

METROPOLITAN JEWISH HEALTH SYSTEM

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NEWS

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MJHS (Metropolitan Jewish Health System) is First in U.S. to Earn Certification for its Home Care Heart Failure Disease Management Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW YORK— MJHS (Metropolitan Jewish Health System), through its First to Care Home Care Inc. program, is the first organization in the nation to achieve disease specific certification for its home care heart failure disease management program. Awarded this unprecedented distinction by The Joint Commission—the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care—MJHS earned the honor after an extensive on-site assessment of First to Care's heart failure disease management program, its processes to evaluate and improve care, as well as patient outcomes.

“The Joint Commission commends MJHS and its First to Care Home Care Inc. program for demonstrating such a high level of patient care,” says Jean Range, MS RN CPHQ, Executive Director of Disease-Specific Care Certification, The Joint Commission. “Achievement of certification signifies that the services at First to Care have met the critical elements to achieve long-term success in improving outcomes. It is the best signal to the community that the quality of care provided is effectively managed to meet the unique and specialized needs of heart failure patients.”

The Joint Commission launched its Disease-Specific Care Certification program in 2002. It is the first program of its kind in the country to certify disease management programs.

“We are confident that our groundbreaking heart failure disease management program will elevate the standard of patient care, improve quality, as well as help inspire the home care industry,” said Lurlene Buckley, RN BSN MA, First to Care Vice President. She added, “Through our unique efforts, patients and their loved ones learn to independently manage medications and monitor symptoms. As a result, rehospitalizations are reduced and our patients are able to continue living at home.”

MJHS' successes also are the result of encouraging increased and effective communication between patients and their medical care team of physicians, nurses, social workers and therapists.

Lenard L. Parisi, RN MA CPHQ FNAHQ, Vice President Quality Management, MJHS, said, "Receiving The Joint Commission's disease specific certification for heart failure is a testament to MJHS' commitment to quality, patient safety and improved outcomes." He added, "Our long-term commitment to establishing, maintaining and expanding the reach of our quality programs and services has resulted in a heart failure disease management program that is an innovative approach to how health care organizations manage chronic conditions. In the next 12 months, we expect to pursue certifications for other MJHS chronic disease management programs."

About MJHS (Metropolitan Jewish Health System)

MJHS is a charitable not-for-profit organization with more than a century of providing quality, compassionate and innovative health services to New Yorkers of all ages, ethnic, religious and economic backgrounds. With a robust portfolio of services that includes home care, hospice, palliative care, skilled nursing facilities, health plans, independent living, and adult day health care, MJHS is uniquely positioned to provide the right level of care when and where it is most needed—so the majority of our patients and members are able to continue living at home and hospital readmissions can be reduced.

Earlier this month, MJHS (Metropolitan Jewish Health System), one of the original not-for-profit long-term home care providers in New York State, was selected to purchase St. Vincent Hospital's long-term home health care program for \$17.1 million. Final disposition of the sale is pending a formal auction as well as regulatory and court approvals.

On June 1, 2010, MJHS announced its acquisition of Jacob Perlow Hospice from Beth Israel Medical Center—a member of the Continuum Health Partners hospital network—making it the largest hospice and palliative care provider in New York State.

For more information, visit www.mjhs.org or call (718) 921-8800.

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