

Southcoast Health collaborating with Alpert Medical School Medical students participating in clinical rotations

NEW BEDFORD, MASS. – Southcoast® Health recently announced a teaching collaboration with the Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Under the collaboration, Brown University medical students started participating in clinical rotations at Southcoast Health.

Third-year Brown medical students began receiving education at Southcoast sites by Southcoast employed physicians during their Core Clerkship in Pediatrics in May, and will be training in other areas, specifically Family Medicine and Obstetrics & Gynecology, in the near future. Education in the “doctoring program” for first and second year students and “clinical elective” rotations for fourth year students will be offered as well.

“Southcoast Health, with its forward thinking focus on patient-centered, integrated care and its emphasis on Population Health, offers unique educational opportunities for medical education in the New England region,” said **DR. VICTOR PRICOLO**, Chair of the Department of Surgery at Southcoast, who has been appointed Director of Brown University medical education at Southcoast.

“This collaboration is a wonderful opportunity to expand the clinical experiences for our medical students and engage them in the communities served by Southcoast Health,” said **DR. ALLAN TUNKEL**, Associate Dean for Medical Education at Alpert Medical School. ❖

OHIC approves commercial health insurance rates for 2016

CRANSTON – Health Insurance Commissioner **KATHLEEN C HITTNER, MD**, recently announced her final decision on commercial health insurance premiums for 2016. She approved lower rates than those requested by most health insurers. The rising cost of medical care – the prices insurers pay to providers for particular services and the number of services members use – continues to be the main driver of health insurance premium growth.

For a complete breakdown of the rates approved, click here:

<http://www.ohic.ri.gov/ohic-for-mandratereview.php>



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Kent Hospital Laboratory awarded College of American Pathologists accreditation

WARWICK – The College of American Pathologists (CAP) has once again awarded accreditation to the Kent Hospital laboratory and Wickford Junction laboratory based on results of a recent on-site inspection as part of the CAP’s accreditation programs. This is a two-year accreditation.

Kent Hospital was advised of this national recognition and commended for the excellence of service provided. The Kent Hospital laboratory is one of more than 7,600 CAP-accredited facilities worldwide, and performs more than 1.5 million tests annually.

“We are very pleased to maintain our CAP accreditation here at Kent Hospital,” said **MICHAEL DACEY**, president and COO, Kent Hospital. “The laboratory clinical leadership and dedicated staff work extremely hard to achieve the highest standards for our patients and to provide the excellence of care they deserve. Meeting and exceeding these rigorous standards is an important achievement we continually strive towards.”

The U.S. federal government recognizes the CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program, begun in the early 1960s as being equal – to or more-stringent – than the government’s own inspection program.

During the CAP accreditation process, designed to ensure the highest standard of care for all laboratory patients, inspectors examine the laboratory’s records and quality control of procedures for the preceding two years. CAP inspectors also examine laboratory staff qualifications, equipment, facilities, safety program and record and overall management. ❖