

## Enrollment 100% in Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

PROVIDENCE – One hundred percent of healthcare providers who are authorized to prescribe opioids and other potent medications are now enrolled in the state's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) announced last week.

In addition to prescribers, the PDMP is used by pharmacists when filling prescriptions. Legislation from 2014 requires all prescribers of controlled substances to register for the PDMP; however, before RIDOH initiated a PDMP Education, Notification, and Enforcement Plan in January 2016, only approximately 40% of prescribers had done so. Through increased training and staff visits to practices, RIDOH helped boost enrollment to 100%.

"The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program is an indispensable tool in the fight against the epidemic of overdose in Rhode Island," said Director of Health and Overdose Task Force Co-Chair **NICOLE ALEXANDER-SCOTT, MD, MPH**.

In addition to ensuring all eligible users are enrolled in the PDMP, RIDOH is working to enhance the tool to make it easier for users to integrate it into their current practice and support better patient care.

Rhode Island's PDMP is now connected to similar databases in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and seven other states, and prescribers will soon automatically be notified about potentially risky prescribing behaviors by any prescriber treating their patients. RIDOH is also working with practices to help connect the PDMP to patients' electronic health records. ❖

## Southcoast Health's Center for Weight Loss at Charlton earns national accreditation

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS — Southcoast Health announced last week that the Center for Weight Loss at Charlton Memorial Hospital in Fall River has been accredited as a Comprehensive Bariatric Center under the Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program (MBSAQIP), a joint program of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS).

Southcoast Health's Center for Weight Loss at Tobey Hospital in Wareham is also accredited by the MBSAQIP.

The MBSAQIP standards ensure that bariatric surgical patients receive a multidisciplinary program, not just a surgical procedure, which improves patient outcomes and long-term success. The accredited center offers preoperative and postoperative care designed specifically for their severely obese patients.

"We are pleased to add Charlton Memorial Hospital to our already well-established bariatric program at Tobey Hospital. Patients in the Fall River and Rhode Island region now have easy access to a comprehensive weight loss surgery program that has been recognized nationally for excellence. Local surgical care provides patients with convenient access and improves outcomes with better long-term follow up support," said **RAYFORD KRUGER, MD, FACS**, Chief of the Southcoast Center for Weight Loss.

To earn the MBSAQIP designation, the Center for Weight Loss at Charlton Memorial met essential criteria for staffing, training and facility infrastructure and protocols for care, ensuring its ability to support patients with severe obesity. The center also participates in a national data registry that yields semiannual reports on the quality of its processes and outcomes, identifying opportunities for continuous quality improvement. The standards are specified in the MBSAQIP *Resources for Optimal Care of the Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Patient 2014*, published by the ACS and ASMBS. ❖

## Dr. Linda J. Resnik at Providence VA awarded \$2.5M for Multi-Center Amputation Care Study

PROVIDENCE – **DR. LINDA J. RESNIK**, a researcher at the Providence VA Medical Center, was awarded a three-year contract by the Department of Defense on Sept. 23rd to study the care of veterans and service members with upper-limb amputations.

"This study will be the largest, most comprehensive, study of Veterans and service members with upper-limb amputation," said Dr. Resnik, the principal investigator for the study, who is also a professor of research at the Department of Health Services, Policy and Practice at Brown University. "Findings will be used to improve quality of care, and inform evidence based policies for device prescription and provision of rehabilitation services."

The nearly \$2.5 million contract, awarded by DOD's Orthotics and Prosthetics Outcomes Research Program to the Ocean State Research Institute Inc., the non-profit arm of the Providence VAMC, will provide data to assess the quality of amputation care in VA and the DOD, and the impact of their new evidence based clinical practice guidelines for the rehabilitation of people with upper limb amputation over a one-year follow-up period.

A cross-agency collaboration, the study will include participation by the University of Massachusetts Medical School; University of South Florida; Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine Inc. at the Center for the Intrepid at Brooke Army Medical Center; Tampa VA Research and Education Foundation at the James A. Haley VA Medical Center; North Florida Foundation for Research and Education at the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center; McGuire Research Institute at Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center; and the Seattle Institute for Biomedical and Clinical Research at VA Puget Sound Health Care System. ❖

