

METROPOLITAN JEWISH HEALTH SYSTEM

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NEWS

June 1, 2010

Metropolitan Jewish Health System (MJHS) Acquires Jacob Perlow Hospice; Becomes Largest Hospice and Palliative Care Program in New York State and Largest Jewish Hospice in Region

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW YORK— At a time when demand for high-quality and culturally-sensitive care is at an all-time-high, two of New York’s most groundbreaking organizations join today to form the largest not-for-profit hospice and palliative care program in the state and the largest Jewish hospice program in the region. Metropolitan Jewish Health System (MJHS), through its acquisition of Jacob Perlow Hospice from Beth Israel Medical Center—a member of the Continuum Health Partners hospital network—has selected an innovative partner that also has strong Jewish roots, a shared mission and focus on providing compassionate care to patients and families of all religions.

MJHS and Jacob Perlow Hospice were both demonstration projects in the 1980s and have remained at the forefront of end-of-life care with dynamic inpatient and home-based hospice and palliative care services, state-of-the-art pediatric care as well as culturally specific end-of-life programs. The acquisition of Jacob Perlow Hospice allows Metropolitan Jewish Hospice to expand the geographic reach of its unparalleled expertise, as well as unique programs and services.

Multidisciplinary teams will continue the tradition of offering state-of-the-art, individualized, end-of-life and palliative care services to patients and family members who reside at home or in assisted living facilities, skilled nursing facilities and hospitals. Metropolitan Jewish Hospice will assume operation of the Jacob Perlow inpatient unit in conjunction with Beth Israel Medical Center’s Department of Pain Medicine and Palliative Care. MJHS also will assume operation of the Mollie and Jack Zicklin Jewish Hospice Residence in Riverdale,

continuing to offer compassionate care to anyone—regardless of age, religion, ethnicity or socio-economic background.

In describing the acquisition, Barbara Hiney, Executive Vice President of the newly combined hospice and palliative organization, said “The joining of two groundbreaking organizations will have an immediate effect on end-of-life care for all New Yorkers, especially for pediatric and clinically complex patients, as well as Jewish and Chinese patients who benefit from our truly unique, culturally specific, end-of-life programs.”

Hiney added, “Through this acquisition, our high-quality standards of compassionate care will reach even more patients and their loved ones, as well as help foster meaningful and profound moments during some of the most important and emotional experiences of their lives.”

Metropolitan Jewish Hospice is currently the only New York-based organization that requires all of its physicians and nurses to be board certified in hospice and palliative care within the first year of hire. In addition, all staff, regardless of level or title, must complete cultural sensitivity training.

Last year, two independent surveys conducted by the Department of Health and Joint Commission awarded Metropolitan Jewish Hospice the highest possible rating, with no recommendations for improvement—a rare distinction.

Dr. Russell Portenoy, one of the nation’s renowned experts in hospice and palliative care, will join the unified organization as Chief Medical Officer and will continue to chair Beth Israel’s Department of Pain Medicine and Palliative Care. Dr. Portenoy and Associate CMO, Dr. Bernard Lee, will work with a large medical enterprise team of hospice and palliative care physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and palliative care fellowship physicians. The team will provide expert, state-of-the-art hospice and palliative care to patients throughout Manhattan, Brooklyn, the Bronx, Queens and Nassau County—whether in homes, hospitals, nursing homes or hospice residences.

Portenoy said, “The joining of Metropolitan Jewish Hospice and Jacob Perlow Hospice represents the future of integrated, high-quality hospice and palliative care programs in the U.S.” He added, “Our new program provides patients and families with a team of experts who can ensure comfort, support and care, and for the first time, potentially coordinate specialist care across settings—from hospital to home or nursing home, from hospital or regular home care to hospice care, or from hospice to the hospital. We believe that this extraordinary opportunity to intervene early with coordinated specialist care across sites will improve quality, allow treatment decisions that are appropriate and consistent with each patient’s and family’s values and preferences, and ultimately, save money for our health care system.”

MJHS is unique because its continuum of services makes it possible, depending on the level of care required, to transition patients from one of its centers for nursing care or inpatient units to home or a home-like environment. With more than 100 years of health care experience and today’s acquisition of Jacob Perlow Hospice, all of MJHS’ not-for-profit

agencies, in partnership with generous donors—both private and corporate—remain dedicated to making a positive and peaceful difference in the lives of all of its patients.

About Metropolitan Jewish Health System (MJHS)

MJHS is a charitable not-for-profit organization with more than a century of providing health services to the community. A recognized health care leader, our participating agencies and programs serve individuals and their families in the Greater New York City area. The services of MJHS include home care, hospice, palliative care, skilled nursing facilities, health plans, independent living, adult day health care and research. For more information, visit www.mjhs.org.

About the Hospice Programs of MJHS

Metropolitan Jewish Hospice and Jacob Perlow Hospice provide comprehensive culturally-sensitive care and effective pain management to patients with advanced illnesses, as well as their families, throughout the Greater New York area—whether in homes, hospitals, nursing homes or hospice residences. Both were original demonstration projects in the 1980s and have remained at the forefront with innovative inpatient and home-based palliative care services, state-of-the-art pediatric hospice care and culturally specific end-of-life programs. For more information, call 1-800- HOSPICE/1-866-958-7423 or visit www.mjhs.org.

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