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United Hebrew Leads Shift Toward More Integrated Senior Living and Healthcare in Westchester

*Expanded clinical specialties and new leadership structure reflect changing needs
of older adults across the continuum of care*



(From left: Jerome Bagaporo, Chief Clinical Officer, United Hebrew, Mark Sanchez, President & CEO, United Hebrew, Dr. Mickey Sharma, Medical Director, United Hebrew)

NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y. (September 15, 2026) — As hospitals discharge patients sooner and older adults live longer with increasingly complex health conditions, the line between hospital care and senior care is changing. United Hebrew is responding by advancing a more integrative model of senior care—one designed to provide increasingly sophisticated medical care while preserving quality of life, independence, and a sense of community older adults want.

As part of that strategy, United Hebrew has expanded the specialty medical care available on its New Rochelle campus and put a new leadership structure in place to better coordinate care across skilled nursing, rehabilitation, assisted living and memory care.

New on-campus specialty services include **wound care, psychiatry, psychology and nephrology**, which builds on the launch of its new **Dialysis Den** in June. At the same time, the



organization has created the new position of **Chief Clinical Officer**, naming longtime senior care executive and former United Hebrew nursing leader **Jerome Bagaporo, RN**, to the role.

Together, the clinical expansion and leadership appointments reflect United Hebrew's approach to meeting the changing needs of older adults.

"For the future of senior care, we need to anticipate what people will need rather than wait until those needs are upon us," said Mark Sanchez, president and CEO of United Hebrew. "We are proud to have earned CMS' highest possible 5-star quality rating, but excellence also means continuing to evolve. We are preparing for residents with increasingly complex care needs by bringing more clinical expertise to our campus and creating the leadership structure to make sure those services work together. And as we evolve, we will never lose what has always distinguished United Hebrew: treating every resident like family."

Adds Sanchez: "Whether someone is in rehabilitation, assisted living, memory care or skilled nursing, we want to have the expertise in place—and the compassion—to care for that person as their needs evolve."

Senior Care Takes on a Greater Role After Hospitalization

The expansion comes as the role of skilled nursing and rehabilitation is changing significantly. Hospitals are discharging patients sooner, meaning patients may arrive at post-acute rehabilitation earlier in their recovery and with more complex medical needs than in the past. That requires greater nursing expertise, access to specialty physicians and closer coordination among the clinicians involved in a patient's recovery.

"Skilled nursing is increasingly becoming an extension of hospital care," said Bagaporo. "Patients coming to us today may have multiple medical conditions that need to be managed while they are also working to recover from a hospitalization. That requires highly skilled nursing, access to specialists and a clinical team that is constantly communicating and working from the same plan of care."

The shift also makes strong relationships between hospitals and post-acute providers increasingly important. United Hebrew sees itself as a partner in the larger healthcare delivery system, supporting patients as they transition out of the hospital, through rehabilitation and, whenever possible, back home.

Bringing More Specialty Care to Seniors

At United Hebrew, the growing clinical model brings specialists directly to the campus, where they can work alongside physicians, nurses, rehabilitation therapists and other members of the



care team. For older adults, that means greater access to specialty expertise with less disruption to their daily lives and recovery.

United Hebrew will have **two wound care specialists** serving different levels of care across the campus—one dedicated to skilled nursing and short-term rehabilitation and another serving residents of Willow Towers Assisted Living and Willow Gardens Memory Care. The expanded service is designed to identify and treat wounds earlier, monitor healing and help prevent complications and infection.

Psychiatry and psychology services provide additional expertise to address the behavioral and mental health needs of older adults. **Nephrology services** support patients and residents with kidney disease, including those receiving dialysis on campus.

United Hebrew expanded its nephrology capabilities in conjunction with the June opening of its on-site Dialysis Den. **Dr. Cora Ogbolu, a full-time nephrologist with Montefiore Health System in New Rochelle**, partners with United Hebrew to manage patients receiving dialysis on campus. Close communication among nephrology, nursing, primary care and rehabilitation helps support continuity of care and avoid delays in treatment.

For frail older adults and people recovering from hospitalization, reducing outside medical trips can make an important difference. Travel to outside specialists can consume hours and require considerable energy from someone who is already recovering from an illness or hospitalization.

“When someone is here for rehabilitation, we want their energy going toward getting stronger and getting home,” said Bagaporo. “Bringing specialty care to the campus means less time and energy spent traveling to outside appointments and more time available for rehabilitation and recovery.”

Having specialists on campus also allows for more timely assessment when a patient’s condition changes. Earlier detection and direct communication among specialists, physicians, nurses and other clinicians can help address problems before they escalate and potentially reduce unnecessary rehospitalizations.

Integrating Care Across the Continuum

As United Hebrew’s first Chief Clinical Officer, Bagaporo will provide clinical leadership across the campus, helping integrate care among physicians, specialists, nursing, rehabilitation and other disciplines across United Hebrew’s different levels of care.

“Integrated care means everyone works together,” Bagaporo said. “It’s not nursing working separately from rehabilitation, social work, physicians or specialists. It’s everybody



communicating and collaborating around the resident so we can provide more comprehensive care.”

Bagaporo’s appointment also represents a homecoming. He first joined United Hebrew in 2013, helping implement electronic health records before becoming Chief Nursing Officer and later Assistant Administrator. After leaving United Hebrew, he worked as a national healthcare compliance consultant, gaining exposure to senior care organizations and clinical practices across the country.

United Hebrew’s expansion of specialty care also extends beyond skilled nursing and rehabilitation. A dedicated wound care specialist will serve residents of Willow Towers Assisted Living and Willow Gardens Memory Care, bringing additional clinical expertise directly to residents as their healthcare needs evolve.

Grace Ferri, formerly United Hebrew’s Chief Marketing Officer, has been **named Chief Operations Officer for Willow Towers Assisted Living at United Hebrew**. In her expanded operational role, Ferri will oversee communities serving older adults whose clinical and functional needs may change significantly over time.

“Our goal is to look beyond what someone needs today and think about what they may need tomorrow,” said Ferri. “One of the greatest advantages of being part of a senior living and healthcare campus is that we can bring more expertise to residents as their needs evolve. Families want their loved ones to be able to remain in a community they know, surrounded by people they know, with the right care available to support them.”

Building Leadership Around the Future of Care

United Hebrew has also named **Dr. Mickey Sharma**, a physician with more than two decades of experience in internal medicine and geriatrics, as its new **Medical Director**, succeeding longtime Medical Director Dr. Elaine Healy following her retirement. Dr. Sharma will provide medical leadership across United Hebrew’s clinical services and work closely with Bagaporo and the organization’s growing team of specialty physicians.

Rose Cappa-Rotunno has been appointed **Senior Director, Strategic Partnerships and Community Engagement**, with responsibility for expanding relationships with healthcare providers, community organizations and other partners throughout Westchester.

The appointments support a leadership structure built around United Hebrew’s broader strategy of clinical excellence, hospital integration and specialized services as Westchester’s older population grows and seniors increasingly live with complex chronic conditions.



“We have the opportunity to care for people at many different stages of aging, and that is one of United Hebrew’s greatest strengths,” Sanchez said. “The future is about making that continuum even more seamless and making sure our residents, their families and our hospital and physician partners know that we are part of the healthcare delivery system.”

“Healthcare is changing, and aging is changing,” Sanchez added. “United Hebrew intends to change with it, and to help define what exceptional senior care looks like in Westchester for the next generation.”

About United Hebrew

United Hebrew is a vibrant not-for-profit, non-sectarian senior living and healthcare campus nestled on 7.5 acres in New Rochelle, NY. Serving the Westchester metropolitan area since 1919, United Hebrew today supports 600+ residents and clients daily through long-term skilled nursing, short-term rehabilitation, assisted living, memory care, and independent senior housing. United Hebrew provides a growing range of specialized clinical services on campus, including nephrology and on-site dialysis, wound care, psychiatry, and psychology, helping older adults access coordinated care as their health needs evolve. For more information, visit uhgc.org or contact Rose Cappa-Rotunno at 914-636-6565 x 116 or rcappa-rotunno@uhgc.org.

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