Hospitals awarded Blue Distinction Center status for hip, knee & spine surgery programs.

The hip, knee, and spine surgery programs at both Roger Williams Medical Center and Fatima Hospital have been awarded Blue Distinction Center status by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Rhode Island for demonstrating better overall quality of care and patient results in these specialties.

Roger Williams received initial designation in these specialties in 2011 and was re-designated in 2013. Fatima was designated as a Blue Distinction Center for Spine Surgery in 2013 and is receiving the hip and knee designation for the first time.

"Patients need to know that their surgery is performed in a hospital focused on the highest quality outcomes," said Lester P. Schindel, CEO of CharterCARE Health Partners. "This distinction was made possible because of our extraordinary team of orthopaedic surgeons, physicians, nurses and support staff."

Capital improvements moving forward

In the last issue of "Chartings", we detailed the $17.5 million of capital improvements that were upcoming for CharterCARE facilities. Since then, significant progress has been made. The front entrance project at Roger Williams Medical Center hit a significant milestone the week of March 27 with the final steel cross beam erected. This project, featuring a covered entrance and a new elevator that connects a modern lobby with the diagnostic wing of the hospital, will be completed this summer. The renovations will dramatically improve the patient and visitor experience and provide for greater accessibility.

While this project nears completion, more are underway across the CharterCARE system. Renovations of the main corridor at Fatima Hospital are almost completed, while construction of a new area for CT scan capabilities in the Fatima Emergency Room are underway. Renovations to both hospital Emergency Departments will also begin later this year.
The Relentless Pursuit of Quality

We are all about achieving exceptional quality in our care and in the patient experience, and we have the results to prove it. Over the past year alone, we have achieved an impressive number of national and state accreditations and certifications — recognitions that are based on objective clinical quality metrics. Each of these accomplishments proves that our commitment to quality and patient safety is not just talk. Rather, we are walking the walk each day to make CharterCARE a High Reliability Organization, with consistent excellence in quality and safety for every patient, every time.

Leading the Way In Rhode Island

Our revolutionary approach has allowed us to effectively manage health care delivery for large segments of the Rhode Island population. We have been designated as one of the first Accountable Care Entities in Rhode Island, responsible for caring for a Medicaid population served by primary care physicians in our Independent Practice Association (IPA).

Our Coordinated Regional Care model uses sophisticated case management protocols to leverage the multiple levels of our system to ensure patients receive the most appropriate care in the right setting and at the right time. All of this has helped us deliver high quality health care at a lower cost.

Partnership with Physicians

We have proactively engaged physicians, many of whom were looking for alternative options, including employment, practice assistance, or more strategic involvement with our system. And we have succeeded. Today, our partner IPA — Prospect Provider Group of Rhode Island — has attracted more than 500 independent physicians. CharterCARE Medical Associates also continues to grow with more than 55 physicians and mid-level providers practicing from 21 convenient office locations around the state.

As I have said on many occasions, none of this progress would be possible without the dedication and support of our more than 3,000 valued employees. I truly believe what we are doing here today at CharterCARE is the future of Rhode Island health care. We are working tirelessly to deliver top flight health care at a lower cost. That’s progress we can all celebrate.

Lester P. Schindel, FACHE
Chief Executive Officer
Quality Healthcare: Certified

More than a dozen quality awards and certificates awarded over past year.

Outstanding employees from across our system have helped us be recognized as a leader in the delivery of quality care.

You want the best care for yourself and your loved ones. Our affiliates have a proven record of delivering excellent patient care, with more than a dozen quality awards, accreditations, and certifications received over the last year. For patients, it is easier than ever to compare quality of care when choosing a health care provider.

The awards delivered to CharterCARE’s affiliates came from the country’s leading health care accrediting agencies like The Joint Commission, the American College of Surgeons, and the American Nurses Association.

Roger Williams Medical Center, Fatima Hospital, Southern New England Rehabilitation Center, and Elmhurst Extended Care were among our affiliates recognized for safety, positive patient outcomes, and excellent clinical care. The programs that received recognition for quality over the last year include cancer, nursing, weight loss surgery, stroke, orthopaedic surgery, sleep medicine, diabetes, rehabilitation, laboratory medicine, and elder care.

(See the sidebar on the right for the complete list.)

“These national quality awards and accreditations reflect our uncompromised commitment to excellence in patient care,” said Lester Schindel, CEO of CharterCARE. “Delivering safe, high quality care is the most important promise we make to our patients and their families.”

Each of our affiliates has team members specifically focused on improving the quality of care we deliver, from patient outcomes to the environment in which care is delivered.

The delivery of safe, high quality care is the top priority of staff — from front-line caregivers and support staff to administration. “The survey process, whether it comes from The Joint Commission or an insurer like Blue Cross Blue Shield, serves to confirm where we are doing well programmatically and where we can improve,” said Schindel. “It is that ability to ensure we are delivering the highest quality care that makes the accreditation process important to our patients, their loved ones, and our community.”

A Year Defined by Quality

Among the certifications and accreditations CharterCARE’s affiliates have received over the past year:

Roger Williams Medical Center
- Accreditation for the state’s only Blood and Marrow Transplant unit
- Academic Comprehensive Cancer Center designation
- Outstanding Achievement Award from the Commission on Cancer
- Primary Stroke Care Center
- Weight Loss Surgery Center of Excellence
- Breast Health Program accredited in mammography
- Star performer designation from The American Orthopaedic Association for “Own The Bone” quality program
- The American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM) reaccredited the Sleep Disorders Center at Roger Williams for five years.
- Blue Distinction Center status for hip, knee, and spine surgery

Our Lady of Fatima Hospital
- Primary Stroke Care Center
- Clinical laboratory recertification from the College of American Pathologists
- Total hip and knee surgery program
- Advanced Inpatient Diabetes Care
- Pathways to Excellence designation from the American Nurses Association’s Credentialing Center
- Exemplar status for its NICHE program, focused on quality care for hospitalized seniors
- Fatima-based Southern New England Rehabilitation Center received full accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities
- Blue Distinction Center status for hip, knee, and spine surgery
- Elmhurst Extended Care
- Deficiency-free inspection from the Rhode Island Department of Health
- Received a deficiency-free survey from the federal office of Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- Blue Distinction Center status for weight loss surgery
- Star performer designation from the American Orthopaedic Association for “Own The Bone” quality program
- Breast Health Program accredited in mammography
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For a full list of sites, please visit: www.chartercare.org

BlueCHP

CharterCARE laboratory sites are now accepting BlueCHIP for Medicare, which gives thousands of Rhode Island seniors access to our lab sites across the state. Many of these tests will be analyzed at our facilities at Fatima Hospital. CharterCARE has laboratory sites strategically located across the state.

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The Roger Williams Medical Center Blood and Marrow transplant program, the only unit of its kind in the state, has been awarded renewed accreditation from the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT) for demonstrating compliance with the FACT–JACIE International Standards for the full scope of bone marrow transplant programming. The accreditation is effective January 2016 for a period of three years.

“Patients with leukemia, lymphoma or other life-threatening diseases or blood disorders need the most effective care to improve and prolong their lives,” said Dr. Todd F. Roberts, Program Director of the Blood and Marrow Transplant Unit and Section of Hematologic Malignancies. “FACT reaccreditation for the program at Roger Williams confirms the excellent care and treatment we are delivering to patients in need of transplant services.”
Roger Williams Cancer Center receives Outstanding Achievement Award

Roger Williams Cancer Center is one of just 24 accredited cancer programs in the country to receive the June-December 2015 Outstanding Achievement Award from the Commission on Cancer (CoC) of the American College of Surgeons.

The award acknowledges programs that achieve excellence in providing quality care to cancer patients. Roger Williams is the only cancer center in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine to receive this recognition during this period of time.

“This national recognition recognizes our team’s efforts to deliver cancer care that not only meets national standards, but exceeds them,” said Lester Schindel, CEO of CharterCARE. “Our center provides Rhode Island’s most comprehensive continuum of cancer care and it is care that is recognized nationally for excellence.”

The Commission on Cancer Outstanding Achievement Award recognizes cancer programs that strive for excellence in demonstrating compliance with the CoC standards and are committed to ensuring high quality cancer care. The purpose of the award is to raise the bar on quality cancer care, with the ultimate goal of increasing awareness about quality care choices among cancer patients and their loved ones.

“All our clinical, academic, and research efforts are focused on advancing treatment and care for those with cancer,” said Dr. N. Joseph Espat, director of the Cancer Center at Roger Williams.

“We believe patients are best cared for in a collaborative environment that includes surgical, medical and radiation oncologists, along with oncology nurses, laboratory professionals, and support staff. This award is a reflection of our dedication to this philosophy of collaborative cancer care.”

Patients and staff celebrate anniversary and recertification of surgery program

Two members of the active Fatima staff were among those who shared stories of positive outcomes following knee replacement surgeries. Elizabeth Sojka (pictured left), a nurse’s aide in the Fatima operating room, had her knee replaced in October 2014. Sojka, who could barely walk because of her knee problems, credits orthopaedic surgeon Dr. Peter Pizzarello and the other members of the team for an excellent outcome. Jayne Parker, RN, (pictured right), Director of Perioperative and Diagnostic Imaging Services at Fatima, saw her mobility limited from an arthritic knee following a ski accident. When the time came for surgery, she knew where she was going – Fatima Hospital. "I am from Boston where there are a number of excellent hospitals and could have gone anywhere," said Parker. She lauded the team for its focus on pain control and therapy, which led to a quick recovery.

To learn more about surgery at Fatima, please visit: www.fatimahospital.com/services/surgical-services

Integrated Melanoma care available at Roger Williams

Every summer, thousands of people enjoy the beaches and parks of Rhode Island. Despite increased education and public awareness, many people still don’t take the proper precautions to protect their skin. Prolonged exposure to the sun and ultraviolet rays can bring a very unwelcome side effect: skin cancer.

Melanoma is one of the deadliest forms of skin cancer. There is good news for those diagnosed with Melanoma: the availability of an integrated team of medical and surgical specialists at Roger Williams Medical Center focused on providing comprehensive treatment for melanoma.

Our integrated group of dermatologists, medical oncologists and cancer surgeons provides an early and accurate diagnosis of melanoma. The team creates a multidisciplinary treatment plan that is customized to the individual patient. This means each patient with melanoma is treated by a team that includes some of the area’s top specialists, working in tandem to guide patients to the best possible outcomes.

New treatments for melanoma, including those that stimulate patient immune systems to eradicate the disease, are available at Roger Williams and can be used to care for those with advanced stages. At Roger Williams, these treatments include molecular diagnostics, immune-therapies and the only high-dose interleukin program in Rhode Island.

To access this unique program, call toll free 844-284-SKIN for a dermatology consultation. For a cancer surgery consultation, call 401-456-2077. Or, to learn more, visit www.weknowcancer.org.
Teaching Programs Prompt Better Patient Care

For decades, Roger Williams Medical Center has been a training ground for the next generation of doctors through residency and fellowship programs. While the benefit to these young physicians is obvious, there is also another very meaningful impact: Improved Patient Care.

“...it’s substantiated in the literature that teaching hospitals have better outcomes,” said Dr. Benjamin L. Sapers, Director of Roger Williams’ Internal Medicine residency program. “If I were to get sick, I’d rather be in a teaching hospital. In such places, nearly every patient encounter is followed by a conversation between at least two doctors. In my view, when this happens routinely, patients get better care.”

The Internal Medicine residency program is the largest at Roger Williams, with 43 residents currently in training. The medical center also offers residency programs in Dermatology and Podiatry. Medical school graduates apply to residency programs; once accepted, they receive 3-7 years of advanced training under the guidance of a senior physician educator.

As doctors complete their residency and move towards specialization, they can choose from a number of fellowship programs, which offer 1-3 years of additional training. Fellowship programs include Hematology/Oncology, Rheumatology, Surgical Oncology, Pulmonology, MOHS surgery, and Dermatopathology.

Dr. Vincent Armenio, a hematologist/oncologist who is Chairman of Oncology, Pulmonology, MOHS surgery, and Dermatopathology, acknowledges that the learning process at Roger Williams has become more efficient.

“Dr. Armenio has a number of duties including oversight of the program and its 43 resident physicians, supervising patient care, devising and refining teaching tools, and running morning report, where residents present and learn about different aspects of medicine or study a patient case. He considers this emphasis on interpersonal communication critical to doctors in training.

“Presenting complex medical cases clearly, efficiently and comprehensively is a necessary art for physicians, one that is often neglected in our highly technical age. Such communication between clinicians has its own form and vocabulary which help both the listener and speaker think together about the care of the patient,” he said.

Dr. Armenio confirms Dr. Sapers’ point about the improved care that comes at a teaching program. “Patients essentially have a doctor at their disposal,” he said. “There is always a doctor following you, whether it is an attending, a fellow, or a resident. There is a doctor there who is attentive to any development that may come up.”

On an almost-daily basis, Dr. Armenio witnesses the collaboration that goes on because of the teaching program. He recalls a patient with leukemia who was in Intensive Care, suffering from cardiac issues while on dialysis. Here, residents and fellows from hematology, nephrology, and infection control worked with the attending physician to deliver care. This regular contact creates lasting relationships between resident and fellows and the family members of patients. “This bond can be a very strong one,” said Dr. Armenio. “I’ve seen a resident caring for a patient with a rare leukemia continue to follow that patient once their rotation is done because of the relationship formed. All of this means a lot to the patient and their loved ones.”

The Roger Williams Dermatology Department recently launched the state’s first Laser Cosmetic Centers to be directly supervised by board-certified dermatologists. Initially, this new program will be offered at offices in Providence and Lincoln, with the expected addition of an office in Johnston later this year.

The Laser Cosmetic Centers will treat a wide variety of skin issues, including the following:

- Rosacea
- Sun damage/sun spots
- Dark spots
- Vascular lesions
- Facial resurfacing
- Volume fillers
- Wrinkle treatment as in Botox
- Hair removal
- Red spots
- Freckles
- Broken blood vessels
- Acne treatment
- Acne scars
- Loss of full cheek
- Sagging skin
- Scar removal
- Facial volume loss

The creation of this new program fills a serious gap in the state’s laser cosmetic marketplace, as it is the only program in Rhode Island where patients’ treatment is supervised by board-certified, university-trained dermatologists. This ensures an equal measure of quality and safety for our patients.

The program is led by Dr. Laura Della Torre and Dr. Alison Fischer, both of whom are board-certified dermatologists and faculty of the Boston University School of Medicine, with which Roger Williams is affiliated.

For information on Roger Williams Laser Cosmetic Centers, please visit www.beautifulskinri.com or call 401-456-5793 or 844-284-SKIN.

Bottom: Alison Fischer, MD, FAAD
Top: Laura Della Torre, MD board-certified Dermatologist
Roger Williams Dermatology Centers open in Providence, Cranston and Lincoln

Roger Williams Dermatology Centers has a number of community locations available to make your appointment convenient. Call any of the following locations for an appointment to be seen by one of our board-certified Dermatologists.

- Cranston: 1500 Pontiac Avenue, Phone: 401-490-2929
- Providence: 50 Maude Street - 4th floor, Phone: 401-456-5793 or toll-free 844-284-SKIN
- Johnston: 1524 Atwood Avenue, Phone: 401-228-3316
- Johnston: 652 George Washington Highway, Phone: 401-305-3055
- Johnston: 401-228-3316

Our faculty has special expertise in the management of skin cancers, including melanoma and skin lymphoma, skin surgery (including Mohs surgery), psoriasis, problems of increased sensitivity to the sun, skin allergies, genital skin diseases, and infectious and tropical skin diseases.

“Urology practice combines excellence in patient care and service.”

Dr. Alavian was also attracted to CharterCARE’s model of integrated care in the community setting. Dr. Colagiovanni echoes that sentiment. “We work very closely with our colleagues throughout our system,” said Dr. Colagiovanni, who has twice served as President of the medical staff at Fatima. “Again, it all serves to benefit the patients in our care.”

To reach CharterCARE Medical Associates Urology, please call 401-331-7400.

“Chartings” / Summer 2016

Dr. Steven M. Colagiovanni of CharterCARE Medical Associates Urology

Dr. Michael Alavian and Dr. Leif E. Olsson

CharterCARE IPA Achieves Robust Development

When CharterCARE Health Partners established its joint venture with Prospect Medical Holdings, it pledged its best efforts to proactively engage with the physician community.

Two years later that promise has been kept in many ways, but perhaps most impressively through the creation of its affiliated Individual Practice Association (IPA) know as Prospect Provider Group of Rhode Island (PPGRI).

Today, PPGRI (which is independently governed and operated) boasts more than 500 member physicians and mid-level providers...making it one of the largest IPA’s in Rhode Island.

PPGRI provides a number of services for its members, the most important of which is the development of reimbursement contracts with private and public sector health insurers. In addition, PPGRI can provide members with group purchasing opportunities and practice managed services.

Joseph P. Mazza, MD, Chairman of the IPA, stated “We are very pleased with our growth and development as we approach the two-year mark. We have achieved critical mass and are thus able to provide our members with leverage in contracting as well as an increasing number of shared management services. We look forward to a continuation of growth as we sight our sights on becoming the largest IPA in Rhode Island.”

PPGRI’s growth is a critical part of CharterCARE’s entry into shared or full-risk contracting with insurers and the corresponding ability to apply its Coordinated Regional Care model to segments of the Rhode Island population. CRC entails the availability of care at multiple levels and the direction of patients to the most appropriate level of care, using sophisticated case management protocols of the type employed in population health management programs in use in other parts of the country.

For more information, please visit www.ppgri.com.

Dr. Steven M. Colagiovanni, MD, is a busy physician, moving between the hospital setting and several practice locations around Rhode Island. Still, he always has time for those he considers most important: his patients.

“If a patient comes into the hospital on a weekend with kidney stones, there is no excuse for not treating them. If a patient is sick, they need to be seen in a timely manner,” said Dr. Colagiovanni. “My philosophy is, we’re here for patients and we do our best to accommodate everyone’s needs.”

Dr. Colagiovanni is quick to praise Dr. Leif E. Olsson, a longtime colleague in the practice, and Dr. Michael Alavian, who recently joined their practice. “Dr. Olsson has consistently raised the bar for urology in Rhode Island,” he said.

The three urologists treat a host of conditions including stones, blood in the urine, incontinence, and disorders of the bladder, kidney, and prostate, including cancer. While all three describe themselves as general urologists, they each have specific areas of interest.

When Dr. Olsson was completing his fellowship in laparoscopic oncology at the Hospital Hervi Mondor in France, he was part of the team that pioneered robotic prostatectomy. Dr. Olsson, who is Chief of Urology at Fatima Hospital, has a special interest in constructing new bladders for patients who have lost theirs due to cancer. The new bladder is constructed from the patient’s intestine and replaces the bladder that has been removed.

In 2004, Dr. Olsson and Dr. Colagiovanni partnered to perform Rhode Island’s first laparoscopic radical prostatectomy. It is that experience that drew Dr. Alavian to join CharterCARE’s Medical Associates Urology. “Both doctors are very accomplished and they treat me like an equal,” said Dr. Alavian. “They are role models to be followed.”

Dr. Todd Viccione, MD, Sukanya Somasunder, MD, Gregory Allen, DO, and Karen Noyes, MD, are among the many physicians who are part of the CharterCARE IPA.
CharterCARE physicians recognized as Top Docs

A total of 48 physicians from CharterCARE Health Partners were recognized as “Top Docs” in the May issue of Rhode Island Monthly. The magazine surveys physicians across Rhode Island and asks them to name their choices for the state’s best specialists.

The physicians affiliated with CharterCARE who were named “Top Docs” are: Dr. Vijay Sudheendra (Anesthesiology), Dr. William Levin (Cardiology), Dr. Joseph Mazza (Cardiology), Dr. Joseph Meharg (Critical Care Medicine), Dr. Michael Bonitati (Emergency Care), Dr. Valerie Thomas (Endocrinology), Dr. Joseph Tucci (Endocrinology), Dr. Roberto Ortiz (Endocrinology), Dr. Robert Dobrzynski (Endocrinology), Dr. William Chen (Gastroenterology), Dr. Edward Pensa (Gastroenterology), Dr. Christy Dibble (Gastroenterology), Dr. Joel Spellun (Gastroenterology), Dr. Mark Rosenberg (General/Family Practice), Dr. John Stoukides (Geriatrics), Dr. Cornelius Granzi (Gynecological Oncology), Dr. Sundaresan Sambandam (Hematology/Oncology), Dr. Vincent Armeno (Hematology/Oncology), Dr. Glenn Fort (Infectious Diseases), Dr. Richard Cottare (Nephrology), Dr. Christopher Casgrove (Nephrology), Dr. Charles McCoy (Nephrology), Dr. George Lee (Nephrology), Dr. Elaine Jones (Neurology), Dr. Ashad Iqbal (Neurology), Dr. Francis Figueroa (Ophthalmology), Dr. John Tomo (Otolaryngology), Dr. Walter Donat (Pulmonary Diseases), Dr. William Corrao (Pulmonary Diseases), Dr. Jeffrey Rogg (Radiology), Dr. Jon Mukand (Rehabilitation/Physical Medicine), Dr. Kathy Rabe-Kaane (Radiation Oncology), Dr. Scott Friedman (Radiation Oncology), Dr. Edward Lally (Rheumatology), Dr. Adam Klipfel (Colorectal Surgery), Dr. Dieter Pohl (General Surgery), Dr. Stephen Migliori (General Surgery), Dr. Prakash Sampath (Neurosurgery), Dr. Laura Marcoze (Orthopadic Surgery), Dr. David Barrall (Plastic/Reconstructive Surgery), Dr. Andrea Doyle (Plastic/Reconstructive Surgery), Dr. Steven Katz (Surgical Oncology), Dr. R. James Koness (Surgical Oncology), Dr. Ponnandai Somasundar (Surgical Oncology), Dr. N. Joseph Espat (Surgical Oncology), Dr. Lauri Reeder (Thoracic Surgery), Dr. Angelo Cambio (Urology) and Dr. Steven Colagiovanni (Urology).

SNERC home to rehab for more complex medical cases

Southern New England Rehabilitation Center (SNERC) is well-known for helping people recover from a stroke, brain or spinal injury, amputation, or orthopaedic surgery. SNERC’s medical staff, therapists, and team members also care for medically complex patients, including those who need dialysis or tracheostomy tubes or are recovering from burns or cancer. One key to providing better care for these patients is SNERC’s location at Fatima Hospital.

“We can manage a variety of medical complications here,” said Dr. Jon Mukand, SNERC’s medical director. “Our hospital infrastructure offers laboratory and radiology services in addition to expert specialists, so our patients can receive rehabilitation as well as necessary medical treatment.”

Dr. Mukand points to SNERC’s affiliation with the Roger Williams Cancer Center as an example of coordinated care in the CharterCARE system. He said that SNERC can help patients who need rehabilitation due to cancers of the brain and spinal cord as well as fractures or deconditioning caused by cancer. Complex medical patients should be medically stable and are expected to perform three hours of therapy, spread out over the course of the day.

SNERC is a regionally-recognized leader in rehabilitation. Over the past 20 years, we have helped thousands of people return to health and independent living.

To learn more, call 401-456-3801 or visit www.snerc.com.

Transitional Care Pavilion an Ideal Place for Recovery

For more than three years, patients and referring physicians alike have found an ideal place for recovery at the Transitional Care Pavilion at Elmhurst Extended Care.

This recently renovated unit, located at Elmhurst Extended Care, brings together an integrated team of skilled physicians, nurses and rehabilitation specialists who design customized treatment plans for patients recovering from surgery or debilitating medical conditions. The unit was built with a particular focus on the care of post-operative orthopedic surgical patients. Our goal is to work with you, your family and your doctor to get you home as quickly and safely as possible.

Transitional Care offers private rooms, the latest patient amenities, and a dedicated rehabilitation suite designed to let you reacquire the skills of daily living. Patient stays are short term and custom designed to prepare patients to thrive in their unique home environment.

To learn more, call 401-456-2600.

Ellen McCaffrey, RN, and Cristina Fletcher, COTA/L, review the record of a patient with a medically complex diagnosis.
Cancer Center focused on Outreach to Latino Community

Cancer is now the leading cause of death among Latinos in Rhode Island. This underserved population is less likely to get screened and cancer is often diagnosed in these patients at a later stage.

For more than a year, Dr. Abdul Saied Calvino, a surgical oncologist at Roger Williams Cancer Center, has been on a mission to educate and care for members of the Latino community. Calvino has partnered with leading organizations in Rhode Island’s Latino community including the Latino Cancer Control Task Force and Progreso Latino. He was also recently elected to the Board of Directors of The Partnership to Reduce Cancer in Rhode Island, where he co-chairs the Screening and Detection workgroup.

Dr. Calvino has been interviewed on Hispanic radio stations and Telemundo Providence, spoken at events sponsored by the Latino Cancer in Rhode Island’s Latino community including the Latino Cancer Control Task Force and others, and trained more than a dozen volunteers to spread our message of cancer care in Spanish.

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Dr. Calvino with medical assistant Arlene Hernandez and Melody Barthelze, community outreach program coordinator.

Weight Loss Surgery Program Launches Innovative Mobile App

Roger Williams Medical Center’s bariatric surgery program has launched an innovative mobile application that helps individuals considering surgery as well as supporting those who have already had weight loss surgery. The free app, known as “My Bariatric Weight Loss Coach”, serves as a digital coach for people before and after surgery. It links to a wealth of weight loss and bariatric surgery information, while providing online registration to the monthly information seminars on bariatric surgery held at Roger Williams. Perhaps most importantly, it enables direct contact with people who have already had surgery as well as weight loss surgery caregivers. The App is available on most App stores online.

Elmhurst receives deficiency-free CMS inspection

Elmhurst Extended Care has been deemed deficiency-free following a four day inspection from the federal office of Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The random survey was conducted from March 14-17 to ensure Elmhurst’s compliance with standards for conditions of participation with Medicare and Medicaid.

Elmhurst’s policies and standards were reviewed in a number of areas including the administration of medications, infection prevention, quality monitoring, and food safety. Additionally, Elmhurst was reviewed on measures related to elder, staff and building safety, along with disaster preparedness.
In the last issue of “Chartings”, we detailed the $17.5 million of capital improvements that were upcoming for CharterCARE facilities. Since then, significant progress has been made. The front entrance project at Roger Williams Medical Center hit a significant milestone the week of March 27 with the final steel cross beam erected. This project, featuring a covered entrance and a new elevator that connects a modern lobby with the diagnostic wing of the hospital, will be completed this summer. The renovations will dramatically improve the patient and visitor experience and provide for greater accessibility.

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The Blue Distinction Center program was developed with input from the medical community and evaluates hospitals on their ability to deliver high quality and safe specialty care based on criteria – like surgical team expertise and a history of better patient outcomes – that directly impact patient results. Blue Distinction Centers have a proven track record for delivering better results – such as fewer complications and readmissions – than facilities without these recognitions. It is for this reason that CharterCARE hospitals are a great place for hip, knee and spine surgery.

More than a dozen quality awards and certifications awarded. See story / Pg 2