

DATE: June 2, 2010

TO: The Continuum Health Partners Community

FROM: Gail F. Donovan
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

RE: **Sale of Jacob Perlow Hospice Finalized**

Yesterday, Beth Israel Medical Center formally completed the sale of the Jacob Perlow Hospice to Metropolitan Jewish Health System (MJHS). The combination of Metropolitan Jewish Hospice (MJHS Hospice) and the Beth Israel program creates the largest hospice and palliative care program in New York State and the largest Jewish hospice in the region. This transaction also marks the coming together of two leaders in the field of hospice and palliative care, both with strong Jewish roots and a shared mission to provide the highest quality, most compassionate care to those in need regardless of age, ethnicity, religion or ability to pay.

Jacob Perlow Hospice and MJHS Hospice were both demonstration projects in the mid-1980s when New York State embarked on an expansion of end-of-life services statewide, and have remained at the forefront of end-of-life care, with dynamic inpatient and home-based palliative care services, state-of-the-art pediatric hospice care and culturally specific end-of-life programs.

MJHS will be the provider of choice for end-of-life/hospice services for Continuum. In addition, based on the mutual respect shared between the two organizations, Continuum has invited MJHS Home Care to be onsite at four of our hospitals: Beth Israel-Petrie Division, Beth Israel-Kings Highway Division, St. Luke's Hospital and Roosevelt Hospital. We are confident this will ensure a continuity of care not only for hospice patients but, indeed, for all patients once they are discharged from the hospital and back in their own homes.

Under the agreement, MJHS also will assume administrative responsibilities for the 12-bed Leo and Rachel Sussman Hospice Inpatient Unit at Beth Israel-Petrie Division, which will be run clinically in collaboration with Beth Israel's Department of Pain Medicine and Palliative Care. Similar arrangements have been established for the Mollie and Jack Zicklin Jewish Hospice Residence in Riverdale and other nursing care facilities where Beth Israel has provided hospice services. Russell K. Portenoy, MD, Chairman of Pain Medicine and Palliative Care at Beth Israel, will join the unified organization as Chief Medical Officer while continuing to chair the Beth Israel-based clinical department.

The current staff of the Jacob Perlow Hospice will join the staff of MJHS. We wish to extend personal thanks to Allison Maughn, Chief Executive Officer for Jacob Perlow Hospice, and all of the Hospice staff who throughout this process continued to provide outstanding care to patients and their families. We wish them the very best as they join their colleagues at MJHS in this important new endeavor.

Special thanks also are extended to our Hospice Board of Trustees for their many years of unwavering support, particularly Alan Batkin, Bobbie Abrams, Betty Yarmon, Donald Hoskins, MD, Martin Marcus, Patrick Owen Burns, Richard Kimball and Suzanne Cutler.

Bringing together MJHS Hospice and the Jacob Perlow Hospice is the culmination of many months of hard work and determination from both sides. However, in the end, our collective efforts will result in a superior hospice experience that will, most importantly, provide tremendous care and comfort to thousands of patients and their families.