

Elmhurst Hospital Expands Rehabilitation Services

Elmhurst Hospital Center celebrated the completion of a \$2 million modernization project in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine on Tuesday, September 18. With this expansion, Elmhurst Hospital Center administrators hope to increase the current 450 inpatient admissions and 18,000 outpatient visits each year in response to the growing need for rehabilitation services. "Our services were expanded due to an increase in admissions over the past few years. Rehabilitation Medicine was one of the many services that were offered 50 years ago when the hospital first opened in the community. As the population grows and medicine changes, Elmhurst Hospital Center is committed to making sure the residents of Western Queens are provided with a full range of services," Chris Constantino, Elmhurst Hospital Center executive director, said.

Patients will see an increase in the number and size of clinic exam rooms, waiting rooms, outpatient treatment areas, modernized inpatient and outpatient gyms, multiple equipment updates, computerized scheduling, functional outcome standardization, teleconferencing capabilities and enhanced patient education resources. "Our functional outcomes meet or exceed regional and national performance measures in multiple areas and for multiple diagnostic conditions. Patients report a high degree of satisfaction with the care they receive in our facility and

recommend our services to family and friends," Elmhurst Hospital Center Director of Rehabilitation Medicine Dr. Jeffrey Fine said.

In addition to structural changes, additional services are offered to the community including: pediatric exercise obesity prevention programs; cognitive rehabilitation outpatient remediation and support groups; expanded wound care services, and educational and instructional programs for back pain. Pre-renovation specialty services included spinal cord rehabilitation; pain rehabilitation; pediatric rehabilitation; multi-specialty clinics including rheumatology, orthopedic spine, and hand rehabilitation; expert electro-diagnostic studies; myofascial and joint injections; botox injections; prosthetics; orthotics; acupuncture, and durable medical equipment management. Future plans for the department include osteoarthritis joint camp, cardiac rehabilitation and educational programs for osteoarthritis and stroke prevention. Other services offered at Elmhurst that are not offered in other rehabilitation settings are isokinetic strengthening, work simulation, biofeedback, electrotherapy, nerve stimulation, wound care, laser therapy and whole body vibration.

Elmhurst Hospital Center's rehabilitation team includes doctorate level therapists, both physical and occupational, and physicians that actively participate in resident



Gathered for the Elmhurst Hospital Center Department of Rehabilitation Modernization Project Ribbon Cutting Ceremony were (l. to r.): Elmhurst Hospital Center Executive Director Chris Constantino; Yonel Letellier, Chief of Staff for Assemblymember Jose R. Peralta, City Councilmember Leroy G. Comrie, Jr., state Senator John D. Sabini, Elmhurst Hospital Center Director of Rehabilitation Medicine Jeffrey Fine, M.D., Queens Health Network Senior Vice President Ann Marie Sullivan, M.D. and Kristjan T. Ragnarsson, M.D. Chairman, Rehabilitation Medicine, Mt. Sinai Hospital.

physician education programs to keep current with new trends. "As the first academic rehabilitation department in the borough, we feel responsible to maintain the high standard of care we have always delivered to this community. By participating in educational programs, we guarantee that our

patients will continue to receive the most current treatment protocols," Fine said.

Elmhurst Hospital Center is a member of the Queens Health Network, an affiliate of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine and a member of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation.



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