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Westchester providers ink long-term rehabilitation partnership

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Burke Rehabilitation Hospital and the New Jewish Home, Sarah Neuman have formed a long-term strategic partnership focused on rehabilitation services.

The partnership, Burke Rehabilitation at Sarah Neuman, launched Tuesday, the providers told Crain's. Burke is assuming operation of all existing rehabilitation programs at Sarah Neuman as well as the training of staff. It is also introducing diagnostic capabilities in five rehab disciplines: orthopedics, cardio and pulmonary, neurology, stroke and traumatic brain injury.

The New Jewish Home—which acquired Sarah Neuman in 1991—will continue to own and operate the facility. Sarah Neuman provides short-term rehabilitation and long-term care.

Additionally, the partnership is expected to boost referral and networking opportunities with Montefiore Health System.

Burke has been affiliated with Montefiore Health System since 2016, and Sarah Neuman became part of the Montefiore Skilled Nursing Facility Collaborative about a year ago. The partnership will allow for greater collaboration among the providers as well as reduced admission time. It also will improve patient outcomes.

"It's three things: the right care, at the right time, at the right level," said Sandra Mundy, administrator at Sarah Neuman.

"This clinical link between our two facilities will help patients experience a more efficient and seamless transition from postacute to subacute rehabilitation," said Jeffrey Menkes, Burke president and CEO, in a statement. "We look forward to helping the patient population of Sarah Neuman reach their maximum level of independence."

Aside from the partnership's launch, Tuesday also marked the effective date of a new Medicare reimbursement policy for skilled-nursing facilities. According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the new patient-driven payment model will improve payments made under the previous system by focusing on a patient's unique characteristics, needs and goals, rather than the volume of services provided.

"It actually provides us more opportunity to partner with somebody like Burke," Mundy said. It allows for a large focus on clinical programming as opposed to how many minutes of rehabilitation a patient is receiving, she said. The added diagnostic capabilities in different disciplines will help with that focus. —Jennifer Henderson

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