



Continuum Health Partners, Inc.

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ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL OFFICIALLY OPENS
THE INSTITUTE FOR BARIATRIC AND MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY

New York, NY - St. Luke's Hospital recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the new Institute for Bariatric and Minimally Invasive Surgery. Located on the 4th floor of the main Babcock Building at St. Luke's Hospital (1111 Amsterdam Avenue at 114th Street), the new facility offers advanced equipment, an education center and other cutting-edge technology that enables an interdisciplinary team of caregivers to provide an enhanced experience for patients.

At this new location, patients are able to see their physicians, nurse practitioners, nutritionists, dietitians and other team members under one roof. Support groups, psycho-education courses and patient orientation sessions are also held in the space. In addition, the facility features an education center so patients can empower themselves with knowledge.

"Our team emphasizes patient education as a crucial element to successful outcomes," explains Julio A. Teixeira, M.D., Chief of the Division of Minimally Invasive Surgery and Director of Bariatric Surgery at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital. "The Education Center provides several computers with on-line access to weight-loss surgery presentations, educational materials and bariatric-related online videos."

More than 2,500 bariatric procedures have been performed at St. Luke's Hospital since the surgical weight loss program was established in 1999. Under the leadership of Dr. Teixeira since 2005, the program has developed a focus on minimally invasive surgery, offering an array of surgical options and expansion of services to improve success rates, patient satisfaction and outcomes research. The program also has a major collaboration in diabetes research with the Obesity Research Center, a nationally revered program.

"Through Dr. Teixeira and his team's dedicated efforts, we have achieved the highest level accreditation from the American College of Surgeons for our safe, comprehensive program and commitment to excellent in the care and treatment of patients undergoing bariatric surgery," says Frank J. Cracolici, President of St. Luke's and Roosevelt Hospitals. "We are also one of only five hospitals in the state to be designated as a New York State Center for Bariatric Surgery. The new Institute for Bariatric and Minimally Invasive Surgery furthers our ability to provide the safest, newest and most comprehensive care for patients who turn to us for help."

Looking forward, Dr. Teixeira hopes to create a Bariatric Outpatient Procedure Unit within the new Institute where patients can undergo endoscopy, band adjustments and other procedures.

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