## October 2016 Media Summary

### Table of Contents

(Click on desired Article)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>pg.</th>
<th>Publication &amp; Date</th>
<th>Article</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Courier-Post</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10/4/2016</td>
<td>Inspira gave patients recalled drugs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>10/5/2016</td>
<td>South Jersey Hospital gave patients recalled drugs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>10/19/2016</td>
<td>Hospital offers online doc visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>10/31/2016</td>
<td>Which SJ hospitals are safest?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Daily Journal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>10/5/2016</td>
<td>Letter: Luck to have Inspira in Vineland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10/7/2016</td>
<td>Who's News - Gary Mirone, D.O.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10/18/2016</td>
<td>Vineland surgeon named Inspira Health Physician of the Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>10/25/2016</td>
<td>Illumination on display at Inspira in Vineland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>10/29/2016</td>
<td>Inspira IMPACT hosted a superhero event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>10/2016</td>
<td>Health Connection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Press of Atlantic City</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>10/7/2016</td>
<td>In your County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>10/9/2016</td>
<td>The Flu: It’s Coming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>10/31/2016</td>
<td>How did South Jersey Hospital perform in a National Safety Report?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>10/31/2016</td>
<td>S.J. hospitals improve, maintain good patient safety grades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>10/1/2016</td>
<td>Cumberland County Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Jersey Times</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>10/5/2016</td>
<td>Inspira fined $10,000 for not pulling all recalled medicine from pharmacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>10/20/2016</td>
<td>Old Newcomb Hospital building being demolished in Vineland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>10/29/2016</td>
<td>Breast cancer support program at Inspira eases burden for patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc. Publications</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>10/7/2016</td>
<td>American Pharmacists Assoc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>10/18/2016</td>
<td>IT News Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>10/18/2016</td>
<td>Philadelphia Business Journal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>10/18/2016</td>
<td>Philadelphia Business Journal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>10/18/2016</td>
<td>PR Newswire a Cision Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>10/19/2016</td>
<td>HIT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>10/19/2016</td>
<td>NJ Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>10/20/2016</td>
<td>Catholic Star Herald</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>10/21/2016</td>
<td>Health Data Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>10/26/2016</td>
<td>Becker’s Hospital Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>10/28/2016</td>
<td>NJ Spotlight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td>10/31/2016</td>
<td>Healthcare Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>10/17/2016</td>
<td>NJ Biz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>10/31/2016</td>
<td>NJ Biz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>10/2016</td>
<td>NJ Biz (Directory)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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The state Board of Pharmacy has fined Inspira Medical Center in Vineland for failing to remove all recalled medication linked to an outbreak of fungal meningitis in 2012, according to a consent order filed on June 29.

Four patients were injected with recalled vials of methylprednisolone acetate, or MPA, between September 26 and Oct. 4, 2012, according to the filing. The contaminated steroid had been voluntarily recalled by the New England Compounding Center, after the product was associated with an outbreak of fungal meningitis in 23 states, sickening 753 people, including 64 deaths.

The compounding pharmacy alerted Inspira to the recall on Sept. 26, 2012, and the hospital removed 5mL vials of the tainted product. But the pharmacy staff did not check its stock of 1mL vials for the recalled lot numbers. For the next eight days, the smaller vials of recalled product remained on its shelves.

Inspira notified all four patients about their exposure and watched them for symptoms, following requirements of the N.J. Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In February 2013, the health system improved its policies and procedures to comply with future recalls.

The hospital was fined $10,000 for the error, and charged $5,228 for the state’s investigation.

Paul Simon, a hospital spokesman, did not immediately respond to requests for comment Tuesday.
South Jersey hospital gave patients recalled drugs

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Inspira notified all four patients about their exposure and monitored them to ensure they did not develop symptoms, following the requirements of the state Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In February 2013, the health system improved its policies and procedures to comply with future recalls.

The hospital was fined $10,000 for the error, and charged $5,228 for the state's investigation.

Paul Simon, a hospital spokesman, would not say how Inspira discovered its error or how it changed its policies.

"Inspira Health Network is dedicated to providing safe, quality care for every patient. As outlined in the consent order, the network fully cooperated with the NJ State Board of Pharmacy's investigation to ensure our compliance with all regulations," Simon said in an e-mailed statement.

In New Jersey, 51 people contracted fungal infections related to the contaminated injections; none died.
Hospital offers online doc visits

Kim Mulford, @CP_KimMulford 5:30 p.m. EDT October 18, 2016

WOODSBURY - Inspira has launched a telemedicine service for South Jersey patients, offering virtual access to its urgent care doctors through the patient's smartphone, tablet or computer, the health system announced Tuesday.

Inspira eCare is available for patients with certain common medical conditions. They include: cold, flu, sinus infection and cough, female bladder infection, pink eye, yeast infection, cold or canker sores, eczema, tinea (a fungal skin infection), acne, motion sickness prevention, heartburn or gastroesophageal acid reflux, minor burns and tobacco cessation. Inspira is also launching an app that will allow patients to virtually get in line at one of its urgent care centers.

The health system's service is offered through Zipnosis, a virtual health care company based in Minneapolis.

Using an online portal, patients will be able to use a credit card to pay the $45 flat fee upfront and will answer a series of questions related to their condition, said Greg Potter, an Inspira spokesman. An Inspira doctor will respond with an assessment and treatment plan within an hour or will refer the patient to one of Inspira's six urgent care centers. The fee will be waived if the patient needs to be seen at an urgent care center instead.

Patients who have already seen an Inspira doctor through one of its primary care offices or urgent care centers can also obtain a prescription through the virtual visit. In some cases, the virtual examination can include video.

"It's a great way to access care in another way, if you are in the comfort of your own home," Potter said.

Inspira spent two years researching telemedicine services before choosing Zipnosis, because it connected patients with Inspira's own doctors, said Dr. Evelyn Balogun, medical director of urgent care at Inspira Health Network.

"We liked the idea of using our own providers in an innovative way that delivers both continuity of care and a competitive advantage," Balogun said. "Virtual health care is yet another way we can enhance patients' digital experience and give them another access point to our health system."

Legislation authorizing the use of telemedicine is still under consideration in New Jersey, with bills before the Senate's Budget Appropriations Committee and the Assembly's Health and Senior Services Committee. The state Department of Health does not presently oversee telemedicine, said the department's spokeswoman, Donna Leusner.

The proposed legislation is meant to clarify when telemedicine is allowed, among other regulations, according to Aline Holmes, senior vice president of clinical affairs for the New Jersey Hospital Association. It's believed telemedicine will be a big part of care in the future, and most hospitals will eventually offer similar services, she said, but most are waiting until the legislation is finalized.

"New Jersey is one of only a couple states that have a limitation on telemedicine, as far as the prescribing of medicine via a virtual visit," Potter said. Prescribers must have an existing relationship with a patient before prescribing medications through telemedicine, he said. Patients who haven't seen an Inspira doctor before can use the telemedicine service, but will need to see one of its doctors in person to obtain a prescription.

Inspira treats about 200,000 patients through its Inspira Medical Group offices. Its urgent care centers count about 60,000 patient encounters annually. To access its telemedicine service, visit www.inspirahealthnetwork.org/ecare
Three South Jersey hospital systems have earned A ratings from a national patient safety watchdog organization that grades hospitals on how well they protect patients from accidents, injuries and infections.

Inspecra Health Network’s hospitals in Woodbury, Elmer and Vineland each earned top scores from The Leapfrog Group, three years after they were hit with C and D grades. Inspira President and CEO John DiAngelo said the health system recently focused on "eliminating preventable harm."

"By applying layers of checks to the way we provide care, our staff can identify mistakes before they affect our patients," DiAngelo said.

Virtua Voorhees and Virtua Marlton also earned A ratings, and so did all three Kennedy Health hospitals in Cherry Hill, Stratford and Washington Township. All had earned a B grade in 2013. Virtua Memorial in Mount Holly earned its fifth straight A; it had earned a C grade in 2013.

Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Camden earned its first B rating, dropping its perfect grade for the first time since 2013. Lourdes Medical Center of Burlington County in Willingboro earned a C grade, its seventh consecutive since it earned a D rating in 2013.

Cooper University Hospital in Camden dropped one spot to a C rating, its first dip since 2013.

Overall, 25 hospitals in New Jersey earned A ratings and none earned F grades, placing the state 17th for patient safety nationally. Leapfrog assigns grades to more than 2,600 hospitals twice a year, using 30 measures of publicly available hospital safety data. Its hospital safety ratings are free and available to the public by visiting www.hospitalsafetygrade.org.
LETTER: Lucky to have Inspira in Vineland

The Daily Journal 2:42 p.m. EDT October 5, 2016

I recently had the opportunity to be a patient for a few days at our local Inspira Medical Center in Vineland, and I want to express my thanks that we have such a fine facility available to us.

The doctors, nurses, technicians, aides, cleaning staff, etc., who helped me were very efficient, professional and caring. I was able to order my meals by phone from a menu provided by the hospital, and they were delivered to my room when I requested. The food was well prepared and satisfying.

We are blessed to live in this area. There are many places in our country where patients have to go hundreds of miles to get to a hospital like ours.

Once again, thank you to everyone at Inspira Medical Center. I felt well cared for.

Florence Ferrarie

Vineland
Gary Mirone, D.O., of Inspira Medical Group was recognized as a 2016 New Jersey Top Doctor. Mirone is the only fellowship trained urogynecologist and pelvic reconstructive surgeon in the region.

Mirone is director of the nation’s first osteopathic fellowship in female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery and was named “Mentor of the Year” in 2011 by the American Osteopathic Association. In 2014, he became one of only five D.O.’s in the nation to earn board certification in urogynecology from the American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

He serves as a board examiner for the Osteopathic Female Pelvic Medicine andReconstructive Surgery oral boards. At his offices in Vineland and Mullica Hill, he helps women who are suffering from pelvic health disorders. He is dedicated to providing his patients with education and individualized care to help them improve their overall quality of life.

For information, call Inspira Medical Group Urogynecology at (856) 641-8680 or visit www.NJTopDocs.com.
Vineland surgeon named Inspira Health Network Physician of the Year

Deborah M. Marko , @dmarko_dj 5:22 p.m. EDT October 18, 2016

– Fate knew Per Montero-Pearson was destined to be a surgeon long before he did.

“When I was in high school in Columbia, we did, they call it an apperception test, which is basically finding out what you might be good at,” he told the Daily Journal.

“The two suggested avenues for my brain were nuclear physics and surgery,” he said. “I liked taking things apart and putting things together, I was mechanical.”

He decided to pursue biomedical engineering but that was but a brief detour from the path that led to his current role as chairman of the Department of Surgery at Inspira Healthcare Network where he has earned the respect of his colleagues.

If someone starting out on their medical career asked how they should conduct themselves as a physician, Dr. Frank DeMaio said, “I would say look at Dr. Montero-Pearson.”

His intelligence, honesty and devotion to the local hospital network during the past 25 years have earned him this year’s Physician of the Year title, DeMaio said.

One of the most prestigious awards bestowed upon an Inspira Health Network doctor, it is presented by the physician’s peers, DeMaio said.

Montero-Pearson, 68, will be toasted, and roasted, during a ceremony Wednesday at the Greenview Inn at Eastlyn Golf Course.

“Dr. Montero has contributed greatly to our health network and the communities we serve,” said Jonn DiAngelo, president and CEO of the Inspira Health Network. “For more than two decades he has provided quality care to our patients while serving in leadership roles on the medical staff of our Elmer and Vineland hospitals.”

Born in Stamford, Conn., Montero-Pearson didn’t remain there long.

His father’s work took the family to South America.

Before Montero-Pearson turned 2, his family moved to Puerto Rico and about four years later, they relocated to Columbia.
A businessman, his father “spoke eight languages so he was very useful to a lot of the people,” Montero-Pearson said.

“I wish I had it,” he said, admiring his father’s foreign language flair and noting he only speaks three.

“I went to Villanova University, I wanted to be a biomedical engineer but that was boring,” he said. “So I switched and took the credits that I needed to go to medical school.”

When he graduated, his family was then living in Spain so Montero-Pearson enrolled in the Autonomous University of Madrid.

“I was looking into very esoteric specialties, like neurophysiology, but then I rotated through surgery,” he said.

That’s where he found his calling.

“I just loved being there, I loved being in the operating room,” he said. “I still have it today, it’s the buzz.”

To explain the feeling, Montero-Pearson recounted back when he was in medical school.

At the hospital, he said, there would be five, six, maybe even seven surgeries per night.

“I know 2 a.m. on Saturday morning, I didn’t have to be there, I just wanted to be there,” Montero-Pearson said. “The doctor came over and tapped me, I was sitting on the floor just out cold, and by the time it took me to walk here to there I was wide awake.”

“Dead asleep to fully ready to go in five paces,” he said. “That’s the ah-ha moment, this is what I wanted to do – I was hooked.”

There is still a sense of awe.

“It is the action of doing something physical and then you watch the patient get up and walk away,” he said. “It’s amazing what the body can do.”

When he completed his residency, Montero-Pearson joined the Navy.

“At that time, we were at peace but they were still looking for doctors — they were still trying to provide health care within the military system,” he said.

Montero-Pearson headed up general surgery departments in Okinawa, Japan, and then Charleston, S.C.
After leaving the Navy, he set up private practice in Mocksville, N.C., until he was recalled into service for Operation Desert Shield.

When his wife, Connie, faced a serious health issue, Montero-Pearson said he brought her home where she would have support from her family.

“My wife was born in Newcomb Hospital and went to Our Lady of Mercy Academy,” he said.

Montero-Pearson reached out to local surgical groups to find a new position and got an interview with Alfred Davies in Millville.

Upon meeting, Davies called in his son and it turned out Robert Davies and Montero-Pearson had rotated through St. Christopher’s Hospital in Philadelphia together. He remained a member of the practice from 1991 to 2006.

“I’m an old-fashioned general surgeon,” Montero-Pearson said. “I have done vascular, thoracic, intestinal and cancer surgeries. I did everything.”

He also mastered laparoscopic and robotic surgery.

While technology advances, Montero-Pearson maintains a traditional focus on developing a relationship with his patients.

“I’ve never believed that surgeons have to be cold-blooded and aloof,” he said. “Everyone has to remember we are physicians too.”

That’s something he tries to pass on now that he is a mentor to a new crop of medical residents at Inspira.

Becoming an instructor has taken some adjustment.

“It’s a different mindset for a surgeon when he begins to teach his craft,” Montero-Pearson said. “I can’t tell you how to do this, you have to watch.”

And when they are ready, he turns over the scalpel.

The best advice he offers is what was given to him when he was training.

“If you order a chest X-ray, you look at it; I don’t want you to read to the report, I want you to look at it. You need to look at your X-rays, you need to look at your labs,” he tells the residents.

“That is the strongest order I give them — if you ordered it, you damn well better know what the results are,” he said. “We learned to pay attention.”

During his career, Montero-Pearson has also taken note of support he’s received from those around him.

He plans to use the award as an opportunity to say thank you, including to his wife of 34 years.
“She makes me look so good,” he said.

There will be thanks to his children, David and Valentina.

He also plans to tell his colleagues as well as his staff how much he appreciates them helping him keep things running smoothly.

Montero-Pearson laughed and noted that career skill test he took in high school was correct in more than one category.

“On the top of the no way list,” he said. “Office work.”
Illumination on display at Inspira in Vineland

VINELAND - Richard Monteleone, a senior adjunct professor at Atlantic Cape Community College and working visual artist, created and donated a sculpture made of more than 600 feet of twisted aluminum to Inspira Medical Center Vineland. The sculpture, “Illumination,” is now suspended over the medical center’s 2,000 square-foot lobby where about 700 to 800 visitors pass by each day.

The intent of the sculpture is to provide a visually inspiring and peaceful respite to visitors at the medical center, but the inspiration behind the creation of Illumination is much deeper.

Earlier this year, Monteleone’s mother was admitted to Inspira Vineland. Shortly after she was discharged, his father became ill and spent more than 40 days at Inspira Vineland before recovering and finally returning home. After countless hours spent in the hospital by his parent’s sides, Monteleone became inspired to give something back for future visitors to enjoy at Inspira.

When asked about the donation, Monteleone responded, “The moment I walked into Inspira’s lobby I was immediately inspired by the vast open space. After several visits, observation, and reflection, I realized that I must donate a sculpture to that space. My goal was to create a dynamic and unique vibrational dialogue with the architecture. This sculpture is about expansion, light, space and energy. It is my desire that the piece will promote healing, expansion and reflection to all.”

The sculpture’s curving and twisting design provides a beautiful contrast to the modern architectural structure of the two-story high lobby. As the changing sunlight hits the aluminum throughout the day, its gold and silver accents shine for all to see from both the main lobby and the second floor waiting room balcony.

“I am thrilled to have a little part in this great addition to our medical center,” said Carolyn Heckman, vice president of community relations at Inspira. “We are looking forward to honoring Richard with a plaque placed in the medical center’s lobby.”

For Inspira Health Network information, call (800) INSPIRA or visit www.InspiraHealthNetwork.org.

VINELAND - Inspira’s IMPACT Parent Linking Program recently hosted a superhero-themed event for students’ fathers and other male figures, “Dads Take Your Child to School Day.” The event was attended by 48 fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers, foster fathers and other male role models, all who play a positive role in their child’s life. Children and dads from Inspira IMPACT’s Parent Linking, Childcare and Wrap-Around Programs were all invited to participate.

Inspira IMPACT (Innovative Model for Preschool and Community Teaming) is a collaboration with local school districts which provides an array of programs designed to improve the health and well-being of young people and their families.

Anthony Stanton and son, Aiden Stanton Regino, participated in Inspira’s IMPACT Parent Linking Program, “Dads Take Your Child to School Day.”

Nick Pacitto with daughter, Samantha Pacitto, participated in Inspira’s IMPACT Parent Linking Program, “Dads Take Your Child to School Day.”
CONVERSATION OF A LIFETIME
Why you need to discuss end-of-life with those you love
Inspira nurses receive national recognition

JOHN DIANGELO INSPIRA HEALTH NETWORK PRESIDENT AND CEO

At Inspira Health Network, we are fortunate to have a comprehensive team of skilled health care professionals providing excellent care for our community every day. I’d like to give special recognition to the caregivers that we often see first when we need assistance: our nurses.

Who helped the obstetrician deliver you at birth? Who did you turn to in grade school when you did not feel well? Who do you often see first when you make an office visit to your primary care doctor? And who takes care of you 24/7 if you need to stay in the hospital?

As you can see, we have all formed special relationships with nurses throughout our lives. They have dedicated their careers to your health and well-being by collaborating with physicians and other staff to assure great outcomes.

I’m very proud of Inspira’s nurses because they repeatedly distinguish themselves as leaders in excellent care. I’d like to provide you with a few examples of the nationally recognized nursing care that you and your family have access to in your community. In fact, Inspira’s nurses have received three national awards this year for providing our community with top-notch care.

This spring, the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) recognized Inspira Medical Center Vineland’s Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (CICU) and Cardiac Step Down Unit (CSDU) with a gold-level Beacon Award for Excellence. This national three-year award is given to units that successfully improve patient outcomes and foster healthy work environments. This is the fourth consecutive Beacon Award that Inspira Medical Center Vineland’s CICU has received and the first for its CSDU.

Inspira Medical Center Woodbury also received a prestigious award this year for excellence in nursing. Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders, or NICHE, awarded its highest honor in recognition of our commitment to geriatric nursing care. In fact, our nurses received “Exemplar” status, the highest possible designation that NICHE awards to hospitals. What this means for your elderly loved ones is that our nurses excel at providing evidence-based, interdisciplinary care that promotes better outcomes, positive experiences and improved care.

Another example of our distinguished nursing care came in January when Inspira Medical Center Elmer became the first
hospital in New Jersey to receive the Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses’ PRISM Award. This prestigious award recognizes exceptional nursing practice, leadership, and outcomes in hospital medical-surgical departments across the United States. The award, which stands for “Premier Recognition in the Specialty of MedSurg,” is the first of its kind honoring acute care medical-surgical departments and was given to Inspira Elmer’s 2 East Medical-Surgical Unit.

Our Bridgeton, Elmer and Vineland campuses have also been twice designated as Magnet Hospitals by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Magnet is the gold standard for nursing excellence and only 7 percent of the nation’s hospitals hold this distinction. The award is given to hospitals with experienced nurses who are not only providing excellent care, but are also innovating and driving their profession forward through the use of research and evidence-based care.

These group awards are certainly impressive, and over the years, many of our nurses have also received individual national recognition for their leadership and innovation in the field. Just this year, Emily Turnure, administrative director of Education and Accreditation at Inspira Health Network, was been selected by Nurse.com as one of six national winners to receive a 2015 Nursing Excellence GEM Award in the category of Education and Mentorship.

She is actually the third Inspira nurse to receive this prestigious national award in the past six years. One of our previous national GEM Award winners, Michele Zucconi, was recently appointed to the American Association of Critical Care Nurses’ national leadership board nominating committee. Under her leadership, Inspira Vineland’s cardiac catheterization laboratory team was recognized by ADVANCE for Nurses with the Best Nursing Team award in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

Each year the March of Dimes also recognizes nurses across the nation who demonstrate exceptional patient care, compassion and service. This year, three Inspira Health Network nursing leaders, Sandy Lovelace, Sherry Remy and Reenie Sacchetti were honored with Nurse of the Year Awards from the March of Dimes’ New Jersey Chapter.

These recognitions are a true honor, and they are just the most recent examples of many awards our nurses have received. What I think they really demonstrate is that our nurses bring innovation and best practices to your community. And most importantly, they are providing excellent care every day in our hospitals for you and your loved ones.

For more information, please visit our website at http://InspiraHealthNetwork.org.
Cumberland County Briefs

Women’s Health Day free health screenings, fun activities and Zumba

Inspira Health Network: Spirit of Women will host a Women’s Health Screening and Education Day from 9 a.m. to noon Oct. 1 at Inspira Medical Center Vineland, 1505 W. Sherman Ave., Vineland.

The event will feature free health screenings, healthy lifestyle information and fun activities.

Screenings include: Blood Pressure and Pulse Ox, Body Mass Index, Heart Disease Risk Assessment, Skin Cancer on the face, Lung Assessment, Cancer Risk Assessment, Sleep Apnea Assessment, Step Test/Resting Heart Rate, Heel Bone Density and more.

Fun activities include: yoga at 9:30 a.m., cooking demonstration at 10:30 a.m., and Zumba at 11:30 a.m.

Information will be available about technology including the da Vinci surgical robot, a new responsive website, My Inspira app, patient portal sign-up, virtual visit demonstration and more.

Registration is requested but walkins are welcome.

To register or for information, call (800) 467-7472 or visit http://inspira.SpiritHealth.com.

Inspira Auxiliary Cumberland County holding art sale

VINELAND - Inspira Auxiliary Cumberland County will hold its first art sale from 4 to 7 p.m. Nov. 20 at the Greenview Inn at Eastlyn Golf Course at 4049 Italia Ave.

A select group of artists in varied mediums will showcase drawings, paintings, ceramics, glass, handcrafted jewelry, photography and more.

The auxiliary will retain 40 percent of sale proceeds to support the mission of the Inspira Foundation Cumberland/ Salem.

For information, call (856) 641-8290, email MontgomeryM@ihn.org or visit http://cs.InspiraFoundation.net.
Wellness Calendar

» Advanced Cardiac Life Support, initial course: A two-day class will be held in November at Inspira Health Network Vineland. Call (856) 641-7535.

» Advanced Cardiac Life Support, recertification: A class will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 13 and 5 p.m. to finish Oct. 24 at Inspira Health Network Vineland. Call (856) 641-7535.

» Alcoholics Anonymous: Meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. Saturdays at Inspira Health Network Bridgeton Health Center and 11 a.m. Sundays at Inspira Health Network Elmer. Call (800) 322-5525.

» Alzheimer’s Family Caregiver Support Groups: The group will meet from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 24 at the Friends’ Home in Woodstown. Call (800) 272-3900 or (856) 823-0242. The group will also meet at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 17 at Inspira Medical Center Woodbury, Suite 14. Call (856) 853-2114.

» Alzheimer’s Support Group of Cumberland County, meetings feature a discussion of concerns of caregivers of loved ones with Alzheimer’s disease or other types of dementia, 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month from September through June. (856) 691-3079. Genesis Eldercare Center, 54 Sharp St., Millville.

» Aquatics: Cumberland Cape Atlantic YMCA/ YMCA of Vineland offers swim lessons, pool exercise classes, and American Red Cross safety training; classes are scheduled throughout the year. Call (856) 691-0030 or visit http://www.ccaymca.org.

» Autism Support: Cumberland County Autism Links is an organization that links high functioning autistic and Asperger preteens and teens socially with others on the spectrum while learning social skills. This group meets from 4:45 to 6 p.m. Thursdays at Fourth Methodist Church, 308 Kates Blvd., Millville. Email memom52@verizon.net or call (856) 332-2433.

» Bariatric Information Session: An information session for people who are considering bariatric (weight loss) surgery, including sleeve gastrectomy and gastric bypass procedures, will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 19 and 26 at Inspira Health Network Fitness Connection. Registration is required. Call (800) 467-7472.

» Bariatric Support Group: A bariatric presurgery group meets at Inspira Health Network Fitness Connection. In addition, a “new beginnings” group for those in the first year after weight-loss surgery will be held from 7 to 8 p.m. Oct. 5 and a “graduate” support group for those who are one to five years post-op will meet from 7 to 8 p.m. Oct. 12. Call (800) 467-7472.

» Blood Drives: The American Red Cross regularly schedules blood drives in South Jersey. Call (800) GIVE-LIFE or visit http://www.redcrossblood.org.
» Blood Pressure Screenings: Vineland Health Department offers the following screenings: 10 a.m. to noon on the first Wednesday of each month at the Vineland Senior Center, Sixth and Elmer streets; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at Vineland City Hall, 640 E. Wood St.; and 2 to 4 p.m. on the third Friday of each month at Luther Acres, 560 Sarah Place.

» Brain Injury Support: A support group for people who have suffered brain injuries meets at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month at the HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Vineland, 1237 W. Sherman Ave., Vineland. Call (856) 697-7342.

» Breastfeeding Class: Class will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Oct. 12 at Inspira Health Network Vineland. Call (800) 467-7472.

» Breastfeeding Support: Mother to Mother support for nursing moms is provided by La Leche League of Vineland at 9:30 a.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. For location or assistance, email PGardella1@comcast.net or call (856) 691-9569.

» Breastfeeding and Back to Work: A free class will be held from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Oct. 4 in the aerobic room at Inspira Health Network Fitness Connection in Vineland. Registration is required. Call (856) 641-7535.

» Cancer Program: The American Cancer Society’s “Look Good, Feel Better” program will be offered in November at Inspira Health Network Scarpa Cancer Center. This free program teaches female cancer patients beauty techniques to help restore their appearance and self-image during chemotherapy and radiation treatments. Registration is required. Call (800) 227-2345.

» Cancer Resource Center: Open daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Breast Cancer Bridge Program Office at the Inspira Health Network Elmer. There also is a 24-hour center in the waiting area of the Transitional Care Unit at Inspira Medical Center Vineland. No appointment is necessary. The public is welcome.

» Cancer Screenings: More than 50,000 people die from colon cancer each year, and many of the deaths could be prevented with early detection. The Gastroenterology Group of South Jersey offers convenient hours throughout the year for routine screenings. Call (856) 691-1400.

» Cancer Screenings: Free screenings for breast, cervical, prostate and colorectal cancers for men and women are offered at Inspira Health Network Scarpa Cancer Center. The services are available to uninsured people, ages 40 to 64. For an appointment, call (856) 641-8686.

» Cancer Support: Inspira Health Network’s Oncology Bridge Program offers support for women diagnosed with breast cancer. A community education nurse who also is a breast cancer survivor will meet with the patient in person or on the phone to offer advice, information and support. Call Inspira Health Network Elmer at (856) 363-1514.

» Cancer Support: Inspira Health Network’s Scarpa Cancer Center. Call (856) 641-7974.

» Cancer Support: A women’s cancer support group will meet from 6 to 8 p.m. Oct. 25, family and friends are welcome, in the second floor conference room at the Inspira Health Network Fitness Connection, call (856) 641-8673; and from 4 to 5 p.m. Oct. 26 at Inspira Medical Arts Building, Suite 14, 52 W. Red Bank, Woodbury, call (609) 828-4591.

» Cancer Support: A prostate cancer support group will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. Oct. 26, family and friends are welcome, at Inspira Health Network Fitness Connection. Call (856) 641-8674.
» Cancer Support: A thyroid cancer support group will meet from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Oct. 15 at Inspira Health Network Fitness Connection. Call (856) 641-8670.

» Cancer Survivor Program: Cumberland Cape Atlantic YMCA/YMCA of Vineland offers LIVESTRONG at the Y, a free, 12-week program; sessions are scheduled throughout the year. Call (856) 691-0030 or visit http://www.ccaymca.org.

» Child-safety Seat Inspections: The Cumberland County Sheriff’s Department offers free child-safety seat inspections from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the Millville Rescue Squad, 600 Cedar St. Call (856) 451-4449, ext. 107.

» Childbirth Education Class: Inspira Health Network Vineland will offer a class from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 15. For information, call (800) 467-7472 or email educationregistration@ihn.org.

» Childbirth Education Class: Inspira offers an online childbirth education class — available at your convenience. Call (856) 641-7535.

» Childbirth Refresher Class: For information or an appointment, call (800) 467-7472 or email educationregistration@ihn.org.

» Childbirth/Maternity Tour: Free tours of Inspira’s maternity areas are available. Call (800) 467-7472.

» Children’s Health: STEPS for Kids, a family-focused childhood weight management program, open to children ages 8 to 12 and their parents, teaches fitness and nutrition to kids. Classes are available in Vineland and Bridgeton. Call (856) 507-8565 or (856) 507-8568 or visit http://www.sjhsteps.com.

» Children’s Health: A pediatric weight management program, for children ages 6 to 11 and their parents, is offered at Inspira Medical Center Woodbury. Call (856) 853-2141.

» Community Healthcare: Families now are being enrolled in CompleteCare, which covers doctor visits, prescriptions and hospital stays for low-income uninsured adults, children or caregivers. Call (856) 451-4700, ext. 2047.

» CPR, community class: Classes are held at Inspira Health Network Fitness Connection. Call (856) 696-3924.

» CPR, Heartsaver: Classes are held at Inspira Health Network Vineland. Call (856) 641-7535.

» CPR, Healthcare Provider initial course: The course will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 8, 6 to 10:30 p.m. Oct. 11 and 19 and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 22 at Inspira Health Network Vineland; course is also offered at Inspira Health Network Elmer. Call (856) 641-7535.

» CPR, Healthcare Provider renewal: The course will be held from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Oct. 4, 6 to 10:30 p.m. Oct. 6 and 13, 8 to 11:30 a.m. Oct. 18, 6 to 10:30 p.m. Oct. 20 and 27 at Inspira Health Network Vineland; and 6 to 10 p.m. Oct. 5 and 24 at Inspira Health Network Elmer. Call (856) 641-7535.
» Diabetes Prevention Program: Cumberland Cape Atlantic YMCA/YMCA of Vineland offers a free 12-month program; sessions are scheduled throughout the year. Call (856) 691-0030 or visit http://www.ccaymca.org.

» Diabetes Self-Management Education: Offered by Inspira Medical Center Woodbury, this program provides basic information about diabetes to people diagnosed with the disease. Registration is required. Call (856) 853-2141 for dates and times.

» Diabetes Support Group: The group will meet from 2 to 3 p.m. Oct. 5 at Inspira Health Network Vineland, call (856) 641-7535; and 6:45 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 27 at Inspira Medical Center Woodbury, call (856) 853-2141.

» Diabetes Workshop: “Understanding Diabetes,” a free class, will be held from noon to 1 p.m. Oct. 12 and 26 at Inspira Health Network Vineland; and noon to 1 p.m. Oct. 6 and 20 at Inspira Health Network Elmer, registration is required. Call (856) 641-7535.

» Diabetes and Pregnancy: Class will be held at Inspira Health Network Vineland. Registration is required. Call (856) 641-7535 for dates and times.

» Exercise: PIT/Performance Improvement Training offers life skills and athletic development for kids at Inspira Health Network Fitness Connection. Call (856) 696-3924.

» Exercise: PREP/Physician Referred Exercise Program at Inspira Health Network Fitness Connection. Call (856) 696-3924.

» Exercise/fitness programs: Cumberland Cape Atlantic YMCA/YMCA of Vineland offers a variety of programs throughout the year. Call (856) 691-0030 or visit http://www.ccaymca.org.

» Exercise: Inspira Health Network Motor(less) Nights, one of the park’s world-class road courses will be available for all non-motorized activities including bicycling, running/walking with or without strollers, skateboarding, rollerblading and more; proper safety equipment required; Inspira Health Network will also host a healthy living activity each month; gates open, 6:30 p.m. to sunset Oct. 20, free admission. (856) 327-8000. http://www.njmp.com. New Jersey Motorsports Park, 8000 Dividing Creek Road, Millville.

» Fundraiser: Art sale, sponsored by Inspira Auxiliary Cumberland County, features a select group of artists in varied mediums who will showcase drawings, paintings, ceramics, glass, handcrafted jewelry, photography and more, 4 to 7 p.m. Nov. 20; a portion of the proceeds will support the mission of the Inspira Foundation Cumberland/Salem. (856) 641-8290. Email MontgomeryM@ihn.org. cs.InspiraFoundation.net. Greenview Inn, Eastlyn Golf Course, 4049 Italia Ave., Vineland.

» Grief Support: “Helping Hands” is a support group for parents and families who have lost a baby from miscarriage, stillbirth, SIDS or early infant death. Call (856) 207-0257 or (856) 641-7509.

» Heart and Lung Support Group: The group meets at Inspira Health Network Vineland. Registration is required. Call (856) 641-7748.

» Hip/Knee Replacement: Are you having a total hip or knee replacement? Millville Center Genesis HealthCare offers free pre-surgery rehabilitation seminars at 2 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month. Call (856) 327-2700.
HIV Testing: Free, rapid diagnostic HIV testing is available from 4 to 5 p.m. Tuesdays at Vineland Health Department, Suite 1, 610 Montrose St., Vineland. Call (856) 794-4000, ext. 4806. Testing also is available from 4 to 5 p.m. Wednesdays at the FamCare Building, 30 Magnolia Ave., Bridgeton. Call (856) 327-7602.

Hospice Volunteer Training: Inspira Health Network Hospice Care offers information regarding volunteer service and/or training. Call (856) 213-9869.

Immunizations: Shots for Tots of Cumberland County offers free immunizations for uninsured children up to age 18. Children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian who must present an up-to-date shot record. The schedule includes: 9 a.m. to noon on the third Wednesday of the month at Vineland Public Health Nursing Site, Suite 1, 610 Montrose St., Vineland; 10 a.m. to noon on the fourth Thursday of the month at Cumberland County Health Department, 309 Buck St., Millville; and 10 a.m. to noon on the second Thursday of the month at Gateway Community Action Partnership, 110 Cohansey St., Bridgeton. Call (856) 794-4000, ext. 4806, or (856) 327-7602.

Mental Health: NAMI Cumberland County, the Cumberland County Affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, offers support groups for mental health consumers and family members/caregivers, meets from 7 to 9 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at Chestnut Assembly of God, 2554 E. Chestnut Ave., Vineland. (856) 691-9234.

Narcotics Anonymous: Narcotics Anonymous meets throughout the week in various locations throughout Cumberland and Salem counties. For a meeting list, visit http://www.csascna.org or http://www.nanj.org.

Parenting Support: Baby Talk Tuesdays, a free discussion group for parenting issues, for moms of babies up to age 3, is offered from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Inspira Health Network Fitness Connection in Vineland. Call (856) 641-7535.

Parenting Support: A newborn/grandparent class will be held in November at Inspira Health Network Vineland. Call (800) 467-7472.

Pediatric Advanced Life Support, initial two-day course: Class will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 20 and 21 at Inspira Health Network Vineland. Call (856) 641-7535.

Pediatric Advanced Life Support, recertification: A course will be held from 5 p.m. to finish Oct. 18 at Inspira Health Network Vineland. Call (856) 641-7535.

Senior Class: This class is for seniors who want to make new friends, learn about healthy living and enjoy an educational luncheon with fellow senior citizens. The next class will be held at noon Oct. 21 at the Inspira Health Network Fitness Connection. Registration is required. Call (856) 575-4214.

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic: The Vineland Health Department holds an STD testing and treatment clinic 4 to 5 p.m. Tuesdays at 610 E. Montrose St., Suite 1, Vineland. Clinic is located on second floor. No appointment is necessary. Call (856) 794-4000, ext. 4806.

Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic: The Cumberland County Health Department holds an STD testing and treatment clinic Wednesdays with registration from 4 to 5 p.m. at the FamCare Building, 30 Magnolia Ave., Bridgeton. No appointment is necessary. Call (856) 327-7602.

Tai Chi: Classes are held at Inspira Health Network Fitness Connection. Call (856) 696-3924.

Tourette Syndrome Family Support Group: Call (908) 575-7350.
» Weight Management: One-on-one weight management counseling is available through Inspira Health Network’s Outpatient Nutrition Department. A physician prescription is required, as well as insurance and referral if necessary. Patients should check with their individual health plan to see if services of a registered dietitian are covered. For information or to schedule an appointment, call Inspira Health Network Vineland at (856) 575-4887 or Inspira Medical Center Woodbury at (856) 853-2141.

» Weight Management: BetterFit Weight Loss is a 12-week program that includes consultations with a certified personal trainer and a registered dietitian at Inspira Health Network Fitness Connection. Call (856) 696-3924.

» Women’s Health Event: Women’s Health Screening and Education Day, hosted by Inspira Health Network’s Spirit of Women, features free health screenings, healthy lifestyle information and fun activities including yoga, cooking demonstration and Zumba, 9 a.m. to noon Oct. 1, free; registration requested but walk-ins welcome. (800) 467-7472. http://inspira.SpiritHealth.com. Inspira Medical Center Vineland, 1505 W. Sherman Ave., Vineland.


» Yoga: Classes are held at Inspira Health Network Fitness Connection. Call (856) 696-3924.

» Yoga: Cumberland Cape Atlantic YMCA/YMCA of Vineland offers eight-week sessions throughout the year. Call (856) 691-0030 or visit http://www.ccaymca.org.

» Youth Sports: Cumberland Cape Atlantic YMCA/YMCA of Vineland offers eight-week leagues seasonally throughout the year for many different sports for children age 2 through fifth graders. Call (856) 691-0030 or visit http://www.ccaymca.org.

» Yoga Mommies: A six-week class will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Sundays at Inspira Health Network Fitness Connection. Call (856) 696-3924.
In your county

Cumberland

**Pinelands Music Festival:** The second annual Pinelands Music Festival will be held from 1:30 to 10:30 p.m. Sunday at the Cumberland County Fairgrounds, 3001 Carmel Road, Millville. The festival showcases 25 bands on two stages. There will be local artists, food trucks and vendors. Tickets are $38 for general admission. For information, visit [pinelandsmusicfest.com](http://pinelandsmusicfest.com).

**Inspira hosts women’s support group meeting:** Inspira Cancer Services invites area residents to a support program discussing breast cancer 6 p.m. Oct. 25 at Inspira Medical Center, 1505 W. Sherman Ave., Vineland. To RSVP, call 856-841-8673.
Dr. Nicole Zucconi, of Inspira Health Network’s Millville location, said the flu is highly contagious. One person can get it simply from another person coughing nearby.

The only protections the public has are flu vaccines and herd immunity, or the dependence on others in their families and communities to get the vaccine as well.

Moore ran out during her lunch break on a recent Wednesday to get a shot of the vaccine at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Linwood, one of several scheduled Atlantic County Health Department vaccination clinics running now through November.

One big change this year is most vaccine administrators are no longer offering the vaccine through nasal sprays.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced in June that the live vaccine in nasal sprays did not protect children ages 2 to 17 this past flu season. Almost all forms of the vaccine will come in three- (trivalent) or four- (quadrivalent) component shots, which protect against multiple influenza viruses.

“We get it every year, myself, my daughter and the rest of my family,” said Leah Benckert, of Linwood.

Zucconi said the ideal time to get vaccinated is at the beginning of fall, or well before the peak of flu season. It takes two weeks after getting the vaccine for someone’s body to build antibodies against the virus.

Peak flu activity appeared much later this past season than in previous years, resulting in an overall low number of flu cases this year. Local health experts attributed that to a mild winter, good vaccine matches and high vaccination rates.
There was one pediatric influenza death in New Jersey during the past season, less than in previous years, according to the state Department of Health. A total of 68 children died from the flu in the United States, according to the CDC.

Zucconi encourages vulnerable populations such as children, elderly patients, pregnant woman and people who have lung and heart diseases, for example, to get vaccinated.

Margate police Officer Hope McIntyre stopped in to the Linwood clinic to get her annual shot. With her job, she can’t afford to get sick, she said.

“It’s really important for me to stay healthy and be at the top of my game,” she said. “I’m out all the time, in the hot, in the cold, traveling, helping people. I can’t just sit out because I get sick.”

For the small percentage of people who get the flu vaccine and still get sick from the flu, experts say the vaccine is still your best chance at avoiding the worst complications of the flu.

“I don’t think people realize that it’s not just getting the flu, it’s complications that can come with it, like pneumonia, severe dehydration and hospitalization,” Zucconi said. “I just say, it’s better to get it after a vaccine than getting a full-blown case of the flu and potentially ending up in hospital.”

http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/the-flu-it-s-coming/article_c9139669-15a5-589b-a945-81d887428e73.html
How did South Jersey hospital perform in a national safety report?

NICOLE LEONARD Staff Writer 4 min ago

Two area hospitals, Inspira Health Network Vineland and Cape Regional Medical Center in Cape May Court House, improved marks for hospital safety, according to a national report that grades health care performance.

Inspira's Vineland hospital earned its first A grade in the Hospital Safety Grade report and Cape Regional went from a C to B.

The report shows that these hospitals did above average in reducing problems like patient falls, bed sores and breathing issues after surgery, and improved on staff safety training, number of qualified physicians and nurses and medication records.

More than a third of all state hospitals earned top grades in this fall’s report published by the LeapFrog Group, a nonprofit patient-advocacy organization that releases Hospital Safety Grade semi-annually.

AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center Mainland Campus in Galloway Township, AtlantiCare City Campus in Atlantic City, Shore Medical Center in Somers Point and Southern Ocean Medical Center in Manahawkin all maintained the same grades they earned in Leapfrog’s spring report.

AtlantiCare hospitals and Shore earned A grades and Southern Ocean maintained a C.

“Recently, Inspira committed to embarking upon a transformation to become a high reliability organization to provide even safer care for every patient we serve,” said John DiAngelo, president and CEO of Inspira.

Part of that transformation, DiAngelo said, was a focus on eliminating preventable patient harm by identifying mistakes before they affect patients.
Noreen DiPadova, administrative director of Quality, Patient Safety and Risk Management at Cape Regional, credited the hospital's improved score with the recent implementation of telemedicine in intensive care, which allows more medical specialists to consult remotely with critical care physicians.

The latest report used 30 measures of hospital safety data, like infection rates after surgery and in the intensive care unit, handwashing practices, surgical procedures and communication among staff. Patient safety experts helped to evaluate each individual hospital.

Inspira was among 24 other hospitals in New Jersey with the A grades. Only three hospitals—Saint Michael’s Medical Center and University Hospital, both in Newark, and Hackensack University Medical Center at Pascack Valley in Bergen County—earned D grades.

The latter participated in the Leapfrog hospital survey for the first time this year.

New Jersey Hospital Association spokeswomen Aline Holmes and Melinda Caliendo said they were proud of how well the state’s hospitals were represented in this season’s report, and that patient safety is always an ongoing improvement process at area hospitals.

New Jersey over all ranked 17 best in the United States. The state of Hawaii had the top ranking with more than 66 percent of its hospitals earning A grades.

S.J. hospitals improve, maintain good patient safety grades

Several hospitals in South Jersey improved upon their hospital safety, according to a national report that grades health care performance.

More than a third of all state hospitals earned top grades in this fall’s Hospital Safety Grade report. The LeapFrog Group, a nonprofit patient-advocacy organization, released its semi-annual report today.

Cape Regional Medical Center in Cape May Court House and Inspira Health Network in Vineland were two local hospitals that improved in hospital safety this season. Cape Regional went from a C to a B and Inspira improved from a B to an A.

“Recently, Inspira committed to embarking upon a transformation to become a high reliability organization to provide even safer care for every patient we serve,” said John DiAngelo, president and CEO of Inspira.

Part of that transformation, DiAngelo said, was a focus on eliminating preventable patient harm by identifying mistakes before they affect patients.

Today’s report evaluated survey data, and state and federal health care data for grading. It used 30 measures of hospital safety data and patient safety experts helped to evaluate each individual hospital.
Inspira was among 24 other hospitals in New Jersey with the A grades. Only three hospitals—Saint Michael’s Medical Center and University Hospital, both in Newark, and Hackensack University Medical Center at Pascack Valley in Bergen County—earned D grades.

The latter participated in the Leapfrog hospital survey for the first time this year.

Noreen DiPadova, administrative director of Quality, Patient Safety and Risk Management at Cape Regional, credited the hospital's improved score with the recent implementation of intensive care telemedicine services.

"This innovative, collaborative approach enables face-to-face consultations with board certified critical care intensivists 24/7," she said. "This new service, combined with existing robust systems such as medication barcode scanning and computerized physician order entry, positively impact our score."

Other area hospitals like AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center Mainland Campus in Galloway, AtlantiCare City Campus in Atlantic City, Shore Medical Center in Somers Point and Southern Ocean Medical Center in Manahawkin all maintained the same grades they earned in Leapfrog’s spring report.

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Cumberland County events

10/13/16 - **Inspira hosts women’s support group:** Inspira Cancer Services invites area residents to a support program discussing breast cancer 6 p.m. Oct. 25 at Inspira Medical Center, 1505 W. Sherman Ave., Vineland. To RSVP, call 856-841-8673.

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Harrison Twp. - **Inspira Health Network** wants to welcome patients to its new 210-bed hospital in September 2019.

Officials hope to break ground on the $349 million project in the second quarter of 2017.

The hospital will sit on a 100-acre property at the Route 55 and 322 interchange, across from the South Jersey Technology Park at Rowan University and near a planned retail project that may include a Costco.

This hospital will replace Inspira's current Woodbury facility, though that site will still maintain an emergency department and other operations.

This new hospital — to be known as Inspira Medical Center Mullica Hill — will mark a big change from Inspira's Woodbury site.
"The experience is vastly different from our current Woodbury facility," explained Patrick Nolan, chief operating officer for Inspira Woodbury. That includes everything from increased use of technology, improved layout and plenty of natural light in patient rooms and common areas.

Visitors arriving at the 465,000-square-foot hospital will find a glass-enclosed, two-level lobby area allowing access across the front of the building from the dietary and education areas, through the lobby and down to the emergency department waiting area.

The following is a rundown on various details regarding the new facility and what visitors will find inside.

• **Kennedy doesn't plan to sue:** Inspira is working through the certificate of need process with the state Department of Health. That process includes a 45-day public comment period when anyone can weigh in with concerns about the plan.

Kennedy Health officials spoke out against plans for the new hospital earlier this year, saying the site was too close to its Washington Township facility.

While Kennedy CEO Joseph Devine previously suggested possible legal action to challenge the plan, a Kennedy spokeswoman confirmed last week that no legal action will be taken to block Inspira's project.

• **Private patient rooms:** When asked what patients and employees really wanted from a new hospital, private rooms were a primary wish, Nolan said.

Every single patient room in the new hospital will be a private room.

That's great for privacy reasons, officials explained, but it also allows family members to stay in the room overnight if they wish.

Each room will include a coach that converts to a bed, meaning patients have more contact with their family advocate.

"That's a big deal for patients," Nolan said.

• **Technology is everywhere:** Gone are the days of writing doctor and nurse names on whiteboards in each patient's room. Smart technology means employee badges will send information to a TV screen in the room each time someone enters to see the patient.

Another monitor behind the bed will provide various information about a patient's status, including lab results, X-rays and other diagnostic details.

Cardiac monitoring will be possible for all beds within the facility.

Each patient room will include a computer where staff can work while still keeping an eye on the patient.

"We want to provide the technology for them to do all of their work at the patient's bedside," Nolan said.

Pending state approvals, groundbreaking for the new hospital is slated for the first quarter of 2017.

In addition, a computer work station will be located in the hallways in between each room, complete with windows into the rooms so that, again, staff can do their work and still look in on a patient if needed.
"We can shut the shades, too," Nolan added, "because we certainly value a patient's privacy."

Inspira is in the process of converting to electronic medical records, allowing doctors, nurses and patients to access this information. "There will no longer be paper charts," explained Todd Way, executive vice president for operations with Inspira. "Everything will be electronic."

The high-tech focus includes technical support for everyone in the hospital.

"The building is very IT focused," Nolan said. "All the way down to having an area right off the main lobby for patients, visitors and staff to get ahold of IT folks."

- **Maternity ward has Jucuzzi**: Sixteen private rooms will allow moms to stay in one room through labor, delivery, recovery and post-partum care.

  Rooms will include basinets so the baby can be near mom, along with space for families to stay, too. Each room will also include a Jacuzzi tub to help manage pain during delivery.

  The maternity unit includes a six-room intermediate care nursery for babies who need a bit more attention. Each of these beds will be in a private room with space for parents to stay overnight.

  For newborn's needing a higher level of care, Inspira's Vineland facility provides a neo-natal intensive care unit and the hospital also works with Nemours Children's Health System.

- **Less waiting in the ER**: The emergency department will consist of 46 beds broken down into six pods focusing on different levels of care.

  "The goal is to pull patients out of the emergency department waiting room and into a bed," Nolan said, "to see a doctor, see a nurse and start the treatment process."

  These pods include a six-bed behavioral health unit that will serve patients with behavioral health and addiction issues.

  "We wanted to have a space that was safe for them, safe for staff and for other emergency department patients," Nolan said.

  Another six-bed pod will serve pediatric patients. "We think this is a wonderful opportunity for a higher level of pediatric care," he said

- **Staff helped with design**: Hundreds or Inspira staffers offered their input in the new hospital's design.

  "This has been a really cool project," Nolan said. Planners have worked with nurses, doctors and employees from various department to look at everything from how space would be utilized and where beds would be positioned in rooms to how areas would be cleaned by the housekeeping staff.

  They even utilized a vacant auto-detailing shop in Woodbury to build mock-ups of various rooms.

  "A lot of staff walked through there and gave comment," Way noted. "Thousands of eyes looked at this."

- **Hospital designed to grow**: The hospital that will open in 2019 includes two wings and a design that allows for construction of a third sometime in the future.

  "Our goal is to continue to grow," Nolan said. "Growth can be challenging from a design perspective unless you think about it from day one."
The property is 100 acres, allowing for plenty of room for future growth, officials said, and that growth could include partnerships with neighboring Rowan University.

This planning ahead also means that when time comes to expand, departments will grow adjacent to their current footprints and won't be split up on different sections of the hospital campus, Way noted. "We can expand ICU beds next to ICU beds."

In addition to the third wing, the design will accommodate future opportunities for growth in maternity and the emergency department, officials noted.

"We're probably spending a little bit more money on infrastructure and design up front with the knowledge that when this occurs we are going to be that much farther ahead of the game," Nolan said.

http://www.nj.com/gloucester-county/index.ssf/2016/10/7_things_to_know_about_inspiras_new_hospital.html
Inspira fined $10,000 for not pulling all recalled medicine from pharmacy

By Bill Gallo Jr. | For NJ.com
on October 05, 2016 at 7:03 AM, updated October 05, 2016 at 7:11 AM

VINELAND — Inspira Health Network has agreed to pay a $10,000 fine for failing to pull all of a recalled drug linked to a fungal meningitis outbreak from the shelves of its Vineland hospital pharmacy.

The action dates back to 2012 when methylprednisolone acetate, known as MRA, was recalled by the New England Compounding Center.

As a result, Inspira removed all 5mL vials of MRA from its pharmacy shelves, but not 1mL vials of the drug, according to a consent order signed by Inspira's CEO and the New Jersey State Board of Pharmacy.

It was because of that failure that the state sanctioned Inspira.

Fungal meningitis cases were reported across the country, including New Jersey and Cumberland County, from the batch of the tainted MRA, a steroid.

"Inspira Health Network is dedicated to providing safe, quality care for every patient," said Inspira Spokesman Paul Simon on Tuesday. "As outlined in the consent order, the network fully cooperated with the New Jersey State Board of Pharmacy's investigation to ensure our compliance with all regulations."

According to the state, Inspira said the drug manufacturer "made no mention of vial size, and based on the knowledge and past experience of the pharmacy staff, Inspira believed that only the 5mL vials of MPA were affected."

"As a result, Inspira removed and quarantined only the 5mL vials; the 1mL vials were neither checks for lot number nor quarantined."

From the time that the MRA recall was announced on Sept. 26, 2012 to Oct. 4, 2012, four patients at Inspira received injections of MRA, according to the state.
Those patients that did receive the recalled medicine were monitored to be sure they suffered no ill effects.

"Inspira notified and followed the patients as required by the Centers for Disease Control and New Jersey Department of Health guidelines to ensure they remained asymptomatic," Simon said.

Because of the incident, Inspira also agreed to new procedures to make sure all recalled medicines are pulled from its shelves in the future.

"As a result of the investigation, Inspira Health Network's Pharmacy Department implemented enhanced recall policies and procedures to ensure the safety of our patients."

Inspira has also agreed to pay $5,227.99 in costs associated with the state's investigation, according to the consent order which was signed this summer.
Old Newcomb Hospital building being demolished in Vineland

VINELAND — Demolition is under way on the old Newcomb Hospital building in Vineland.

The hospital on East Chestnut Avenue closed in 2004 when its owner, now known as Inspira, opened its new Regional Medical Center nearby in Vineland.

The property was later bought by a developer.

The demolition work at the site began earlier this week and there is still much to do to bring down the complex of buildings that now form the hospital complex.

Newcomb Hospital was built in 1924 and named after Leverett Newcomb, a Vineland attorney who donated money for a modern hospital for his community.

According to Inspira officials, all services provided at its nearby Sidney Brody Medical Arts Building on East Chestnut Avenue in Vineland will continue to operate on their regular schedules during and after the demolition of the Newcomb Hospital building.
Breast cancer support program at Inspira eases burden for patients

By Staff | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com
on October 29, 2016 at 10:27 AM

By Dubravka Kolumbic-Cortese

Dealing with a breast cancer diagnosis is difficult enough without the added burden of making life-altering decisions about care and treatment of the disease.

The Breast Cancer Bridge program at Inspira Health Network was designed to ease that burden for patients and help them feel less alone during their breast cancer journey. The program was started about 16 years ago by a former breast cancer patient and Inspira employee who was unable to find a support network to help her navigate through the difficult process of dealing with the disease.

"She felt that there was no one out there to help her," said Ruth Ann Bishop-Sotak, RN, Breast Health Coordinator and Nationally Certified Breast Care Nurse.

Bishop-Sotak has coordinated Inspira's Breast Cancer Bridge program since 2005 and sees patients at Inspira Health Network's Frank and Edith Scarpa Regional Cancer Pavilion in Vineland and other locations. Bishop-Sotak said the goal of the program is to support the patients through their whole cancer journey, not just the surgery, but the treatment process as well.

"I support them emotionally," Bishop-Sotak said. "It's important that you are here for them. The patients go through a lot. It's a long journey. Most women are caregivers themselves and are used to taking care of others. It's hard for them to know that this journey is about them, so they have to lean on other people. They are used to being the strong person."

A breast cancer survivor herself, Bishop-Sotak can personally attest to the importance of the program, as well as to the value of having former cancer patients act as counselors, advisors or sometimes just a sounding board for a woman facing the emotional and physical aspects of dealing with a breast cancer diagnosis.

"What's unique about this program is that you are actually speaking with someone who has been there and understands what's going on," Bishop-Sotak explained. Speaking with someone who has beaten the disease can also be inspirational to a patient, she added.

Barbara Sanza, 57, said Bishop-Sotak's successful cancer journey is reassuring to her as she prepares for the start of her radiation therapy.

"She was so helpful and supportive," Sanza said. "No matter how many people try to support you, it's different when the support comes from someone who's been through it and knows about it. If it was..."
something I was nervous about, I could call her and she could walk me through it, because she's been there. I can't explain what a great person she is."

Bishop-Sotak also supports what she calls "reconnections," former patients who contact her with needs ranging from a wig to a prosthesis. Through community donations, the Breast Cancer Bridge has been able to provide patients with those needs, even giving them gas cards to help them get to and from treatments.

Every program participant receives a care package filled with educational material such as a breast cancer treatment handbook, information about support groups and where to purchase wigs and even care notes meant to help them find personal strength to deal with their journey. The program first received certification from the National Accreditation Program for Breast Center in 2012.

Sanza was diagnosed with breast cancer last March and has had a team of Inspira health care professionals, such as surgical oncologist Dr. Elizabeth Revesz MD and radiation oncologist Dr. Glenda Smith MD, with her every step of the way. "Their cancer center is wonderful," Sanza said. "They are there to support you. It's nice to have all those people with me on my journey."

For more information on Inspira's Breast Cancer Bridge Program, contact Inspira's Frank and Edith Scarpa Regional Cancer Pavilion in Vineland at 856-641-8670.

Inspira fined $10,000 for not pulling all recalled medicine from pharmacy

October 07, 2016

Inspira Health Network has been fined for failing to remove a recalled drug linked to a fungal meningitis outbreak. According to a consent order, the Inspira hospital pharmacy in Vineland, NJ, removed all 5 mL vials of methylprednisolone acetate (MRA) from its shelves, but it did not remove the 1 mL vials of the drug.

Inspira Health Network has been fined for failing to remove a recalled drug linked to a fungal meningitis outbreak. According to a consent order, the Inspira hospital pharmacy in Vineland, NJ, removed all 5 mL vials of methylprednisolone acetate (MRA) from its shelves, but it did not remove the 1 mL vials of the drug. Four patients at Inspira received injections of MRA after the recall, according to the state. The state said that Inspira had explained that the drug manufacturer "made no mention of vial size, and based on the knowledge and past experience of the pharmacy staff, Inspira believed that only the 5 mL vials of MPA were affected." The hospital must now pay a $10,000 fine for failing to pull the recalled drug and an additional $5,227.99 for the state's investigation. The company has agreed to new procedures to make sure all recalled medicines are pulled from its shelves in the future.
MINNEAPOLIS and WOODBURY, N.J., Oct. 18, 2016 /PRNewswire/ -- Inspira Health Network, one of southern New Jersey's leading healthcare providers offering primary, acute and advanced care services, is making it convenient and cost-effective for patients to receive care for common health conditions with the launch of Inspira eCare. This online diagnosis and treatment service virtually connects patients with Inspira clinicians.

Inspira eCare is powered by Zipnosis, the first virtual care company enabling leading health systems to launch virtual care service lines staffed by their own clinicians. Using evidence-based online adaptive interviews from their smartphones, tablets or computers, patients can be virtually treated for more than a dozen common medical conditions, including upper respiratory infection (cold, flu, sinus infection, cough, etc.), female bladder infection, conjunctivitis (pink eye), yeast infection, cold or canker sores, eczema, tinea, acne, motion sickness prevention, heartburn or gastroesophageal acid reflux (GERD), minor burns and tobacco cessation.

Inspira's move into virtual healthcare is a natural progression of its focus on innovation, technology and patient experience. The health system selected the Zipnosis virtual care platform after two years of focused research.

"We liked the idea of using our own providers in an innovative way that delivers both continuity of care and a competitive advantage," said Evelyn Balogun, MD, MPH, FACOEM, Medical Director of Urgent Care at Inspira Health Network. "Inspira has been implementing a number of new digital technologies for our patients, including a completely responsive website and a suite of mobile apps. Virtual healthcare is yet another way we can enhance patients' digital experience and give them another access point to our health system."

"We are thrilled to welcome Inspira Health Network as our newest partner and look forward to supporting them in their mission of providing quality health services that improve the lives of all they serve in southern New Jersey." Jon Pearce, CEO of Zipnosis, commented.

Leveraging the advantages of adaptive online interview technology

Inspira's leadership chose Zipnosis in large part because of the platform's online adaptive patient interview and "store and forward" technology that leverages national best practice, evidence-based provider pathways.

Available anywhere and anytime, the virtual care platform allows patients to use their smartphones, tablets or computers to complete a short online interview that adapts intuitively based on how patients answer the questions. A physician employed by Inspira Health Network then reviews the interview results and provides the diagnosis and treatment plan. If needed, the evidence-based online adaptive interview can be supplemented with a video visit (for example, if the patient might have pink eye and the provider needs a visual confirmation). For existing Inspira Urgent Care and Inspira Medical Group patients, the provider can electronically send a prescription to the patient's pharmacy of choice, if appropriate.

Access to care patients need, when they need it

Inspira comprises three hospitals, several multi-specialty health centers, a cancer center and urgent care services, totaling more than 100 access points staffed by 1,100 physicians and other healthcare providers. Recently, the health network opened its sixth urgent care center, with plans to open four more by next year.

"Our urgent care centers offer expanded hours and convenient service, which has been a major focus for us when it comes to patient access," Balogun said. "The Zipnosis virtual health platform is an extension of that, enabling us to provide patients with the care they need, when they need it in their own homes."

Inspira's virtual care services are supported by clinicians within the network who deliver primary care and urgent care services. The Zipnosis virtual care platform allows Inspira to leverage excess clinical capacity in between in-person appointments. Diagnoses are guaranteed within an hour.
Zipnosis platform enables care continuity
Continuity of care is a major focus within Inspira Health Network, so leaders knew their virtual health technology needed to support that goal.

"All of our practices are connected with the same EHR platform so that patient information is well integrated and can easily be shared across the system," Balogun said. "Our continuity of care in the digital space mirrors that. The quality and continuity of care delivered by the Zipnosis platform is the same as that provided by a patient's primary care physician in a brick-and-mortar location."

Balogun added: "The Zipnosis platform enables us to remove barriers to care and strengthen Inspira's connection with patients in the community."

ABOUT ZIPNOSIS
Zipnosis partners with health systems nationwide to provide a white-labeled telemedicine virtual care platform, offering patients convenient access to care while improving clinician efficiency. Patients can be virtually treated for more than 90 conditions using evidence-based adaptive interviews, phone or video, or when a rapid test like strep is needed, directed to visit a clinic with expedited service using the ZipTicket® boarding pass. Based in Minnesota, Zipnosis has more than seven years’ experience and data to help partners rapidly launch and scale a market-leading virtual care solution. For more information, visit www.zipnosis.com.

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Media Contacts:
http://www.itnewsonline.com/prnewswire/Inspira-Health-Network-Launches-Virtual-Care-Platform-for-Southern-New-Jersey-Patients/457484
Inspira Health Network and Zipnosis have formed a partnership to provide virtual care...

21st century house calls: Inspira service to diagnose, treat patients in their homes
Oct 18, 2016, 3:40pm EDT

John George, Senior Reporter, Philadelphia Business Journal

Inspira Health Network is teaming up with a Minnesota telemedicine company to allow patients to receive online diagnoses and treatments from their own homes.

The service, called Inspira eCare, was created through a partnership with Zipnosis of Minneapolis.

Patients using the eCare service will be connected with the South Jersey health system’s clinicians through smartphones, tablets or computers, and be virtually treated for more than a dozen common medical conditions. Those ailments include upper respiratory infections, bladder infection, pink eye, yeast infection, cold or canker sores, eczema, acne, heartburn or gastroesophageal acid reflux and minor burns.

Inspira officials said they selected the Zipnosis virtual care platform after two years of research into various telemedicine services.

“We liked the idea of using our own providers in an innovative way that delivers both continuity of care and a competitive advantage,” said Dr. Evelyn Balogun, medical director of urgent care at Inspira.

“Inspira has been implementing a number of new digital technologies for our patients, including a completely responsive website and a suite of mobile apps,” Balogun said. “Virtual health care is yet another way we can enhance patients’ digital experience and give them another access point to our health system.”

The Zipnosis virtual care platform allows patients to use their smartphones, tablets or computers to complete a short online interview that adapts intuitively based on how patients answer the questions. An Inspira doctor then reviews the interview results and provides a diagnosis and treatment plan. If needed, the online interview can be supplemented with a video visit. One example would be a patient who might have pink eye who needs to be checked by a provider for a visual confirmation.

Investors in Zipnosis include Randor-based Safeguard Scientifics (NYSE:SFE), which led the company’s $17 million venture round earlier this year.

Inspira is the parent organization for hospitals in Woodbury, Vineland and Elmer. The health systems provide care at more than 100 locations in South Jersey that, in addition to its hospitals, includes a comprehensive cancer center; outpatient care, rehabilitation, urgent care and specialty centers; hospice and home care programs; and more than 30 primary and specialty physician practices.
Who made Healthgrades' list of local five-star hospitals?

Oct 18, 2016, 11:16am EDT

Healthgrades released its annual report on hospital performance Tuesday, which identified 20 medical centers as “top performers” in the Philadelphia region.

The study covers nearly 4,500 short-term and acute care hospitals across the country that were evaluated using three years of Medicare risk-adjusted mortality and complication rates for 32 conditions and procedures, and all-payer state data from 18 states representing more than half of the U.S. population.

Research in this year’s report includes an analysis of relative convenience to hospitals in general, and to hospitals demonstrating superior outcomes in six common procedure categories.

"The Healthgrades analysis unequivocally shows that consumers need to educate themselves before any surgery and get the facts on their personal risk in order to improve the likelihood of a positive outcome," said Evan Marks, the company's chief strategy officer.

For Philadelphia, Healthgrades — a Denver-based health care information provider — found 75 percent of patients undergoing pacemaker procedures have to drive more than five miles to get to a hospital rated as five-stars, the classification given to top performers.

- **$32M makeover: Bucks County hospital expanding, renovating its heart institute**

The five-star hospitals identified by Healthgrades in this region for the six common surgical procedures covered in the study were:

- **Total hip replacement**: Rothman Orthopaedic Specialty Hospital, St. Mary Medical Center, Christiana Care Health System-Christiana Hospital, Jeanes Hospital, Jefferson University Hospital, Physicians Care Surgical Hospital and Lankenau Medical Center.
• **Total knee replacement:** Rothman Orthopaedic Specialty Hospital, Virtua Berlin, Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital, Einstein Medical Center Montgomery, St. Mary Medical Center, Christiana Care Health System-Christiana Hospital, Jefferson University Hospital, Nazareth Hospital, Physician’s Care Surgical Hospital, Grand View Hospital and Lankenau Medical Center.

• **Coronary artery bypass graft:** Jeanes Hospital and Lankenau Medical Center.

• **Pacemaker procedures:** Abington Hospital—Jefferson Health, Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital, Doylestown Hospital. St. Mary Medical Center, Jeanes Hospital, Kennedy University Hospital-Stratford, and [Inpira Medical Center Woodbury](#).

• **Hysterectomies:** Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center, Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital, St. Mary Medical Center, Holy Redeemer Hospital, Phoenixville Hospital, Physician’s Care Surgical Hospital, and Lankenau Medical Center.

• **Bariatric Surgery:** Forest Health Medical Center of Bucks County, Einstein Medical Center-Philadelphia, Jeanes Hospital, Temple University Hospital.

*John George covers health care, biotech/pharmaceuticals and sports business.*
Inspira Health Network Launches Virtual Care Platform for Southern New Jersey Patients

eVisit solution from Zipnosis lets patients receive online diagnosis and treatment from their own homes

NEWS PROVIDED BY
Zipnosis
Oct 18, 2016, 07:03 ET

MINNEAPOLIS and WOODBURY, N.J., Oct. 18, 2016 /PRNewswire/ -- Inspira Health Network, one of southern New Jersey's leading healthcare providers offering primary, acute and advanced care services, is making it convenient and cost-effective for patients to receive care for common health conditions with the launch of Inspira eCare. This online diagnosis and treatment service virtually connects patients with Inspira clinicians.

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Inspira Health Network Launches Virtual Care Platform for Southern NJ

by Jasmine Pennic 10/19/2016

Inspira Health Network, one of southern New Jersey’s leading healthcare providers offering primary, acute and advanced care services is launching its own virtual care platform, Inspira eCare. The platform virtually connects patients with Inspira clinicians making it convenient and cost-effective for patients to receive care for common health conditions.

Powered by virtual care company Zipnosis, Inspira eCare’s virtual care platform allows patients to use their smartphones, tablets or computers to complete a short online interview that adapts intuitively based on how patients answer the questions. A physician employed by Inspira Health Network then reviews the interview results and provides the diagnosis and treatment plan. If needed, the evidence-based online adaptive interview can be supplemented with a video visit (for example, if the patient might have pink eye and the provider needs a visual confirmation). For existing Inspira Urgent Care and Inspira Medical Group patients, the provider can electronically send a prescription to the patient’s pharmacy of choice, if appropriate.
Inspira’s move into virtual healthcare is a natural progression of its focus on innovation, technology and patient experience. The health system selected the Zipnosis virtual care platform after two years of focused research.

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Janet Davies, vice president of Patient Care Services at Mullica Hill-based Inspira Medical Centers Elmer and Vineland, was recently honored with the Mid-Atlantic Region GEM Award for Excellence in Executive Leadership from Nurse.com.

Nurse.com’s GEM Award, which stands for Giving Excellence Meaning, recognizes exemplary contributions made by exceptional nurses.

“I am very humbled and honored to have received this prestigious recognition,” said Davies. “Great leadership cannot be achieved alone and this award is truly a reflection of the wonderful team of nurses that I get to work with every day.”

Davies joined Inspira Health Network in 2000. She has served as vice president for Patient Care Services at Inspira Medical Center Elmer since 2006 and in 2015, her role was expanded to include Inspira Medical Center Vineland. Davies holds a Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing from Trenton State College, a Master’s of Science in Nursing from The University of Pennsylvania.

Each year, the Mid-Atlantic region chooses one winner out of five finalists in each category. The regional winners then advance to a national award reception held by Nurse.com. This year’s Mid-Atlantic GEM program took place September 23 at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown.

Bishop announces priest assignments

Bishop Sullivan announces priest personnel changes as follows:

**Father Ernest E. Amadi** from Outside the Diocese to Chaplain, Kennedy Hospital, Washington Township and *Inspira Medical Center*, Woodbury and In Residence, Holy Angels, Woodbury, effective Oct. 17.

**Father Joel Arciga Camarillo** from Administrator, Divine Mercy, Vineland to Pastor, Divine Mercy, Vineland for a six year term, effective Oct. 14.

**Father John M. Stabeno** from Parochial Vicar, Saint Charles Borromeo, Sicklerville to ministry in process, effective Oct. 7. Father Stabeno continues In Residence, Saint Charles Borromeo, Sicklerville.

CMS picks security vendor to protect its information systems

By Joseph Goedert

Here is Health Data Management’s weekly roundup of health information technology contracts and implementations.

- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will use software from Okta to more securely protect its information systems. The product, called Okta Identity Cloud, supports identity management and authorization of users of email, social networks, Salesforce, ADP and other approved applications. The software will integrate with CMS’s current off-the-shelf commercial software for identity and access control, enabling users to have one password that handles all the applications they work with.

- Midland Health in Midland, Texas, has picked the trifecta suite of clinical, financial and population health management software from Cerner to support care across the continuum of care, create a single patient record and support patient engagement via a portal. The delivery system is anchored by 474-bed Midland Memorial Hospital.

Midland Health

- Two-hospital Olathe Health System, serving four counties in the Miami region, also has turned to Cerner, buying the Millennium Revenue Cycle software and integrating it with the vendor’s existing enterprise electronic health record. Cerner’s oncology software also is going in to manage complex medication orders, and the health system further will implement RxStation, which is an automated medication dispensing device.

- Baylor Scott & White Health in Texas is live on the dbMotion interoperability software of Allscripts. The product is designed to support the exchange of electronic health record data across disparate EHR systems. More than 3,800 physicians serve 2.7 million patients in the delivery system.

- Three-hospital Inspira Health Network serving southern New Jersey has launched a store-and-forward telemedicine program using technology from Zipnosis. The service, using Inspira clinicians, enables consultations via smartphones, tablets or computers and treats more than a dozen common medical conditions. Consumers complete a questionnaire and an Inspira physician reviews the information and provides a diagnosis and treatment plan.
Woodbury, N.J.-based Inspira Health Network has proposed plans to build a 210-bed, $349 million hospital to replace its current Woodbury facility, according to NJ.com.

The hospital is currently working through the certificate of need process with the state Department of Health, but it hopes to break ground in the second quarter of 2017 with a slated opening date of September 2019.

The new 465,000-square-foot hospital will be known as Inspira Medical Center Mullica Hill.

It will include many advanced amenities, such as private patient rooms, smart technology, an expanded maternity ward with Jacuzzi tubs to help manage mothers’ pain during delivery and emergency room design intended to reduce waiting time, according to the report. Hundreds of Inspira staffers provided input for the hospital’s design.

HEALTHCARE

DOCTORS, HOSPITALS STILL FIGHTING PLAN TO CURB OUT-OF-NETWORK CHARGES

LILO H. STAINTON | OCTOBER 28, 2016

Assemblyman Craig Coughlin (D-Middlesex), a strong backer of bill to curtail surprise medical bills

Patient, employer advocates say costs must be controlled; providers argue they will be left short

Reducing out-of-network medical charges would save hundreds of millions of dollars each year for residents, businesses, and taxpayers in New Jersey while slowing the growth of healthcare costs overall, according to those who support a plan to limit the practice.

But the proposal now under discussion — and approved by a key Assembly panel Thursday — would actually harm the state’s healthcare system by further eroding hospital revenue and driving physicians concerned about over-regulation out-of-state, provider representatives said.

Both sides made their case for the Assembly Appropriations Committee, which voted to support the latest version of controversial legislation to clamp down on out-of-network or “surprise” medical bills.

The measure (A1952) would require doctors and hospitals to publicize their rates for standard treatments and be clear about their participation in a patient’s insurance network, protect patients from being caught in the middle of payment
disputes, and establish a binding dispute resolution process for providers and insurers who can’t come to terms on their own. (Patients are already protected against out-of-network charges for emergency room care, under current law.)

Lead sponsor Assemblyman Craig Coughlin (D-Middlesex) said most lawmakers have met constituents who faced surprise bills after a complex operation or medical procedure. Lawmakers have worked hard over the past eight years to craft a solution that was acceptable to all stakeholders, he said, but protecting consumers was the bottom line. Each year these expenses cost some 168,000 New Jersey residents an extra $400 million, supporters of the proposal said, and drive up premium costs by $1 billion.

The impact on individuals is only one expense, they noted. Assemblyman Gary Schaer (D-Bergen), another sponsor, cited figures from the nonpartisan Office of Legislative Services that showed publicly funded insurance plans that cover state, local and school workers paid out nearly $3.8 billion in claims for 2015, as of September; nearly $896 million of these payments went for out-of-network expenses. “If there’s ever a compelling number, there it is,” Schaer said.

“Ultimately, these costs affect every New Jersey taxpayer because of the impact on the state budget,” added Michele Stekerka, president and CEO of the New Jersey Business & Industry Association, which supports the bill as part of a coalition of patient advocates, labor organizations, and grassroots groups. Small businesses are struggling to keep pace with rising healthcare costs and out-of-network charges only add to the problem, the NJBIA said.

But powerful provider advocates, led by the New Jersey Hospital Association and the Medical Society of New Jersey, have made opposition to the bill a priority; according to an analysis by the state Election Law Enforcement Commission, the out-of-network bill has received more lobbyist attention this year than any legislation besides the state budget. The issue also prompted a $76 million lawsuit by CarePoint Health, a Hudson County hospital network that claims Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield has refused to pay for patient care, some billed at out-of-network rates that are among the highest nationwide.

Both the hospital association and MSNJ said they support the patient protections and other aspects of the bill but oppose the mechanism outlined for resolving disputes. The legislation would force providers and insurance companies that could not come to a payment agreement to enter binding arbitration, overseen by an outside arbitrator assigned by the state. The bill establishes a range for the final payment between 90 percent and 250 percent of federal Medicare rates; Thursday’s vote amended an earlier version, which had capped payment at 200 percent of Medicare.

Betsy Ryan, NJHA president, explained that Medicare covers roughly 90 percent of the cost of most procedures. Medicaid pays closer to 70 percent, and Charity Care, the state fund used to help offset the cost of treating uninsured patients, “is a dwindling pool that covers less than that.” Basing a payment structure on Medicare is a losing game for hospitals since the rate structure doesn’t take into account the cost of certain specialists and newer models that bundle payments, hospital officials said, noting that reforms to the federal insurance program for senior citizens also makes it an unstable foundation for rate disputes.

Providers also worry that any regulation capping their rates will diminish their bargaining strength with insurance companies to establish rate structures during network negotiations. NJHA has offered a compromise plan that requires greater disclosure about networks and protects patients from balance billing but would use market-based rates — not those pegged to Medicare — for the base of negotiations.

“The balance of power will be gone” under the legislation as proposed, Ryan said. “We are concerned about access to care going forward.”

Tom Baldosaro, chief financial officer with Inspira Health Network, which runs a trio of hospitals in South Jersey, said the new regulation would come at a particularly difficult time, since healthcare facilities are just now at a point at which they can invest in population health efforts to keep people healthy. “We would have zero leverage” under this bill, he agreed, and that loss of bargaining power would undermine this investment potential.

The Association of Health Plans New Jersey, which represents insurance carriers in the state, said that while the bill is not perfect, it supports the measure. The group did not testify in person Thursday.

Not all hospitals see the regulation as a death knell. Barry Ostrowsky, president and CEO of RWJ/Barnabas Health, New Jersey’s largest health system with 11 hospitals and 3 million annual patients, called the scope of out-of-network charges “an embarrassment” for the state. “The numbers are intergalactic,” he told NJ Spotlight during an interview earlier this week.
Rate-setting can be effective, Ostrowsky said, and giving insurance companies some protections against high provider charges doesn’t necessarily eliminate a hospital’s leverage if it is a high-quality operation. “There’s nothing inconsistent about running a business in a regulated system,” he said.

But physicians at the hearing said the added level of regulation would have a negative impact on the future of care in the Garden State. As doctors here and in other states evaluate their options and medical students decide where to set up shop, New Jersey will become less appealing, they said. MSNJ also called for a market-based solution to negotiations.

“We oppose the approach of capping payments and medical rate setting,” said Larry Downs, president and CEO of the [link:http://www.msnj.org]medical society. “This bill is not good for physician practice and not good for the healthcare of our state.”

Bridget Devane, public policy director for the Health Professionals and Allied Employees Union, which represents nurses and other healthcare workers throughout the state, said recruiting and retaining physicians is a critical concern but largely outside the scope of this bill. “That’s a conversation for another day,” she said. “This bill makes sure consumers are protected.”

Coughlin and other sponsors, including Assemblyman Troy Singleton (D-Camden), stressed that the dialogue with providers would continue but said patients can’t be left in the middle. “No one should ever go into the poorhouse just because they had the misfortune of being sick,” Singleton said.

Inspira Health Moving Forward On Plans For New Mullica Hill Facility

October 31, 2016 by Posted by Anne DiNardo, Senior Editor

Inspira Health Network has identified a 100-acre property in Glassboro, N.J., near the Rowan University campus, for its new hospital and wants to breaks ground on the $349 million project in the second quarter of 2017.

The facility, Inspira Medical Center Mullica Hill, will replace Inspira's current Woodbury facility, though that site will still maintain some services, including a satellite emergency department (ED).

The approximately 350,000-square-foot medical center will house 175-200 private patient beds, fully-equipped surgical suites, a home-like maternity center, ED with a dedicated pediatric ED, and a cardiac catheterization lab.

The hospital is working through the certificate of need process with the state department of health, Becker’s Hospital Review reports.
Great expectations: Inspira Health Network has an aggressive growth plan, which includes building a new hospital

By Anjalee Khemlani, October 17, 2016 at 3:00 AM

It’s just 4 years old, but Inspira Health Network is undergoing a growth spurt.

The health care network, created in November 2012 from the merger of South Jersey Healthcare and Underwood-Memorial Hospital, is developing in a number of ways — not least of which is the new hospital it has in the pipeline.

Inspira, which already operates three hospitals, bought 100 acres of land from Rowan University for the construction of the facility in Harrison Township. It’s now undergoing an approval process to build the five-story, 350,000-square-foot medical center on that land.

It’s the largest project of its sort in New Jersey currently, and yet it comes from a health care system that doesn’t rank among the absolute largest systems in the state.

As CEO John DiAngelo said, he’s keen on “exceeding what people are expecting of us at Inspira.”

The health care network also has four multispecialty health centers and more than 100 service locations throughout the region, a number that DiAngelo proudly says is rising by the day.

DiAngelo spoke with NJBIZ about the entirety of Inspira’s plans for expansion.

**NJBIZ:** Inspira got clearance from Rowan to purchase land on the school’s West Campus in Harrison Township back in February, but what led up to your health care system making that deal?

**John DiAngelo:** One of the reasons we initially wanted to do that is we have a relationship with them through our residency program. We run about 150 residents (through a) Rowan affiliation. They also provide coverage for our psychiatric facilities and a number of other things we do. We wanted to take that to a higher level in terms of working on research programs with them, working on them for internships and higher education programs. So that combination makes sense for us.
When we merged about (four) years ago, we went through a full facilities plan, during which we looked at all of our facilities throughout all of Inspira. It was centered on the Woodbury site, and we went from trying to expand in Woodbury, where our current location is, all the way to building a greenfield site. Because we’re landlocked in the town of Woodbury, it would have more expensive and difficult to expand that facility with a new wing or to replace it. We ended up looking at moving about 10 miles away to build a new hospital.

NJBIZ: Can you provide more details at this time on the construction of the hospital?

“We are looking for new partners (after that break with Jefferson Health) and we’re hoping to have one selected by the end of the year to help us in the growth of our neurosciences program.”

John DiAngelo, CEO, Inspira Health System

JD: The new hospital will have about 200 beds, all private rooms. It will cost us about $350 million and we hope to have it done within a three-year timeframe. A certificate of need was filed in April, and we’re working through that process. We have selected (New York-based) Skanska USA as the builder. ... Everyone has been working diligently on the design on the facility; as soon as we get the approval from the state, we’ll be ready to go and move forward with construction.

NJBIZ: How else has Inspira grown near the planned hospital in Gloucester County and elsewhere?

JD: We’ve grown significantly. When we merged, we had about 60 access sites. At this point in time we have more than 100 access points. We just in the past year completed a new urgent care location that also has primary care and an orthopedic care program on the other side of the Rowan campus on Rowan Boulevard. We are now up to five urgent care centers, another opening next month in Haddon Township and another opening in the first quarter of 2017. And we’ll be getting approval for three more to hopefully open next year as well. We’re also opening a new physician medical office setting in Clarksboro. Additionally, we purchased 30 acres of land in Deptford, where we’ll be opening a large ambulatory site.

NJBIZ: Inspira recently terminated an affiliation agreement with Jefferson Health following that organization’s merger with Kennedy Health. Is Inspira looking to form a new partnership with another institution? What other partnerships are you developing?

JD: We are looking for new partners (after that break with Jefferson Health) and we’re hoping to have one selected by the end of the year to help us in the growth of our neurosciences program.

We’re also expanding our orthopedic services with a joint venture with Cooper Bone & Joint Institute, which started back in November. We also have a significant relationship with Premier Orthopedic. (Additionally), we work with medical schools and we rotate more than 50 medical students a month through our hospitals. And when the new hospital opens we anticipate that will grow even further.

NJBIZ: When you talk about exceeding the expectations people have of Inspira as a health network, what are some specific things you’re doing to achieve that?
Among other things, we’re rolling out a number to call for anyone with a question or a procedure, or someone who needs help finding a physician — whatever your needs are. They stay on that phone until you have what you need. What we’ve found is that our calls for that line for the four months we’ve launched it have quadrupled. That also plays into one thing we’re probably one of the first hospitals in New Jersey to do, which is that we have a mobile app which digitally connects a patient into what the wait times are for any ER. We’re putting that in all our urgent care centers.

We also just committed to a (new IT system); we’ll be migrating to Cerner, which is about a $50 million investment for us. All of our facilities will be on a Cerner platform and all of our information will feed into one database. The goal being that people can go to anywhere within Inspira and the person treating you will have access to the same information, whether that’s in a hospital or an urgent care center. We’re looking for efficiency, not having to re-do tests and other things that could be at someone’s fingertips with this new system.

These are some things we’re doing to exceed expectations. We want to do more.

Three N.J. health systems get 'A' grade for safety, while three hospitals score 'D' marks

By Anjalee Khemlani, October 31, 2016 at 10:11 AM

New Jersey has no failing grade hospitals for patient safety, according to the latest Leapfrog safety scores, for fall 2016.

Hackensack University Medical Center at Pascack Valley, along with University Hospital and St. Michael's Medical Center in Newark, received “D” grades.

For the Hackensack hospital, which reopened in 2013, it's the first recorded grade.

St. Michael's has improved after receiving an “F” in the spring. University, meanwhile, has dropped from being a straight-“C” facility in the recent past.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, Inspira Health Network, Kennedy Health and Virtua Health all received straight “A's” for all hospital locations in each health system.

“At Inspira Health Network, safety is at the very core of our culture. I am extremely proud that all three of Inspira’s medical centers have been recognized for their dedication to patient safety by receiving ‘A’s’ in the most recent Hospital Safety Grade,” said John DiAngelo, Inspira’s CEO and president.

Kennedy’s grade “recognizes our continued, strong commitment to patient safety, which is Kennedy’s top priority as a health care institution,” Dr. David Condoluci, Kennedy’s chief patient safety and quality officer, said in a statement.

Holy Name Medical Center in Teaneck was among the hospitals that earned an "A" grade.

"As the science of patient safety and performance measurement improves, Leapfrog's scoring methodology continues to evolve," said Michael Maron, the hospital's CEO and president. "At Holy Name, we've been using the data in these reports to continuously improve our safety measures, in accordance with our commitment to meet the highest standards, and we're confident these efforts are seen in our 'A' rating."

Leapfrog determines its scores using 30 hospital safety criteria, assigning grades twice a year to more than 2,600 hospitals nationwide.
INSPIRA HEALTH NETWORK
HOSPITAL LEADERSHIP

John DiAngelo
President and CEO
Inspira Health Network

Tom Baldosaro
Executive Vice President and CFO
Inspira Health Network

Matt Doonan
General Counsel
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Erich Fiorentine
Senior Vice President,
Chief People Officer
Inspira Health Network

Patrick Nolan
Chief Operating Officer
Inspira Medical Center Woodbury

Elizabeth Sheridan
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Inspira Medical Centers Vineland and Elmer

M. Todd Way
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Inspira Health Network

ALKA KOHLI, M.D.
Executive Vice President;
Chief Population Health
and Clinical Officer
Inspira Health Network

ABOUT THE HOSPITAL
Inspira Health Network is a charitable nonprofit health care organization serving communities across southern New Jersey. The network, which traces its roots to 1899, comprises three hospitals, a comprehensive cancer center, several multi-specialty health centers, and more than 100 service locations. These include urgent care; outpatient imaging and rehabilitation; numerous specialty centers, including sleep medicine, cardiac testing, and behavioral health; and more than 30 primary and specialty physician practices in Gloucester, Cumberland, Salem, and Camden counties. In the fall of 2015, Inspira announced plans to build a new hospital in Mullica Hill, near the intersection of Routes 55 and 322.

Together with its medical staff of more than 1,100 physicians and other care providers, as well as nearly 5,600 employees, Inspira Health Network provides evidence-based care to help each patient achieve the best possible outcome. Accredited by DNV Healthcare, the network’s clinical and support staffs are focused on providing quality care in a safe environment.
HONORS & AWARDS

- Inspira Health Network has achieved national accreditation from DNV Healthcare for providing quality care in a safe environment
- Inspira’s Medical Centers Elmer and Vineland and Health Center Bridgeton are designated as Magnet facilities for quality patient care, nursing excellence, and innovations in professional nursing practice
- Inspira Medical Center Woodbury has achieved NICHE (Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders) designation for its commitment to geriatric nursing care
- Inspira Medical Center Elmer has become the first hospital in New Jersey to receive the Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses’ PRISM Award, recognizing exceptional nursing practice, leadership, and outcomes in hospital medical-surgical departments across the United States
- Inspira Medical Center Vineland’s bariatric surgery program has received accreditation as a Comprehensive Center by the Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program (MBSAQIP)
- The American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) has recognized Inspira Medical Center Vineland’s Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (CICU) and Cardiac Step Down Unit (CSDU) with a gold-level Beacon Award for Excellence.