



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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HENRIETTA LYLE
Chairperson

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Assistant District Manager

Health & Human Services Committee

Monday January 27, 2014 6:30pm

Present: Chair Hazel Dukes, Dianne Henderson, Christina Curry, Donna Gill, Deborah Yates
Excused: Melvin Christian, Jennifer Jones, Cicely Harris
Absent: Ibrahima Diafoune, Steven Watkins, Cheryl Smith

Community Guests:

Yuvania Espino, Harlem Hospital
Karen Jarrett, NYS Nursing Assoc
H.P. Schroer, Concerned Citizen
Neil Resnick, Harlem Hospital

Valerie Wright, Harlem Hospital
Robert Goldberg, Touro College
Paul Hersh
Melba Taylor, MD, Harlem Hospital

The January 2014 Health & Human Services Committee meeting opened with an introduction of all Board Committee members and visitors.

Dr. Neil Resnick, Harlem Hospital

Dr. Resnick has been at the Harlem Hospital Center for six months his speciality is interventional radiology it is a minimal invasive procedure technology using the tools of radiology, performing surgery without cutting people open. He was brought to Harlem Hospital to bring in new procedures the hospital wants to implement. Dr. Resnick's speciality is dealing with fibroid removal.

Dr. Dukes would like to have him come to the March General Board meeting and give a presentation.

Dr. Resnick trained at Mt. Sinai where he studied the prevalence of fibroids among African American and Latina women. His appointment to Harlem Hospital in the gynecological department is to give women an additional option for fibroid removal. Dr. Resnick performs the procedure differently than most surgeons. Most doctors go through the groin, through the arteries to get to fibroids which are in the uterus. Dr. Resnick goes through the wrist with a catheter, up the arm through the aorta to get to the uterus and cut off blood from the inside of the uterus.

Once the blood supply is cut off the tumors begin to shrink. Before this procedure was perfected the usual way to treat was invasive surgery. Most physicians would remove the entire uterus. The other option was a myomectomy which left the uterus in place and removed the tumors. Women were not happy with only having those choices because recovery times were lengthy. In some instances the use of medication would shrink the tumors. New patients see the maximum effect in about three months.

Dr. Resnick has opened a new general interventional radiology dedicated fibroid clinic within the gynecology department at Harlem Hospital. Patients can see their gynecologist and if they decide they do not want surgery the patient can come to speak with Dr. Resnick. Within one month bleeding is changed after the procedure with Dr. Resnick. Patients see the maximum effect within three to six months. While in the hospital the patient is given a pump to manage the pain and once discharged they are given a prescription for Percocet. It is much more comfortable for the patient. Ms. Dukes stated that most doctors were giving African American women a hysterectomy as a first and only choice.

Dr. Resnick stated that fibroid surgery is the 3rd leading cause of hysterectomy in the country. This procedure is equivalent to a myomectomy, which is also a procedure to remove fibroids. Although less invasive this procedure is not discussed as a first option. Currently Dr. Resnick performs this procedure every other week. There is a slight chance of infertility so it is a good option for women who don't want to have any more kids. It is a procedure done in a day with an overnight stay in the hospital, although many patients feel as if they can leave hospital several hours after procedure. All patients are doing well after procedure. Insurance covers this procedure as with any other procedure. MRI is done initially to determine if this is the only cause of excessive bleeding and pain. About 200 dozen women have surgery related to fibroids a year. The main reason patients choose the myomectomy over this procedure is to avoid the possibility of infertility. This procedure has less reoccurrence of fibroids than other procedures. This procedure was first done in France in 1972.

H.P. Schorer Hospital Overcharging For in Patient Services

Mr. Schorer is not with any organization he is a concerned citizen. Millions of Americas are being charged for an extra day when they stay in the hospital. He was in the hospital and checked out at 10am and noticed he was charged for day of discharge. Through some investigation of his own he has discovered that you should only be charged for the day preceding your discharge. He hopes to have procedures changed inside hospitals that will give patients this information when they check into hospitals. Hospitals make a great deal of money charging patients for the extra day. Insurance companies usually don't pay so often times the patient is charged. He has started a petition on www.Moveon.org and contacted elected officials. Hospitals gain upwards of 40M a year for these charges. Once Mr. Schorer was able to have the charges removed from his hospital bill he decided to go to Center for Medical Services (CMS) to bring it to their attention. CMS is now going to make the change in the book patients are given at the hospital starting September 2014. In the meantime Mr. Schorer wants letters to go to elected officials and to hospitals to stop this practice of charging for day of discharge.

Dr. Dukes states that people don't read it so the hospitals will still get the money. When we were trying to enroll people into the Affordable Care Act we had to go door to door. We need another kind of campaign. Dr. Dukes stated that If it is not on TV and a soap opera where people are glued most of the day the message is lost. Most people never think of a hospital overcharging for patient stay. CMS putting this information in the book is a good start, but it should be given to the patient along with other in patient forms.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dianne Henderson gave an update on the upcoming Health Forum. It is scheduled for Saturday, March 22nd from 8-12pm, at the Ralph Lauren Cancer Center located at 109 E124th Street. The forum will have two panels, one covering the Affordable Care Act and another discussing Digital Health. The Committee is hoping to offer Mammograms, Blood Pressure Screenings among other things. Christina Curry asked to ensure that there is a portable mammogram machine for the disabled. There will be Healthcare Navigators available to help with questions regarding the Affordable Care Act. The facility is wheelchair accessible and the flyer will reflect accessibility. There will be health providers in attendance, Metro Plus and Emblem Health and Healthfirst. There will be pre registration offered and hope to have that online soon. Dr. Goldberg from Touro College offered to have some of his students available to provide Blood Pressure screenings. Although the Forum will end at noon we are working to ensure the services are available until 4pm. Several people in attendance offered to distribute flyers once they are completed. Press will be invited.

Dr. Melba Taylor, from Harlem Hospital announced that Harlem Hospital had received the 23 nurses it had requested.

Karen Jarrett from the New York State Nurses Association announced that there would be a public hearing on January 30th that proposes a Certification of Need to privatize Dialysis in city hospitals. She is concerned about the level of patient care should this happen. The proposed company to handle the Dialysis is Big Apple Dialysis. Ms. Jarrett stated that Big Apple Dialysis has promised a 3M profit in the first year. Because payment for Dialysis from insurance companies is capped the only way to make a profit is to cut back on the quality of care the patient is receiving. Dr. Dukes also recommended Ms. Jarrett contact Assemblyman Denny Farrell's office, Assemblyman Keith Wright and Senator Bill Perkins.

Christina Curry made a plea for more involvement of people in emergency preparedness uptown. She states that when she attends meetings the plans end at 96th Street. Dr. Taylor of Harlem Hospital agreed that it is an important issue. Dr. Taylor encourages people to have emergency kits in their homes. She also conducts fire drills that train people how to react when there is a fire. Dr. Dukes suggested that our Board Chair reach out to the Borough President about emergency preparedness in our community.

Meeting Adjourned

*** NEXT MEETING: Monday February 24th at 6:30pm ***