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**DIABETES EDUCATION PROGRAM AT LINCOLN HOSPITAL
RECEIVES MERITORIOUS ADA CERTIFICATION**

The Diabetes Education Program at Lincoln Hospital has been designated as a Diabetes Center of Excellence for Diabetes Self Management by the American Diabetes Association (ADA). The specialized education program focuses on type 1 and type 2 diabetes, obesity and the prevention of complications from the disease, offering a culturally competent, patient centered, bilingual curriculum. This program provides self management education services that meet or exceed the national standards. This is welcomed news for the South Bronx—a community with the highest prevalence of diagnosed diabetes in New York City.

“This Center of Excellence is indicative of the hospital’s innovative work in the field of diabetes and its associated disorders,” said José R. Sánchez, Lincoln Hospital’s Executive Director and Sr. Vice President of Generations+/Northern Manhattan Health Network. “The ADA’s certification recognizes the outstanding work of our specialized diabetes team whose unique skills and dedication provide patients with increased knowledge of diabetes and self-management of the disease.

Assuring high-quality education for patient self-care is one of the primary goals of the ADA’s recognition program. Unnecessary hospital admissions and some of the acute and chronic complications of diabetes may be prevented through self-management. Heart disease and stroke, kidney disease, blindness, nerve disease and amputation are among the life-threatening complications associated with diabetes.

“There are only two other recognized diabetes education programs in The Bronx,” said Lorena Drago, Diabetes Education Program Director. She noted, “What makes our Diabetes Center unique is that it offers a bilingual instructional staff, providing education that incorporates culturally influenced beliefs, attitudes and practices. In addition, we have four times the number of nutrition classes offered by other diabetes education programs.”

ADA is the largest and most widely recognized professional organization in the field of diabetes and assures that educational programs meet the National Standards for Diabetes Self-Management Education.

Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center, founded in 1839, is tightly woven into the fabric of community life in the South Bronx, aggressively tackling many important community health issues such as asthma, obesity, cancer, diabetes and tuberculosis. It is known for innovative programs addressing the specific needs of the community it serves. Lincoln has one of the busiest Emergency Departments in the region.

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