Catholic Medical Partners, whose membership includes Catholic Health, Mount St. Mary’s Hospital and more than 900 area physicians, was one of 27 organizations nationwide selected to participate in a national program aimed at improving quality and realizing cost savings in providing healthcare for Medicare patients.

In an announcement from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in Washington, D.C., Catholic Medical Partners was named the only shared savings Accountable Care Organization (ACO) in Western New York. Catholic Medical Partners was selected based on rigorous eligibility criteria and program requirements.

The Shared Savings Program rewards ACOs that lower the rate of growth in healthcare costs for Medicare beneficiaries while meeting performance standards on quality of care and putting patients first. ACOs are groups of doctors and other health care providers working together to provide high quality service and care for their patients. Provider participation in an ACO is purely voluntary and Medicare beneficiaries retain their current ability to seek treatment from any provider they wish.

“This is a milestone moment in the effort to reform and improve...
Catholic Health Joins in New York’s Partnership for Patients

In 2011, the Federal Government launched the Partnership for Patients: Better Care, Lower Costs, a new public-private partnership designed to help improve the quality, safety, and affordability of health care. The Partnership for Patients brings together leaders of major hospitals, employers, physicians, nurses, and patient advocates along with state and federal governments in a shared effort to make hospital care safer, more reliable, and less costly.

The two goals of this new partnership are to:

- Keep patients from getting injured or sicker. By the end of 2013, preventable hospital-acquired conditions would decrease by 40% compared to 2010. Achieving this goal would mean approximately 1.8 million fewer injuries to patients with more than 60,000 lives saved over three years.
- Help patients heal without complication. By the end of 2013, preventable complications during a transition from one care setting to another would be decreased so that all hospital readmissions would be reduced by 20% compared to 2010. Achieving this goal would mean more than 1.6 million patients would recover from illness without suffering a preventable complication requiring re-hospitalization within 30 days of discharge.

As part of this national effort, Catholic Health has joined New York State Partnership for Patients (NYSPFP), a statewide initiative involving more than 170 hospitals in activities aimed at reducing hospital complications and preventable readmissions. “New York State Partnership for Patients is another tool to measure as well as bolster our quality improvement and patient safety efforts,” said Joe McDonald, president & CEO of Catholic Health. “We already have very active Quality and Patient Safety Departments in each of our ministries that will support the work we are doing with our state partners.”

NYSPFP is a joint project of the Healthcare Association of New York State and the Greater New York Hospital Association. The partnership will provide participating hospitals with technical assistance, training opportunities and educational programming to build on existing quality improvement programs.

“These initiatives include measures we are already focusing on in our hospitals to enhance safety and improve clinical outcomes for our patients,” said John Kane, vice president of Quality and Patient Safety for Catholic Health. “The central message here is that improving quality and safety is a team effort that will involve hospital staff at all levels, including clinical, administrative and support personnel.”

To kick-off its participation, Catholic Health asked all hospital staff and physician leaders to participate in a comprehensive survey on patient safety culture. The results of the survey will help raise awareness about patient safety among hospital staff, identify areas of strength and opportunities for improvement, and evaluate the success of initiatives designed to improve care, enhance safety, and reduce preventable readmissions.
Construction Begins on Kenmore Mercy Emergency Department

Catholic Health Nears Completion of Emergency Care Renaissance

Continuing the renaissance of emergency care in Western New York, Catholic Health broke ground in March for the construction of Kenmore Mercy Hospital’s new Emergency Department. Site preparation on the south side of the hospital near Westchester Boulevard is underway and the $14 million project is anticipated to be completed by Fall 2013.

Following the national trend of increased volume above expectation, emergency room visits at Kenmore Mercy have steadily increased in recent years, with more than 28,000 patients expected to seek emergency care at the hospital in 2012. With the increased demand, the hospital has outgrown its current capacity.

With Emergency Department constructions and renovations complete at Mercy Hospital of Buffalo, Sisters of Charity Hospital and its St. Joseph campus, Kenmore Mercy is the last Catholic Health hospital to undergo an Emergency Department makeover as part of the system’s Renaissance project to enhance emergency services throughout the region. Emergency service upgrades are also planned at the 30 year old Mercy Ambulatory Care Center in Orchard Park.

All of the design features of Kenmore Mercy’s new Emergency Department are focused on providing efficient, high quality care to patients.

**Highlights include:**

- 24,000 square feet of space, nearly double its current 12,500 square foot Emergency Department.
- Larger treatment area with 25 private patient rooms.
- Centralized nurses’ stations with access to treatment rooms.
- Increased on-site parking.
- New drive-up ambulance bay to improve emergency transport of patients.
- Larger waiting room.
- A SuperTrack Unit, resuscitation rooms, bariatric room, and de-contamination room.
- CT Scan and digital radiographic equipment located within the Emergency Department.

“All of these improvements will help patient flow, reduce wait times, and provide more efficient and effective emergency care services” said Raquel Martin, DO, medical director of the Emergency Department.

In support of the project, the Kenmore Mercy Hospital Foundation has embarked on a $1 million capital campaign, led by Michael Landi, MD, vice president of the Kenmore Mercy Foundation Board.

For more than 60 years, Kenmore Mercy Hospital has provided innovative, high quality care for patients throughout Buffalo and its Northtown communities. Today, Catholic Health’s Kenmore Mercy Hospital is a 184-bed facility with comprehensive inpatient and outpatient clinical services, including its nationally ranked joint replacement program.
Catholic Health’s Heart Center at Mercy Hospital of Buffalo is one of just a handful of cardiac centers nationally performing Totally Endoscopic Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery (TECAB). TECAB is an entirely endoscopic robotic surgery used to treat coronary heart disease. It is an advanced form of minimally invasive coronary artery bypass surgery that allows bypass surgery to be conducted without opening the chest. The technique involves three or four small holes through which two robotic arms and one camera are inserted.

Dr. John Bell-Thomson, chair of the Cardiothoracic Surgery Department at Mercy Hospital, is among just a small number of surgeons in the United States performing minimally invasive TECAB surgery using the da Vinci® Robotic Surgical System. He has performed more than ten TECAB procedures since the fall of 2011. On February 8, 2012, he successfully completed double coronary artery bypass surgery for the first time using the TECAB procedure. His patient was able to return home from the hospital just two days later.

“I am pleased to be able to offer my patients this new medical breakthrough in heart surgery,” said Dr. Bell-Thomson. “High-precision robotic-assisted surgery is helping us pioneer a new standard for coronary bypass surgery with significant benefits to our patients, including faster recovery, less risk for complications, and less discomfort and scarring.”

Following TECAB surgery, most patients spend about one to three days in the hospital and can usually eat, drink and walk around within hours after the procedure. Besides eliminating the need for a 6 to 10 inch incision down the chest, the TECAB procedure allows patients to return to normal activities within two to three weeks after the surgery. In comparison, a patient undergoing traditional, open chest surgery experiences a 5 to 7 day hospital stay and a 4 to 8 week recovery time.

Catholic Health Surgeons at both Mercy Hospital of Buffalo and Sisters of Charity Hospital utilize robotic technology for a variety of minimally invasive surgical procedures, including cardiac, general, gynecological and urological surgery.
Minimally Invasive Robotic Surgical Expertise at Catholic Health

Robotic-assisted surgery has made great strides at Catholic Health since being introduced in 2005, and is arguably the most advanced in the region. The recent Totally Endoscopic Coronary Artery Bypass (TECAB) performed by John Bell-Thomson, MD is truly groundbreaking for the region. More than a dozen Catholic Health surgeons are using robotic technology for state-of-the-art minimally invasive procedures.

Ali Ghomi, MD, gynecologic surgeon at Sisters of Charity Hospital, performed the area’s first laparoscopic transabdominal cervical cerclage (cervical stitch) surgery using the da Vinci Robotic Surgical System.

Dr. Ghomi has been performing laparoscopic cervical stitch surgery since 2003, and is currently the only physician in Western New York who performs the procedure.

“The dexterity, precision and superior visualization of the surgical robot made the procedure go much more smoothly for the patient than the laparoscopic approach,” said Dr. Ghomi.

Kenneth Eckhert, III, MD, a general surgeon and chairman of Mercy Hospital’s Robotic Committee, is among the very first surgeons in the country and the first in Western New York to perform a robotic-assisted cholecystectomy using a single incision through the belly button.

“I would estimate that just 10% of my patients were good candidates for conventional single incision laparoscopic surgery, but now with the aid of the da Vinci system, I think I will be able to offer this type of surgery to 80% of my patients,” said Dr. Eckhert.

Surgeons at Catholic Health utilize the da Vinci System for a variety of minimally invasive surgical procedures, including urological, gynecological, cardiac and general surgery. In 2005, Mercy Hospital was one of the earliest in the country to acquire the da Vinci Robotic Surgical System.

Bringing Accountable Care to WNY - Cont’d. from Pg 1

healthcare in Western New York,” said Dennis R. Horrigan, president and CEO, Catholic Medical Partners. “The commitment of our physician partners and our strategic relationship with Catholic Health is enabling this transformation. We are excited to serve area Medicare patients as an Accountable Care Organization and to move our community closer to realizing the goals of true health reform – improved quality, improved patient experience and lower cost.”

CMS will use robust quality measures to reward ACOs, including Catholic Medical Partners, for providing Medicare beneficiaries with a positive patient experience and better health outcomes, while also reducing growth in the cost of care for the same patient population.

The efforts toward, and the success of many patient-centered initiatives at both Catholic Medical Partners and Catholic Health were key in CMS’s decision to select our ministries to participate in the shared savings ACO program. These initiatives include clinical integration, leveraging health information technology, and disease management programs among others.

“The goals of the Accountable Care Organization are aligned with Catholic Health’s work as a High Performing Health System and with our mission of transforming the delivery of healthcare in Western New York,” added Joe McDonald, president and CEO, Catholic Health.
Catholic Health Technology News

Catholic Health Serves as Mentor For New HIT Program

Catholic Health leads the region in health information technology (HIT) and will soon help create statewide opportunities for emerging technology firms thanks to a new program designed to accelerate HIT development in New York. Selected as one of only 18 “mentors” in New York’s Digital Health Accelerator (NYDHA) program, Catholic Health leaders and clinicians will provide insight and guidance to cutting-edge technology firms and investment companies who are partnering to develop better health information technology and bring it to market more quickly.

“Transforming healthcare in our community is going to depend on our ability to effectively leverage innovative technology,” said Joe McDonald, president & CEO of Catholic Health. “This program will allow us to lend real-world experience to those building the tools we need and encourage high-tech investment in our community.”

The program will make New York a hub for the emerging digital health technology industry. By offering participants the opportunity to engage directly with health providers including hospitals, long term care facilities, community health centers, and primary care practices, NYDHA will create the next generation of health information technology, generate hundreds of new jobs, and attract millions of dollars in new investment in New York State.

“We are excited to serve as a mentor in the Digital Health Accelerator program,” said Michael Galang, DO, senior vice president and CIO, Catholic Health. “By bringing together HIT developers, investors and end users, this program can help bring to market technologies that are better suited to our needs, quickly and efficiently.”

New Security Process for Physician Remote Access

Remote access to Catholic Health information systems requires a “two factor” authentication process for security purposes – that is, something you know (Username and Password) and something you have (RSA Token – “Fob”). The fob displays a randomly generated number that is entered along with your username and password.

The fob is a “perishable” device that eventually expires and must be replaced; additionally it represents another device that must be carried around by our medical staff. We are pleased, however, to now be able to offer you a new way to authenticate to the Catholic Health IT system without using a fob.

The new process relies on a numerical passcode that is generated by a technology called “Anakam” and is transmitted to your cell phone – thus, your phone replaces your fob for the authentication process.

The Anakam process is available only to physicians and mid-level providers – office staff who require remote access will still need to use a fob. You will be able to retain your fob until such time as you are comfortable using the Anakam process or until it expires. Once you become confident with the Anakam process, you can return your fob to a receptacle located in the Health Information Management (HIM) department or Medical Staff Office (MSO) at any Catholic Health hospital. Please call Adam Lange, physician support analyst at 548-1622 with any questions.
For the fifth consecutive year, Catholic Health, Buffalo, NY, has been named to the nation’s list of most integrated healthcare networks, the “2012 IMS IHN (Integrated Health Network) 100,” (Formerly the SDI IHN 100). Catholic Health ranked 42nd in the 2012 survey, with Geisinger Health System in Danville, PA (2nd overall) and North Shore-LIJ Health System in Great Neck, NY (31st overall) as the only higher ranked healthcare networks in the Northeast.

The ranking recognizes the 100 most integrated networks nationwide, graded annually on operations, quality, scope of services and efficiency. The survey was conducted by SDI Health LLC, a nationally recognized healthcare data and consulting firm based in Plymouth Meeting, PA. In October 2011, SDI was acquired by IMS Healthcare, a leading provider of information, services and technology for the healthcare industry around the world.

“Our continued strong performance in this survey underscores the progress we have made in leading the transformation of healthcare in our region,” said Joe McDonald, president & CEO of Catholic Health. “Better integration is the hallmark of a high performing healthcare system.”

Catholic Health first made the Top 100 list in 2008 and achieved its highest ranking in 2011 when it reached 30th in the nation. No other health-care system in Western New York ranks in the top 50.

The IMS IHN 100 survey program invites hundreds of health systems from across the nation to submit survey case presentations in eight critical areas including: integration, outpatient utilization, integrated technology, financial stability, services and access, contract capabilities, and physicians. Health systems are graded on performance levels in each category, which are weighted in value, resulting in an overall score and placement in the ranking.

Participation in the SDI 100 survey is voluntary and no fees are charged to participating organizations. The full report on the 2012 IMS IHN Top 100 was published in the January 23 edition of Modern Healthcare. www.modernhealthcare.com

The Heart Center at Mercy Hospital of Buffalo, the surgical center of Catholic Health’s Cardiovascular Services program, has been awarded a three-star national quality rating by the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) for the period covering July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. Approximately 14% of the 1,044 participating hospitals across the country received a “three-star” rating – the highest award under the STS quality rating system – for heart bypass surgery, also called coronary artery bypass graft surgery or CABG.

“It is important to share quality data to tell the public how we are doing and to compare ourselves to other similar heart surgery programs on a national scale,” said Dr. John Bell-Thomson, chair of Mercy Hospital’s Cardiothoracic Surgery Department.

The Heart Center at Mercy Hospital also achieved a STS three-star national rating for the period covering January 2010 to December 2010. As the nation’s premier professional society for cardiothoracic surgeons, STS developed a comprehensive system that allows patients to compare the quality of cardiac surgery among hospitals nationwide using the largest single-specialty database in the country.
**ABOUT CATHOLIC HEALTH**

**Our Mission:** We are called to reveal the healing love of Jesus to those in need.

**Our 2020 Vision:** Inspired by faith and committed to excellence, we will lead the transformation of healthcare in our communities.

**Our Values:** Reverence, Compassion, Justice, Excellence

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**ABOUT THE PHYSICIAN RESOURCE**

The Physician Resource is a quarterly publication intended to illuminate the resources, programs, and initiatives available to physicians and mid-level providers that make Catholic Health’s continuum of care the clinical environment of choice for private practice physicians in Western New York. It is published by the Marketing and Public Relations Department of Catholic Health.

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