



**FOR NEWS** for *Crain's Health Pulse*, contact reporter Gale Scott at (212) 210-0746 or gscott@crain.com



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# CRAIN'S HEALTH pulse

A daily newsletter on the business of health care

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## TODAY'S NEWS

### NORTH GENERAL CRO

North General Hospital named Luis Hernandez, a principal of Kurrion Shares of America, chief restructuring officer. Ronald Gade had originally been appointed CRO but then withdrew. Kurrion, whose principals include former Interfaith President Corbett Price, is a health care management and advisory firm.

### PCDC AWARD

The Primary Care Development Corp. will receive \$40 million in tax credits from a Treasury Department program. The money, from the federal New Markets Tax Credit initiative, will let PCDC offer long-term financing at low interest rates to community health centers serving the poor. The nonprofit was one of 61 applicants chosen from 258 organizations that applied for the credits. The PCDC will use the award to offer fixed-rate loans of up to 25 years to qualified candidates wanting to build or renovate centers.

### BROOKLYN HEALTHWORKS

With new state funding of \$1.1 million, Brooklyn HealthWorks' low-cost insurance plan is reopening enrollment to the borough's small businesses. Because of unexpectedly high demand, the program had stopped taking new clients, leaving hundreds of applicants that wanted to offer its coverage. The Legislature came through

## Empire offers help for info network

Could health plans provide the capital and guidance needed to achieve the Bush administration's goal of creating a national electronic medical records network by 2014?

Chief Executive Mark Wagar says Empire is ready to do that, starting in New York state. In return, the plan would want to be able to set requirements for tracking certain data as part of its pay-for-performance efforts.

"We are ready for an initiative statewide, but no one has approached us with a proposal," Mr. Wagar says. He adds that medical group practices, clin-

ics, hospitals and other providers too often have internal systems that work well but software that isn't able to communicate with others' systems.

The resulting patchwork of computer networks wastes time and money, and points to a need for standardization, Mr. Wagar says.

Only a top-down approach to building such an interconnected network is likely to succeed, he says. To date, however, all efforts to build computer networks have been grassroots and based on each health care system's idea about what works.

with funding to be used to support the program permanently and to create a new pilot program upstate. GHI is the insurance provider for the program, which was created by the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. The potential pool of applicants is huge: 90% of the borough's 45,000 businesses have 20 or fewer workers.

requirements are entitled to receive the full 3.3% "market basket" update for fiscal 2008. In New York, St. Vincent's Midtown did not participate. Three other downstate hospitals didn't get the full update because they didn't meet reporting criteria: Victory Memorial, Hospital for Special Surgery and NYU Hospital for Joint Diseases.

## AT A GLANCE

**CMS REPORT:** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services have released the latest Reporting Hospital Quality Data for Annual Payment Update. Hospitals that reported certain quality measures and met other

**CHILD PSYCH:** The National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression is holding a symposium, Healing Children's Minds, on Oct. 19 and 20 at The Times Center, 242 W. 41st St. For information, e-mail events@narsad.org.

**Comments?** [Pulse@crain.com](mailto:Pulse@crain.com)



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### Port Jefferson Health Care Facility

This New York State funded Technology Demonstration Project is administered by the Joint 1199SEIU Labor Management Quality of Care Oversight Committee.

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