

ADVERTISEMENT

Take control of your  
healthcare costs.



**MAGNACARE**

Self-Insured Health Plans

877-624-6220

## Crain's Health Pulse

Thursday, February 23, 2012

### Monte Opens Translational OB/GYN Center

Consolidating the sites of dozens of clinical trials of potential cancer therapies, Montefiore Medical Center and Albert Einstein College of Medicine have formally opened a new outpatient center. Known as the OB/GYN Clinical & Translational Research Institute, the clinic will have extended hours to enroll women in trials for experimental treatments, as well as trials using new ways of diagnosing cancers. So far, said Dr. Mark Einstein, director of clinical research in the division of gynecologic oncology, there are five ongoing trials for ovarian cancer, four for uterine cancer and six for cervical cancer. There is also a diagnostic trial. "We're using laser light to try to diagnose cervical lesions you can't see with the naked eye," he said. Combining the research sites and partnering with the medical school should allow the center to enroll more patients and continue to attract research funding from pharmaceutical companies, he said.

### DOH Rolls Out Asthma Grants

The New York State Department of Health has awarded a round of grants to organizations in counties with high rates of asthma and emergency-room visits and hospitalizations related to the illness. Each one will get up to \$900,000 over five years, starting with an initial award of \$180,000. In New York City, the grants are going to two New York City Health and Hospitals facilities (Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center in the Bronx and Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center in Brooklyn), New York-Presbyterian Hospital and the American Lung Association of New York in Queens.

### Pedes Surgery Upgrade at NYHQ

In a new partnership with the pediatric surgery division of the Morgan Stanley Children's hospital, New York Hospital Queens will offer an advanced level of surgical care for children on a 24/7 basis. The new program is under the direction of Drs. Charles Stolar, surgeon-in-chief at Morgan Stanley Children's, and Charles Coren, director of pediatric surgery at NYHQ.

### NY picks up pace on SHIN-NY path

The goal of the Statewide Health Information Network of New York, known as SHIN-NY and pronounced as "shiny," is to connect hospitals and doctors across the state electronically. And after nearly a half-billion dollars in state funds have been spent, some 10,000 doctors and primary-care practices are now connected through it. The network is expected to stretch from the Hudson Valley to the five boroughs to Montauk, L.I., by the end of this year, and to the whole state by the end of 2013. "I'm impatient, but we're making real progress," said David Whitlinger, head of the New York eHealth Collaborative.

That progress puts New York's health care providers in a good position to comply with a new round of federal requirements due to be released today. Known as rules for "meaningful use" of electronic records, the guidelines must be met to get funding to assist in making the full transition to electronic records.

Mr. Whitlinger said he has not yet seen the new federal demands, but the word is that there will be about 30 new requirements, covering the use of records to provide public health officials with immunization reports and the writing of electronic prescriptions. There are also new rules on "interoperability" so that people in one system can talk to peers in another. "From a patient perspective, this is very positive thing; from a provider perspective, not everyone

likes it, but it's the right thing to do," he said.

**At A Glance**

**PRIMARY-CARE MANUAL:** The Primary Care Development Corp. is offering a quality-improvement manual for primary care. Aimed at medical directors and senior leaders at such organizations, the guide focuses on using electronic health records to monitor patients with chronic diseases. It can be downloaded at [www.pcdc.org](http://www.pcdc.org).