

For Immediate Release

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******* Press Release *******

JACOBI MEDICAL CENTER DESIGNATED AS A BARIATRIC SURGERY CENTER OF EXCELLENCE®

July 26, 2011 - Jacobi Medical Center and Dr. Ajay Chopra, Chief of Laparoscopic and Bariatric Surgery at Jacobi, have earned designation as a Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence® by the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS).

The ASMBS Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence designation recognizes surgeons and facilities that demonstrate an unparalleled commitment and ability to consistently deliver safe, effective, evidence-based care. The program is structured to help bariatric surgery providers continuously improve care quality and patient safety.

“By providing safe, high quality surgical services and follow up care,” Dr. Chopra said, “Jacobi Medical Center has over the past seven years helped to change the lives of more than 550 bariatric surgery patients.”

In conjunction with proper nutrition and exercise, bariatric surgery patients may experience a weight loss averaging between 40% - 80% of their excess body weight. To assist patients on their weight loss journey, Jacobi offers a full array of services that support bariatric patients before, during and after surgery. Patients are required to participate in support group meetings and undergo extensive medical and psychological testing to ensure that bariatric surgery is the best option for weight loss and management.

Currently, there are three surgical options available at Jacobi - lap band, sleeve gastrectomy and gastric bypass. Gastric lap banding uses an implanted device that restricts the amount of food a person needs to feel full. Sleeve gastrectomy generates weight loss by restricting the amount of food that can be eaten by vertically removing 70% or more of the stomach without bypassing the intestines or causing any gastrointestinal malabsorption. Gastric bypass surgery creates a small stomach pouch and allows food to bypass the stomach and part of the small intestine. This results in weight loss by restriction as well as malabsorption of food.

To learn more about bariatric surgery at Jacobi Medical Center, please call (718) 918-5566.

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About Jacobi Medical Center

Jacobi Medical Center is part of HHC's North Bronx Healthcare Network, which includes North Central Bronx Hospital. A 457-bed teaching hospital affiliated with the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Jacobi offers numerous centers of excellence including its renowned trauma center, multi-person hyperbaric unit, burn center, surgical intensive care unit, stroke center and regional perinatal center. Jacobi's new Ambulatory Care Pavilion is a stunning complement to its recently constructed inpatient facility and allows staff to provide outpatients with high-quality care in a modern, state-of-the-art environment.

About the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS)

The ASMBS is the largest organization for bariatric surgeons in the world. It is a nonprofit organization that works to advance the art and science of bariatric surgery and is committed to educating medical professionals and the lay public about bariatric surgery as an option for the treatment of morbid obesity, as well as the associated risks and benefits. It encourages its members to investigate and discover new advances in bariatric surgery, while maintaining a steady exchange of experiences and ideas that may lead to improved surgical outcomes for morbidly obese patients. For more information on the ASMBS, visit www.asmb.org.

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