

HEALTH WATCH

Clinical Center at Mount Sinai

New Look, New Building for Clinical Center

The Clinical Center at Mount Sinai has a new home. This past summer, it moved to the third floor of the Annenberg Building at 1468 Madison Ave (south of 101st St), conveniently putting it right in the middle of the hospital complex.

The large entrance at the new address is one of the main ways to enter the Mount Sinai Medical Center. It leads directly into the Guggenheim Pavilion, where access to the Annenberg Building and its elevators can be easily found on one side of the Guggenheim's lobby.

"It's such an advantage to now be in one of the main hospital buildings," said Dr. Jacqueline Moline,

the Director of the WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program Clinical Center at Mount Sinai, which was formerly located in a separate building on 101st St. "Our new location plays a big part in our efforts to help and support our WTC responders, as they continue to come in for their annual exams or treatment visits."

WTC program participants often receive referrals to other physicians and for standard tests, such as x-rays, within the hospital. With a new location inside the Mount Sinai complex, it will now be possible to remain indoors the whole time when responders leave the WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment



Entrance on Madison Ave to the new location of the WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program Clinical Center at Mount Sinai.

Program clinic to visit a specialist or get a test done. Having the ability to get services all in one place is a welcome convenience, especially in bad weather.

The new Clinical Center location provides the program with a larger

space than it had previously. The exam and treatment rooms are larger, and with more rooms overall, it means that more responders can get more services, from physical exams to mental health counseling to benefits coordination.

WTC Workers' Compensation Registration Deadline Extended

New deadline is September 11, 2010

IN AUGUST, Governor David Paterson signed a bill into law that allows workers and volunteers more time to file a WTC-12 registration form with the New York State Workers' Compensation Board.

The new registration deadline is September 11, 2010. As a result, WTC responders who were exposed to hazards at Ground Zero and elsewhere have another two years to protect their right to file a 9/11-related Workers' Compensation claim, if they become sick anytime in

the future. Any responder who fails to register before the new deadline loses the right to file future claims for 9/11-related illnesses.

For more information on how to register your WTC-12 form, call your WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program clinic or 888-702-0630. You can also visit our website to get instructions and eligibility information, and to download the form at www.wtcexams.org.

Mount Sinai to Bring Monitoring and Treatment to Staten Island

Early this year, the WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program Clinical Center at Mount Sinai will be opening a new satellite clinic on Staten Island, based at the Richmond University Medical Center. This new clinic will offer a new option for all WTC responders already enrolled in the program at Mount Sinai.

“We are excited to be able to offer quality care to 9/11 responders in this additional location,” said Dr. Jacqueline Moline, Director of the Clinical Center at Mount Sinai. “It’s another way to make sure getting help is as convenient as possible for our patients.”

The new clinic will offer the same services as the Mount Sinai location in Manhattan and all the other WTC

Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program clinical centers: monitoring exams, treatment visits, mental health services, and benefits counseling. Additionally, all referrals to other physicians and for standard program tests will be made right within the Richmond University Medical Center whenever possible. The ability to locate all the essential medical services for participating WTC responders in one place, typical of all the program’s clinical centers, was an essential consideration in choosing the Staten Island location.

“Our goal is to provide the best care possible to our patients,” Dr. Moline said. “And while it may be impossible to bring the WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program

to all the neighborhoods where our responders live and work, we’re trying.”

Mount Sinai’s two other WTC satellite clinics, in Astoria, Queens and in Yonkers, NY, provide only limited services to 9/11 responders. These two locations offer only treatment for WTC-related medical problems, compared with the Staten Island clinic’s full range of services.

The new satellite clinic will be open five days a week, Monday through Friday. It is hoped that it will be able to see new Mount Sinai Clinical Center patients, after this first phase of its operation.

For more information, or to schedule an appointment, call the program at 888-702-0630.

The 9/11 Neediest Medical Campaign Comes to an End in 2009

A support program that has provided medical coverage for WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program responders with serious illnesses not related to their World Trade Center work is coming to an end.

The 9/11 Neediest Medical Campaign has made it possible for patients without any health insurance to receive awards toward treatment or medication for life-threatening illnesses not covered by their participation in the WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program. The campaign was created specifically to address a significant gap in available medical resources for a great number of 9/11 responders. The New York Times Neediest Cases Fund and other generous donors made the campaign possible with a donation of over \$2 million.

“We feel privileged to have been able to help the responders in our program access an incredible life-saving benefit,” said Dr. Jacqueline Moline, Director of the WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program, Clinical Center at Mount Sinai. “We are supremely grateful to the New York Times and other funders for this chance to have helped so many of our patients. We only wish the program did not have to end, as the need for care remains.”

In operation since March 2007, the campaign has benefited over 250 responders throughout the New York and New Jersey area, with awards available to participants enrolled in each of the partner Clinical Centers that make up the WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program.

The campaign has provided medical services for a range of illnesses, such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, thyroid disorders, spine disease, and other conditions, and provided funds for necessary surgical procedures. Patients have also been connected with benefits coordination in order to receive vital community services, so that a plan for long-term recovery can be put into place. The assistance is not a cash award, but part of an integrated effort to improve the patient’s health.

Although the campaign is no longer accepting new applications, patients who have already been accepted into the program are still eligible to receive care through 2009. For any follow-up questions or information, they should call the WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program at 212-241-6307 and leave a message that includes a telephone number. The call will be returned within 48 hours.

Despite the ending of the 9/11 Neediest Medical Campaign, patients with medical needs not related to their WTC work as responders are still encouraged to speak with the social work staff of the WTC Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program about services that might be available to them.