



**Continuum** Health Partners, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BETH ISRAEL MEDICAL CENTER ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITIES  
FOR ST. VINCENT'S SENIOR HEALTH PRACTICE**

New York, NY (July 30, 2010) On Thursday, July 29 Beth Israel Medical Center hosted an official ribbon-cutting ceremony for **Beth Israel Senior Health**, a senior health practice that was formerly run by St. Vincent's Medical Center. Located at 275 Eighth Avenue at 24<sup>th</sup> Street and now a program of the Division of Geriatrics in the Department of Medicine at Beth Israel, the new affiliation provides a seamless continuity of care for more than 800 patients who make over 3,500 visits annually.

Under Beth Israel's leadership, the geriatric medical practice, which opened in 1995, will continue to provide a full spectrum of interdisciplinary services, including: preventive medicine (which includes immunizations and screenings); comprehensive assessments and management of medical problems; evaluation of common geriatric issues like depression, osteoporosis, incontinence, fall, balance and memory problems; a house calls program and patient/caregiver education. Patients, most of who are in their 80s and have multiple medical problems, have access to a team of caregivers including three fellowship-trained geriatricians, a nurse practitioner, a geriatric social worker, a geriatric psychiatrist and a medical assistant who are specially trained to address both the physical and psycho-social issues facing the elderly.

"In addition to the many outpatient services we provide through the practice, our affiliation with Beth Israel ensures that our patients benefit from coordination of care if inpatient hospital care is required," says Joyce F. Fogel, MD, Division Chief of Geriatrics at Beth Israel. "When one of our patients is admitted to the hospital, we coordinate with the treating physicians to provide continuity of care."

"This new relationship affords the patients of Beth Israel Senior Health the opportunity to take advantage of the many specialty services that are available at a large, dynamic health center like ours," says Harris M. Nagler, M.D., President of Beth Israel Medical Center. "We look forward to expanding our commitment to provide the most comprehensive and compassionate care to seniors in the community who turn to us for help."

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Beth Israel Senior Health is an integral part of Penn South, a naturally occurring retirement community (NORC) – a residential area in which a large segment of residents are older adults who have “aged in place,” having lived in their homes over several decades where they intend to spend the rest of their lives.

Brendan Keany, General Manager of Mutual Redevelopment Houses, Inc., expressed the sentiments of the Penn South Board of Directors and Management in stating, “We are most gratified that Beth Israel Medical Center stepped in to take over the important work of the former St. Vincent’s Senior Health Practice and continue essential geriatric services to our community.”

In order to address the health needs of seniors throughout the greater community, Beth Israel Senior Health has affiliations with other NORCs, senior centers, community based agencies and visiting nurse services. They have also created a relatively new initiative to address homebound patients called Senior Health House Calls. The house calls team, which includes a geriatrician, nurse practitioner and social worker, currently provides primary care for about 150 seniors who due to their medical, physical or cognitive limitations may be unable to access medical care at a doctors’ office.

Beth Israel Senior Health is open Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 5:00pm. They accept Medicare, Medicaid and most other insurance plans. The practice is accepting new referrals. To make an appointment, please call: 212-463-0101. For the House Calls program, which is also accepting new referrals, please call 212-206-1299.

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