Mount Sinai and Healthfirst® Introduce New Medicare Advantage Insurance Plan

The Mount Sinai Health System and Healthfirst, a leading managed care organization serving more than one million members in downstate New York, have launched a unique, co-branded Medicare Advantage (MA) insurance plan for Manhattan residents. Eligible Medicare beneficiaries can enroll in Healthfirst Mount Sinai Select (HMO) between October 15 and December 7, 2014, for coverage effective January 1, 2015.

“Members of the plan will have affordable and exclusive access to Mount Sinai’s top-rated network of doctors and specialists—the majority of whom will participate in the Healthfirst Mount Sinai Select plan,” says Kenneth L. Davis, MD, Chief Executive Officer and President of the Mount Sinai Health System. “Members will not need referrals for most specialist visits.”

Healthfirst Mount Sinai Select (HMO) is approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) as an alternative to the traditional Medicare program, and allows Medicare beneficiaries to secure private insurance coverage financed by the federal government. In addition to including the traditional Medicare benefits, the plan will provide coverage for prescription drugs, dental care, hearing aids, acupuncture, and eyewear.

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Renowned Robotic Surgeon Joins Mount Sinai

Ketan K. Badani, MD, a renowned expert in robotic surgery for kidney and prostate cancer, has joined the Mount Sinai Health System as Vice Chairman of Urology and Robotic Operations, and Director of the Comprehensive Kidney Cancer Program.

Having completed more than 4,000 robotic kidney and prostate surgeries during his career, Dr. Badani, Professor of Urology at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, is considered one of the most experienced specialists in the field. He has authored more than 150 peer-reviewed publications and co-wrote the book *Robotic Prostatectomy for Prostate Cancer–Is It for You?*

In the past, kidney cancer treatment involved removing the entire affected kidney, but today, robotics have allowed partial nephrectomy—the partial removal of the kidney—to be increasingly used in treating this type of cancer. Dr. Badani pioneered FAST (first assistant sparing technique), which

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According to Dr. Davis, “The Healthfirst Mount Sinai Select plan aligns the Mount Sinai Health System with national trends that are shifting the traditional roles between providers and insurers. It also expands our footprint in the New York marketplace and expands our relationship with Healthfirst, as Mount Sinai is a major owner of the plan.”

Pat Wang, Chief Executive Officer of Healthfirst, says, “We are very pleased to be at the forefront of provider-payer collaboration through this innovative partnership with Mount Sinai. Our partnership will blend the best elements of our well-established Medicare Advantage plan infrastructure with the outstanding innovation and clinical excellence of the Mount Sinai Health System to create a cost-efficient offering for Medicare members.”

“Healthfirst is the highest rated and only 4-Star Medicare Advantage HMO plan* in New York City and has achieved this result, in part, through partnership with the clinical leadership of quality providers like the Mount Sinai Health System,” says Jay Schechtman, MD, MBA, Chief Medical Officer, Healthfirst, and Assistant Clinical Professor, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

The Healthfirst Mount Sinai Select plan offers a Tiered Network:

- Tier 1 includes providers within the Mount Sinai Health System, and offers no or low copayments.
- Tier 2 includes Healthfirst providers outside the Mount Sinai Health System, who are available at a higher copayment.

Members of the Healthfirst Mount Sinai Select plan will not be charged for annual routine eye exams or for any Medicare-covered preventive services, such as mammograms and prostate screenings, and are entitled to 12 round trips per year (three round trips, every three months) of no-cost car service to and from physician appointments.

For more information on the plan, please visit: http://healthfirst.org/health-insurance/2015-medicare-plans/mount-sinai-select/.

Heathfirst Medicare Plan is an HMO plan with a Medicare contract and a contract with the New York Medicaid program. Enrollment in Healthfirst Medicare Plan depends on contract renewal. Other providers are available in our network. The benefit information provided is a brief summary, not a complete description of benefits. For more information, contact the plan. Limitations, copayments, and restrictions may apply. Benefits, formulary, pharmacy network, provider network, premium and/or copayments/co-insurance may change on January 1 of each year.

* Medicare evaluates plans based on a 5-star rating system. Star Ratings are calculated each year and may change from one year to the next. Please visit www.medicare.gov for more information on CMS’ Star Ratings.

Dubin Breast Center Hosts Luncheon and Symposium

More than 150 guests attended the Third Annual Fact vs. Fiction Luncheon and Symposium hosted by the Dubin Breast Center of The Tisch Cancer Institute, on Monday, September 29, at 520 Park, a New York City event space. The event raised more than $200,000 to support the Center, a state-of-the-art facility within the Mount Sinai Health System that has registered more than 75,000 patient visits since it opened in 2011.

The luncheon featured a panel of six Mount Sinai physicians who were on hand to answer guest questions on topics such as breast cancer research and screenings; reconstructive surgery; and lifestyle and diet. Filmmaker and journalist Perri Peltz moderated the discussion.

The panelists were: Adam Kolker, MD, FACS, Associate Clinical Professor of Surgery; Jeffrey Mechanick, MD, Clinical Professor of Medicine (Endocrinology, Diabetes and Bone Disease); Ramon Parsons, MD, PhD, Ward-Coleman Chair in Cancer Research; Elisa Port, MD, FACS, Chief of Breast Surgery and Co-Director of the Dubin Breast Center; Janet Szabo, MD, Assistant Professor of Radiology; and Amy Tiersten, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine (Hematology/Medical Oncology).
Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory Renamed To Honor Samin K. Sharma, MD

The Mount Sinai Hospital has renamed its cardiac catheterization laboratory the “Dr. Samin K. Sharma Family Foundation Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory,” an honor that recognizes the many significant contributions of Samin K. Sharma, MD, Director of Interventional Cardiology and the Zena and Michael A. Wiener Professor of Medicine (Cardiology). Dr. Sharma, his family, and other generous donors helped the Foundation reach its $5 million endowment, funding that will help support the lab’s clinical, research, and educational initiatives.

Dr. Sharma is world-renowned for his clinical excellence, innovative research, and patient safety record for the treatment of heart attacks, blockages, and valvular disease. Under his leadership, the catheterization lab or its physicians have received, over a 16-year period, the highest “two-star” patient safety rating from the New York State Department of Health for safety rates that exceeded the statewide average.

“With hard work and dedication, we created the No. 1 catheterization laboratory with the highest volume and lowest complication rates,” said Dr. Sharma, speaking at a ribbon-cutting ceremony held Thursday, September 18. “From the bottom of my heart, I thank all of the lab’s supporters, my excellent catheterization lab team, and my mentor, Dr. Valentin Fuster.”

Valentin Fuster, MD, PhD, is Director of Mount Sinai Heart, the Zena and Michael A. Wiener Cardiovascular Institute, and Marie-Josée and Henry R. Kravis Center for Cardiovascular Health. “Having our catheterization laboratory named after Dr. Sharma is such a tribute to him, his father, and for everything Dr. Sharma has done for us at Mount Sinai,” said Dr. Fuster.

Dr. Sharma’s father, 84-year-old Anandi Lal Sharma, and his son, Raman Sharma, a second-year resident at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai—who is planning a career in cardiology—attended the ribbon-cutting.

Said Anandi Lal Sharma, who traveled from India for the celebration, “My son had a dream: If you do hard work, you will fulfill your dreams.” Added Dr. Sharma, “It gives me great pride to have the lab take the name of my family.”

Renowned Robotic Surgeon Joins Mount Sinai (continued from page 1)

The time it takes to complete the robotic surgery and the length of time the affected kidney is without blood flow during the procedure. An enthusiastic teacher, Dr. Badani has trained physicians throughout the world on these robotic techniques. Additionally, he has published research on his techniques for the recovery of sexual and urinary function after prostate cancer surgery, which have resulted in greater precision and shorter recovery times associated with robotic procedures in more complex patients.

“Our program is treating the most challenging kidney tumors, and we are safely performing robotic partial nephrectomy with the lowest overall complication rates,” says Dr. Badani. “I am really excited to be working with Mount Sinai’s team of oncologists, urologists, nephrologists, and radiologists, who are committed to offering the highest level of care to our patients.”

Prior to his appointments at Mount Sinai, Dr. Badani served as the Director of Robotic Surgery and Director of Research for Prostate and Kidney Cancer Outcomes at Columbia University Medical Center.

DEPARTMENT OF UROLOGY EXPANDS

New Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai faculty also joining the Department of Urology, as Assistant Professors of Urology, include:

Reza Mehrazin, MD, a specialist in robotic, laparoscopic, and open surgical techniques for treating various urologic cancers, and in minimally invasive organ preservation and reconstructive techniques to preserve function and quality of life for patients with kidney and bladder cancer.

John Sfakianos, MD, whose clinical expertise is in bladder and upper urinary tract urothelial carcinoma; open and robotic procedures for radical cystectomy with continent urinary diversions; and kidney, prostate, testicular, and penile cancers.

Seema Sheth, MD, a specialist in the use of minimally invasive techniques in the treatment of various urologic malignancies, as well as female and male voiding dysfunction, including uterine prolapse surgery with the use of robotic sacrocolpopexy; kidney stones; infertility; sexually transmitted diseases; and vasectomies.
National Kidney Foundation Walk

Join or support “Team Mount Sinai” as it helps raise awareness about kidney disease and the urgent need for organ donation. Call or email Ariella Tomback at 212-659-8596, or Ariella.Tomback@mountsinai.org. Or, visit http://donate.kidney.org/goto/TEAMMOUNTSINAI.

Sunday, November 9
9:30 am: Check-in
10:30 am: Walk
Foley Square Park

Psychosis Research Program Lecture Series

Allan Geliebter, PhD, Clinical Professor, Psychiatry, Mount Sinai St. Luke’s, presents “Functional Neuroimaging of Gastric Distension and Gastric Bypass for Obesity.”

Friday, October 31
4 – 5 pm
The Mount Sinai Hospital Campus
Icahn, Room 4-82

Grand Rounds Medicine

Myles Wolf, MD, Director, Center for Translational Metabolism and Health, Feinberg School of Medicine, presents “Health Disparities in Kidney and Heart Disease: Poverty, Phosphate, and the Food Industry.”

Tuesday, November 4
8:30 – 9:30 am
Mount Sinai Beth Israel
Podell Auditorium

Grand Rounds Population Health Science and Policy

Harvey V. Fineberg, MD, PhD, Presidential Chair, University of California, presents “The 15th Annual Aufses-Whitman Lecture: Toward a Culture of Health in America.”

Tuesday, October 28
4 pm
The Mount Sinai Hospital Campus
Annenberg, Room 12-01

Third Annual SINAInnovations Conference

“Engineering and Medicine”

This year’s program will feature a number of exciting speakers, exhibitors, and demonstrations exploring the expanding interface between engineering and medicine—and how it is transforming all aspects of health care.

Topics include: breakthroughs in material science, nanotechnology, and imaging; genomics and personalized medicine; transformative technologies, including apps, software, and mobile technologies; and engineering to improve global health.

To register and to see the entire program, go to: http://icahn.mssm.edu/sinainnovations.

Tuesday, November 18 – Wednesday, November 19
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Stern Auditorium

Spotlight on Public Health Lecture

Denise Koo, MD, MPH, Senior Advisor for Health Systems at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, presents “Public Health and Health System Transformations.”

Tuesday, October 28
4 pm
The Mount Sinai Hospital Campus
Annenberg, Room 12-01

Be the Possibilities Behind the Badge

At Mount Sinai Health System, our badge is more than our identification. It is a unique symbol of who we are and what we can be. Every day. Among us there are innovators, groundbreakers, thought leaders, collaborators—dedicated individuals who come together to provide comprehensive and compassionate patient care, advance research, and educate tomorrow’s physicians and scientists. As the Department of Human Resources works to attract top talent, it’s important that we communicate the possibilities behind the badge and the contributions we make to improve outcomes for our patients.

What does your badge say about you? Tell us at facebook.com/MountSinaiJobs.

Mount Sinai

INSIDE MOUNT SINAI

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