

# carenews

together we are transforming the future of health care

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Good day!

Genuine health care reform is rooted in a number of key factors related to quality, cost and continuity of care. Above all of these initiatives, however, is an element of health care transformation that is dependent on the engagement of patients in their own care. Through better education, easier access to information and an ongoing dialogue with providers, teaching patients and families about the importance of their role in staying healthy is a must.

With that in mind, and almost four years after creating a multidisciplinary Palliative Care Program and joining 10 other pioneering organizations nationally to support the Conversation Project with a goal of promoting discussions about palliative care and end-of-life decisions, Care New England is bringing palliative care into the outpatient setting with a presence in The Program in Women's Oncology at Women & Infants Hospital.

Through this effort, Care New England is seeking to reach patients who would benefit from palliative care in all possible settings, and hoping to help more patients engage their physicians in conversations about what matters to them most as they face advanced illness. This clinic is a natural extension of the inpatient consult services already offered at all CNE hospitals and the home-based palliative care provided through the VNA of CNE.

In a news release issued today announcing this new program enhancement, Kate M. Lally, MD, FACP, director of the Palliative Care Program at Care New England, said, “Palliative care is a specialized medical care for people with serious illness and focuses on providing patients with relief from the symptoms, pain, and stress of a serious illness, whatever the diagnosis. The goal is to improve quality of life for both the patient and the family, and engaging them in the process couldn't be more important.”

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## In this issue:



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Starting this month, Dr. Lally and a specialized palliative care team will begin working with women who seek care for gynecologic or breast cancers through the Program in Women's Oncology. This, Dr. Lally says, can include women with:

- Stage IV cancers.
- Recurrent or progressive disease.
- Unmanaged pain.
- Malignant bowel obstruction.
- Many symptoms.
- Frequent hospital admissions for symptom management.
- Uncertainty regarding the goals of care, which includes discussion of advanced directives.

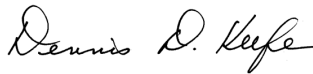
"People do not need to be dying to need help living with their symptoms," commented Cornelius "Skip" Granai III, MD, director of the Program in Women's Oncology, in the news release. "This is a tremendous step in helping us provide what our patients and their families need, which is physical and psychological relief from cancer."

The palliative care team—which includes physicians, a nurse practitioner, a medical assistant, social workers, case managers and others as needed—will meet with patients referred by the physicians in the Program in Women's Oncology and its Breast Health Center in sessions scheduled twice a month to start.

Gathering information and asking questions are the first steps to creating an ongoing dialogue with providers to help patients and families receive the right care, at the right time, in the right place. The effort to bring palliative care into the outpatient setting is a big first step for Care New England as we move forward with helping to shape the future of health care. For more information regarding the Conversation Project, palliative and hospice care, and CNE's advanced illness management program, visit <http://carenewengland.org/conversationproject>.

Continue to do great things!

Sincerely,



Dennis D. Keefe  
President and Chief Executive Officer



## The Providence Center wins Excellence in Behavioral Healthcare Management Award

Selected among more than 1,000 nominees, The Providence Center (TPC) has been awarded the Excellence in Behavioral Healthcare Management award from the National Council for Behavioral Health. In receiving this prestigious honor, TPC will receive \$10,000 and will be acknowledged at the National Council's Celebration of Excellence Awards event in Las Vegas on March 8, 2016, as a part of the National Council's annual conference. Deborah O'Brien, vice president and chief operating officer, will be accepting the award for TPC.



TPC was selected for its commitment to developing new ways to engage and involve individuals in their own treatment. Offering a wide-ranging continuum of care for individuals living with mental illness and substance use disorders, TPC's continuum includes clinical treatment, recovery support services, primary care, housing assistance, wellness activities, community support teams, and integrated health home teams.

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Highlighted in its nomination were some of TPC's programs that aim to engage hard-to-reach individuals and those from underserved populations, including Anchor Recovery Community Center, and its new Intensive Outpatient Program and Community Support Team for Spanish-speaking individuals. All of these programs and services are created with clients in mind—designed to meet their changing needs and focused on their overall recovery.

Dale K. Klatzker, PhD, TPC president, was humbled by the honor. "Rhode Island experiences some of the highest rates of mental illness and substance use disorders in the nation. Our strategy, focused on developing innovative approaches to engaging clients and getting them healthy, is working. We are truly honored that the National Council has selected The Providence Center for this prestigious award. We look forward to sharing our positive experiences with our colleagues on a national level."

## Women & Infants adds new breast surgeon

Leaders with the Program in Women's Oncology at Women & Infants recently announced the addition of Sonali Pandya, MD, FACS, as a breast surgeon with its Breast Health Center.

Dr. Pandya is returning to Women & Infants, where she completed the Society of Surgical Oncology Breast Disease Fellowship in 2010. She had operated a private practice in her home state of Florida before relocating to Rhode Island.

Dr. Pandya completed her bachelor's degree at Nova Southeastern University and attended Saint George's University School of Medicine, Grenada, West Indies. She completed a general surgery residency at Albany Medical Center before coming to Women & Infants for her breast fellowship.

Here, she will focus her research interest on breast cancer in young women, helping the Breast Health Center develop the support programs needed for this special group of cancer survivors. In addition, she will help with breast exam training for the residency programs at Memorial Hospital, also a Care New England hospital, and with the voluntary staff on evaluating and managing breast masses and breast density.

Women interested in making an appointment with Dr. Pandya or other providers with the Breast Health Center at Women & Infants can call (401) 453-7520.



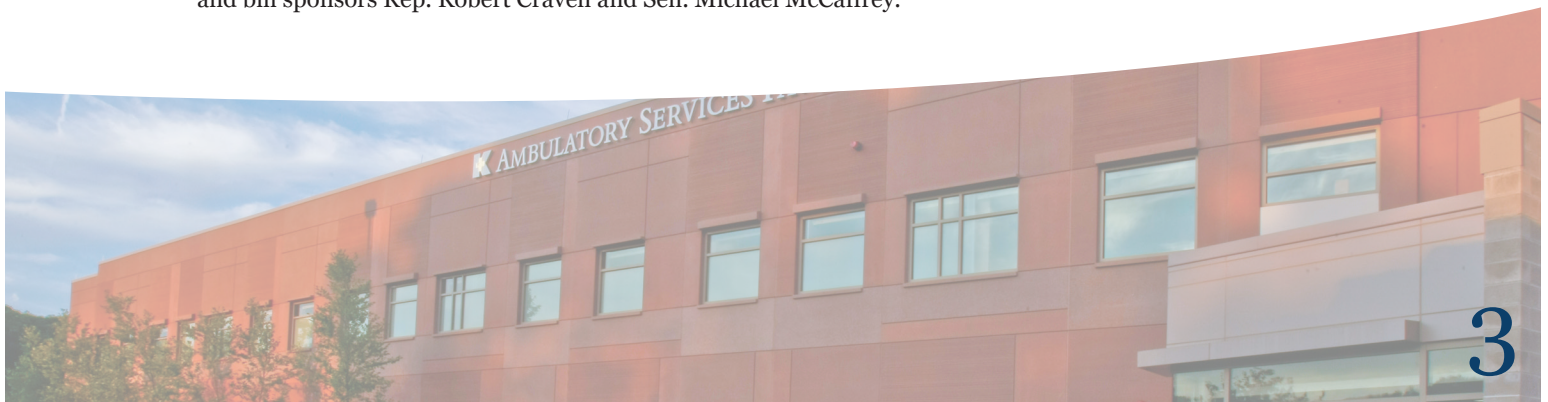
## Anchor hosts signing ceremony for new 'Good Samaritan' law

On January 27, RI Gov. Gina Raimondo signed the Good Samaritan Act of 2016 into law at Anchor Community Recovery Center, part of The Providence Center. The law puts legal protection in place for those who seek medical help for individuals experiencing an overdose.

To combat the state's opioid epidemic, Raimondo emphasized the importance of more peer recovery services like the ones at Anchor. She also remarked on the need to make Naloxone, the drug that reverses opiate overdose, more affordable and accessible. To that end, the governor announced \$40,000 from a recent settlement with Google will go toward the purchase and distribution of the medication.

Also speaking at the signing event was Jonathan Goyer, an Anchor recovery coordinator and champion of the law. He gave powerful testimony about the importance of Good Samaritan protections and how someone who called 911 saved his own life during an overdose. "This law will make it so no one is in the position of having to weigh a human life and their own personal freedom," said Goyer. He also praised the speed of the bill's passage; the RI House and Senate worked together to pass it just 21 days into the legislative session.

Others attending the event included Anchor Associate Director Thomas Joyce, Pawtucket Mayor Donald Grebien and bill sponsors Rep. Robert Craven and Sen. Michael McCaffrey.



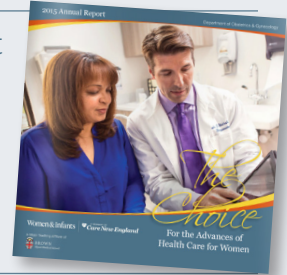
## Butler provides staff with active shooter training



Calling on the expertise of the Providence Police Department (PPD), the Butler Hospital Emergency Management Team hosted active shooter training for staff on January 21. During the two training sessions attended by a total of more than 160 staff members, officers from the PPD gave presentations on the history of mass shootings, statistics and active shooter safety tips and instruction. The Emergency Management Team will take this effort one step further on February 27 when with the help of the PPD SWAT Team and staff volunteers, they'll conduct an active shooter drill on campus.

## Check out the W&I Department of Ob/Gyn annual report

Each year, the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and Care New England's Women & Infants Hospital publish an annual report. The department's talented faculty members continue to be leaders in the field through a demonstrated dedication to and passion for innovation in clinical care, research and education, all focused on a collective mission to improve women's health and the lives of women and their families. Take a look at this year's report at <http://bit.ly/1SS1Q2V>.



## Cancer genetics counselors booking sessions at Memorial



Counselors affiliated with the Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program, part of the Program in Women's Oncology at Women & Infants, are now available to see both male and female patients in The Cancer Center at Memorial Hospital. Anyone concerned that they are genetically predisposed to cancer or want a clear evaluation of their cancer risk—which would include an examination of cancer family history, genetics and environmental risk factors—can be referred for an appointment. For more information about cancer genetics counseling appointments at Memorial, call The Cancer Center at (401) 729-2000, extension 2700. For details about The Cancer Genetics and Prevention Program, call (401) 453-7540. 