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CRAIN'S HEALTH pulse

A daily newsletter on the business of health care

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Thursday, April 26, 2007

TODAY'S NEWS

DASNY BOND

Yesterday, DASNY's board approved a bond of up to \$365 million for the North Shore-LIJ Health System. Funding includes \$129 million for an addition to the emergency room and other improvements at LIJ, \$42.4 million to renovate the ninth floor of the Don Monti Pavilion at the Manhasset campus, \$4.9 million for other capital improvements at other campuses, and \$159.6 million to refund outstanding bonds.

IMUS CENTER

Hoping to parlay the controversy over Don Imus' racist radio remarks into something positive, the East Harlem Council for Human Services is holding a news conference on May 1 that features his wife, Deirdre Imus. Ms. Imus, known for her commitment to "green" health care, has signed on to help raise \$9 million of \$11 million to restore a former state-owned building at East 123rd Street and Third Avenue. "We want it to be New York's first green health clinic and to include an urgicare center for asthma," says the council's CEO, Ellie Sanchez. The group contacted Ms. Imus in February, "way before this craziness began." Referring to recent negative publicity for Mr. Imus, she says, "Maybe this will get us the attention we need to reach our goal."

SVCMC FEES

The judge presiding over the bankruptcy

New group practice in Westchester

More than six solo practices and larger groups have formed the North Star Medical Group, a primary care practice, in Westchester. The group has 15 doctors, and eight more are exploring whether to sign on. The group formally launched in January, after consulting for eight months with Integrated Health-Care, based in Stamford, Conn.

Westchester has seen much practice consolidation lately. As of July 1, doctors of the Katonah Medical Group are merging with the Mount Kisco Medical Group.

The Westchester Medical Group also is expanding.

With the market in flux, "these physicians wanted to keep the style they were comfortable with in a community-based setting," says IHC's Ron Dreskin. "They needed an alternative to the megagroup."

North Star will provide more ancillary services than the doctors could afford separately. As well, with the power of a larger group, North Star doctors have raised reimbursement by 8% to 10% with two insurers, says Mr. Dreskin.

of Saint Vincent Catholic Medical Centers approved partial payment of \$11.15 million in fees and \$631,483 in expenses for advisers in the case. The top five billers were Weil Gotshal & Manges (\$4.5 million), Huron Consulting (\$1.1 million), Alston & Bird (\$1 million), Togut Segal & Segal (\$926, 117) and Garfunkel Wild & Travis (\$802,127).

MEDICARE PROBLEMS

A new Medicare Rights Center national report includes many anecdotes about the problems patients in the New York face when they abandon traditional Medicare for private plans. The center uses the stories to illustrate that private plans can cost more, may not cover emergency care out of

state, and are more restrictive in physician choice. One example is that of a Somerset, N.J., man who paid \$3,600 for chemotherapy under his Horizon BCBS plan, compared with the \$992 he would have paid with traditional Medicare. The report is at medicarerights.org.

AT A GLANCE

CORRECTION: In the April 25 Pulse Extra, the first bar for each year of the graphic on "Nonresidents as a percent of admissions by hospital type" represents specialty hospitals, and the second bar represents AMCs. The corrected version is available at www.newyorkbusiness.com.

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Providing Patient Placement Services for Sub-Acute Care and Rehab

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