



Brookdale Overview

Independent Living *An ideal retirement living experience*

- Spacious apartments with minimal maintenance
- Restaurant-style dining
- Plenty of planned activities every day

Assisted Living *The right choice for people who need extra help with daily activities*

- Qualified staff assists with taking medication, dressing, bathing, etc.
- Floor plans, from studio to two-bedroom apartments
- Activities and events for various levels of acuity

Alzheimer's & Dementia Care *Person-centered care for people at various stages*

- Programs that leverage the latest dementia care research
- A care philosophy defined by more than the symptoms of Alzheimer's & dementia
- An experienced staff who help residents thrive

Rehabilitation & Skilled Nursing *For short-term surgical recovery or long-term rehabilitation*

- Around-the-clock, licensed nursing care
- Providing clinical resources in a comfortable setting that feels like home
- A mission and focus to helping residents get well and then get home as quickly as possible

Personalized Living *For people who just need a little help with things*

- One-on-one non-medical services for home care needs
- Additional personal needs for those in assisted living or home such as escorts to doctor appointments and more

Home Health *For qualified people in need of therapy or rehabilitation — all in the comfort of home*

- Get Medicare-certified assistance from experienced professionals
- Many healthcare services such as wound care and stroke therapy

Therapy *Specialized programming personalized to encourage recovery*

- An emphasis on education, fitness and rehabilitation that helps seniors retain or enhance their independence
- Most insurances accepted

Hospice *Promoting comfort by addressing the full range of needs of patients and families*

- Primary focus of quality of life
- Specially trained staff help families and patients cope with overwhelming feelings accompanying end-of-life care

Not all services are available at all communities. Contact community for details

The Rhode Island Network

Brookdale Center of New England
 Brookdale Cumberland
 Brookdale Smithfield
 Brookdale Greenwich Bay
 Brookdale Pocasset Bay

Brookdale Sakonnet Bay
 Brookdale East Bay
 Brookdale West Bay
 Brookdale South Bay

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Research evaluates impact of surgical modality on breast-specific sensuality and sexual function in cancer survivorship

Does the type of surgery used to treat breast cancer impact a woman's sensuality and sexual function in survivorship? New research from Women & Infants Hospital analyzed the association of surgical modality with sexual function and found that breast-specific sensuality and appearance satisfaction are better with lumpectomy and may correlate with improved sexual function post-operatively.

The research, "Breast-Specific Sensuality and Sexual Function in Cancer Survivorship: Does Surgical Modality Matter?," has been published in *The Annals of Surgical Oncology*. The research team was led by

JENNIFER S. GASS, MD, FACS, chief of surgery at Women & Infants Hospital, a director of the breast fellowship at the Breast Health Center at Women & Infants, and clinical assistant professor at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. The team included former Women & Infants/Brown University fellows and residents Michaela Onstad, MD, now of MD Anderson Cancer Center, Sarah Pesek, MD, now of St. Peter's Health Partners Medical Associates, Sara Fogarty, MD, now of the Greater Baltimore Medical Center, and Kristin Rojas, MD, now at Maimonides Hospital; Ashley Stuckey, MD, of Women & Infants Hospital and the Warren Alpert Medical School; Christina Raker of Women & Infants Hospital; and Don Dizon, MD, of Harvard Medical School. This work was originally presented at the Society of Surgical Oncology in Houston, TX in 2015.

According to Dr. Gass, "In an era where we see more early-staged breast cancer patients choosing mastectomy, no study has previously addressed breast specific sensuality, defined as the breast's role during intimacy. We explored breast-specific sensuality and sexual function among women who underwent lumpectomy, mastectomy alone, or mastectomy with reconstruction and analyzed the association of surgical modality with sexual function."

The study sought to explore the long-term consequences of breast surgery focusing on appearance and sexuality. The research team conducted a cross-sectional survey of women who underwent breast cancer surgery for invasive breast cancer or ductal carcinoma in situ at Women & Infants Hospital. Questions addressed such topics as satisfaction with appearance of the breast, comfort with a partner seeing the breast without clothing, and importance of the breast in intimacy and sex before and after treatment for breast cancer.

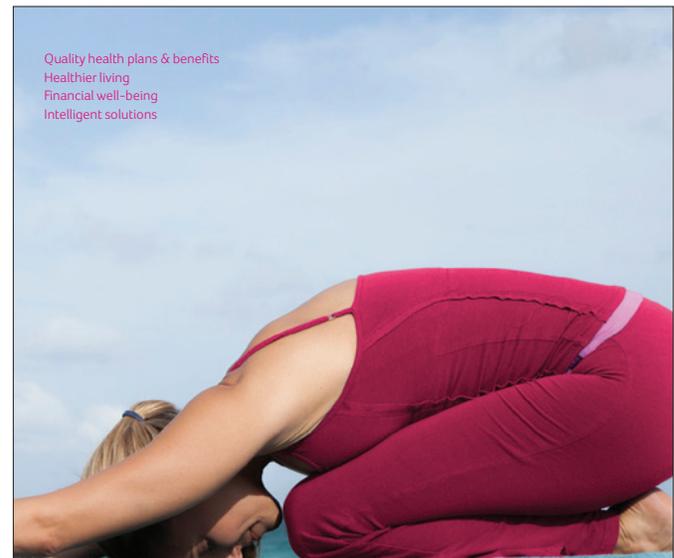
Dr. Gass explained, "We hypothesized that outside of overall sexual function, breast-specific sensuality is an important aspect of women diagnosed with breast cancer. Our results



demonstrated that when asked to recall their experiences before surgery, most women viewed their breasts as integral to intimacy. We now find that in survivorship, women report that breast-specific sensuality is significantly decreased regardless of the surgical modality, but that lumpectomy has the best reported outcomes."

While women with early stage breast cancer often are cured of their disease, they live with surgical consequences throughout survivorship. These data may guide surgical counseling beyond expected overall survival to include quality of life.

"There is no doubt that overall survival is our number one priority, but ensuring a good quality of life for cancer survivors is also vital, and that includes a 'breast-inclusive' perspective of sexuality in survivorship," said Dr. Gass. ❖



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Marcantano leaves top position at W&I

PROVIDENCE – **MARK R. MARCANTANO**, president and chief operating officer of Care New England's (CNE) Women & Infants Hospital, stepped down from his position on Friday, July 28th. He has been serving in that position since April 2014; previously he had been executive vice president and chief operating officer since January 2010.

His departure comes several months after CNE announced that it would merge with Massachusetts-based hospital group Partners HealthCare. According to newspaper reports, CNE President and CEO Dennis Keefe informed the company's senior management about the decision last week, and stated in a memo: "As you know, the critical changes taking place across Care New England to bring our system to financial stability are happening rapidly. In the midst of this constant change, there comes an important opportunity to assess accomplishments and the work ahead with future opportunity from both a personal and professional perspective."



CNE

Two consultants from the firm Alvarez & Marsal, Diane Rafferty and Arnie Schaffer, will be overseeing Women & Infants until an interim president is chosen. They will report to Dr. Jim Fanale, Care New England's chief clinical officer, according to Keefe's memo.

Prior to his tenure at W&I, Marcantano worked at Children's Hospital in Boston where he served as vice president of ambulatory and network services.

ambulatory and network services.

He holds a bachelor of science degree in finance from New York University and a juris doctor from Albany Law School of Union University. ❖

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RIDOH announces \$680,000 in loan repayment awards

The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) and the Health Professionals Loan Repayment Board announced more than \$686,000 in loan repayment awards today aimed at strengthening the healthcare workforce and narrowing health disparities in Rhode Island by increasing the number of providers in medically underserved communities.

The awards went to 18 healthcare professionals, including physicians, dentists, nurses, and behavioral health providers. In accepting their loan repayment awards, the recipients have committed to practicing in medically underserved communities in Rhode Island for at least two years.

“The Health Professionals Loan Repayment Program is essential to our work to eliminate health disparities by ensuring access to quality health services and care in every zip code in Rhode Island,” said **NICOLE ALEXANDER-SCOTT, MD, MPH**, Director of Health and Chair of the Health Professional Loan Repayment Board. “Health and medical education are expensive. This program helps remove barriers for our next generation of healthcare providers, and it also helps us draw the best and brightest to the healthcare workforce in our state.

Funding for the program comes from the federal government and from various health and community organizations. The Rhode Island Health Center Association solicited matching funds from many of these organizations.

“The recruitment and retention of health professionals is essential to having an adequate workforce to provide comprehensive medical services to Rhode Islanders. The loan repayment program is a vital tool which ensures this necessary supply of professionals to deliver care, especially within communities where access can be challenging,” said Jane A. Hayward, president and CEO of the Rhode Island Health Center Association.

Contributions to the Health Professionals Loan Repayment Fund were made by the Rhode Island Foundation (\$200,000), Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island (\$50,000), the Rhode Island Health Center Association (\$50,000), Delta Dental of Rhode Island (\$50,000), Landmark Hospital (\$50,000), CharterCARE (\$50,000), Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Rhode Island (\$30,000), and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan (\$25,000). Additionally, \$175,000 in federal funding was contributed by U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) through a grant to RIDOH. ❖

Health Professionals Loan Repayment Program Award Recipients

Blackstone Valley Community Health Center

Alice Eyo *Registered Nurse*

Pedro Ochoa *Dentist*

Shannan Victorino *Registered Nurse*

Providence Community Health Centers

Mofoluso Agbelese *Advanced*

Practice Registered Nurse

Beth Cronin *Physician*

Jessica Salak *Physician*

Emily White *Physician*

Rhode Island Department of Corrections

Jessica Bonanno-Hamel

Independent Clinical Social Worker

Thundermist Health Center

Yamila Cos *Dentist*

Jessica Heney *Physician*

Vanessa Krasinski *Advanced Practice Registered Nurse*

Stephanie Avila *Certified Nurse Midwife*

Emily Collier *Advanced Practice Registered Nurse*

Allison Parkhurst *Marriage and Family Therapist*

The Providence Center

Marol Kerge *Advanced Practice Registered Nurse*

Emily Phrasikaysone *Registered Nurse*

Comprehensive Community Action Program

Kimberly Stokinger *Physician Assistant*

Jason Villa *Physician Assistant*

NEWS BRIEF

Insurance coverage for non-opioid treatments for pain signed into law

Legislation that requires insurance reimbursement for chiropractic and osteopathic non-opioid treatments for pain has been signed into law.

The legislation (2017-S 0789Aaa 2017-H 6124Aaa) states that patients with substance use disorders shall have access to evidence-based non-opioid treatment for pain. In turn, insurance coverage will be required for medically necessary chiropractic care and osteopathic manipulative treatment performed by licensed individuals.

The law goes into effect on April 1, 2018. ❖



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VA research funded to help combat antimicrobial resistance

PROVIDENCE – A research pharmacist at the Providence VA Medical Center received notification July 13 of a Career Development Award from the Veterans Health Administration to study the feasibility of penicillin allergy testing in both acute settings and long-term care.

“Antimicrobial resistance significantly threatens Veterans’ health and limits optimal patient outcomes,” said **DR. KEVIN MCCONEGHY**, a clinician scientist with a clinical pharmacy background working in the VA Health Services Research and Development’s Center of Innovation in Long-Term Services and Support at the Providence VA Medical Center. “Documented penicillin allergies are prevalent in our Veteran population, but the lack of direct research in this area limits our understanding and ability to manage these allergies more effectively.”

McConeghy will evaluate a new penicillin allergy testing service in collab-

oration with nurse practitioner Julie White in the Providence VAMC’s Allergy Clinic. They will conduct qualitative case analyses, and study drug allergy prevalence and effects on VA patients in long-term care. The results will help determine the feasibility of drug allergy testing in VA acute and long-term care settings. The award will help fund two years of salary for the research.

“Dr. McConeghy’s research represents a novel contribution to the VA health care system,” said **DR. GAURAV CHOUDHARY**, chief of research at the Providence VAMC. “The results could play an important role in VA antimicrobial stewardship efforts locally and across the nation.”

The VA New England Healthcare System’s Career Development Award assists junior investigators in developing their research careers, helping them to successfully compete for further research funding. ❖



PROVIDENCE VA MEDICAL CENTER PHOTO BY WINFIELD DANIELSON

Dr. Kevin McConeghy, a clinician scientist in the VA Health Services Research and Development’s Center of Innovation in Long-Term Services and Support at the Providence VA Medical Center, received notification July 13 of a Career Development Award from the Veterans Health Administration to study the feasibility of penicillin allergy testing, and possible effects on patient outcomes.

Providence VA Medical Center Opens Integrative Health and Wellness Center

PROVIDENCE – The Providence VA Medical Center opened a new Integrative Health and Wellness Center on July 6.

Located in the Providence VAMC’s main hospital building at 830 Chalkstone Avenue, the center will include acupuncture, meditation, integrative health education, osteopathic manipulation, iRest Yoga Nidra, wellness massage, mindfulness, Qi gong/Tai Chi, Reiki and Yoga.

“Evidence shows that patients can benefit from taking care of both their minds and bodies, what we call ‘Mind-Body wellness,’” said **DR. MARJORIE CROZIER**, a psychologist at the Providence VA Medical Center. “The Integrative Health and Wellness Center will help Veterans leverage body wellness to enhance mental health recovery, and leverage mental wellness to enhance physical recovery, depending on their needs.” ❖



PROVIDENCE VA MEDICAL CENTER PHOTO BY WINFIELD DANIELSON

A Tai Chi class exercises in the new Integrative Health and Wellness Center at the Providence VA Medical Center Friday, June 16, 2017. The class was the first to use the new center, which officially opened during a ceremony on July 6, 2017.