaining faculty practice sites, along with the remainder of Montefiore's outpatient enterprise, which includes an additional 73 faculty practice locations, and Montefiore Medical Group, Sound Shore Cardiology Associates, and CMO, Montefiore Care Management locations, all of which are already

utilizing the integrated system to provide enhanced patient-centered care.

In surgical practices, for example, ambulatory faculty practice surgeons will be able to comprehensively review their patients' charts, including lab results from current and past visits, as well as patient information from multiple individual visits in one place, using this centralized system. Additionally, surgical care teams can seamlessly prepare for surgery without navigating through various clinical systems.

Epic@Montefiore is designed to support associates in providing patients with a seamless, patient-centered healthcare experience. Specialized training for Wave-3

practice Super Users is slated for August 31 through September 11. Super Users played an integral role during Epic@Montefiore's May and July go-lives, serving as key resources in helping their peers familiarize themselves with the system. Super Users will again be instrumental in helping to implement phase three of the Epic@Montefiore go-live.

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

**EPIC@Montefiore**

### Montefiore and Einstein Receive \$1.2 Million Spinal Cord Injury Research Grant

Researchers at Montefiore and Einstein received a \$1.2 million grant from New York State to advance their promising technology for treating paralysis and other effects of spinal cord injuries (SCI). The grant is one of nine totaling \$5.7 million announced by Governor Andrew Cuomo, with funding being administered by the New York State Spinal Cord Injury Research program. Each year, roughly 1,000 New York residents and 12,000 Americans suffer spinal cord injuries.

“While the inability to stand and walk is viewed by the general public as the major disability associated with SCI, the recovery of proper bladder, bowel and sexual function are listed by patients with SCI as a top priority,” says David Sharp, PhD, Professor, Physiology & Biophysics, Einstein and the grant’s Principal Investigator. The other co-principal investigators are Kelvin Davies, PhD, Professor, Urology, Einstein, and Sylvia Suadiciani, PhD, Associate Professor, Urology, and Assistant Professor, Neuroscience, Einstein.

Dr. Sharp and his colleagues previously found that reducing levels of an enzyme called fidgetin-like 2 in cells unlocks their regenerative capacity and promotes rapid wound healing. The team will work closely with the Block Institute for Clinical and Translational Research at Einstein and Montefiore to advance the technology from the lab towards a clinically available treatment.

### Montefiore New Rochelle Knitting Ladies Create for a Cause



Montefiore New Rochelle’s (MNR) Knitting Ladies, a group of longtime volunteers, create mittens, scarves, baby blankets, booties and other items, which they sell to raise money to support various MNR departments. Recently, the group raised enough money to donate two new wheelchairs to Maternal Child Health, which they presented during National Breastfeeding Week on August 6. Pictured above from rear left to right: Tony Alfano, Vice President and Executive Director, Montefiore New Rochelle; Maryann Guthrie, volunteer; Patricia Devine, MD, Director, Obstetrics & Gynecology and Maternal & Fetal Medicine, MNR; and Lillian Brynin, volunteer.

### Sickle Cell Disease: Medical Student Conducts Research on Brain Inflammation

Nicholas Farris, a third-year Einstein medical student, conducted a comparative MRI study of brain inflammation in patients with sickle cell disease, for which he received the 2014 American Society of Hematology Honors Award. The research was conducted under the guidance of his mentors, Craig Branch, MD, Director, Gruss Magnetic Resonance Research Center, and Associate Professor, Radiology and Physiology and Biophysics, Einstein; and Henny Billett, MD, Chief, Hematology, and Attending Physician, Oncology, Montefiore, and Professor, Clinical Medicine and Clinical Pathology, Einstein.

### Clinical Trial Spotlight

#### Adolescent AIDS Program Invites Healthy Young Women to Participate in Study

The Adolescent AIDS Program at the Children’s Hospital at Montefiore (CHAM) is conducting a research study to examine the safety and acceptability of a vaginal ring containing dapivirine (an anti-retroviral medication) in young women ages 15–17. This dapivirine-containing vaginal ring has already been studied extensively in women ages 18 and older and has proven to be safe.

Study visits will include physical examinations, HIV education and sexual and reproductive health counseling. Parental consent is required. Compensation will be provided to all participants.

For more information, contact the Adolescent AIDS Program at 347-346-1535.

To search for other clinical studies being conducted at Montefiore, visit [www.montefiore.org/clinicaltrials](http://www.montefiore.org/clinicaltrials).

## EVENTS

### Thursday Creative Café

Stop by the Creative Café every Thursday to unwind with a simple, fun art project or just to color and try out art materials. Projects will include making jewelry, key chains, decorated tote bags, flower-top pens and writing journals.

#### Every Thursday beginning September 10 | Noon–1:00 pm Moses Campus Cafeteria

For more information, contact [HealingArts@montefiore.org](mailto:HealingArts@montefiore.org) or call 718-920-6576.

### Join the Moses Choir

The Moses Associate Choir is restarting this September. Join us for 12 weekly Monday rehearsals, singing uplifting songs led by an experienced choral director.

#### Starts Monday, September 14 | Noon–1:00 pm Special performance on December 9

To register, contact [HealingArts@montefiore.org](mailto:HealingArts@montefiore.org) or call 718-920-6576.