

The Empire State Medical Association

Health Access/Katrina Relief Plan (updated 10/4/05)

(www.nyesma.org) (Printing sponsored by Alltime Printing in Queens 718-464-1400)

Descriptive narrative

The Empire State Medical Association is the New York affiliate of The National Medical Association NMA which promotes the collective interests of physicians and patients of African descent. We carry out this mission by serving as the collective voice of physicians of African descent and a leading force for parity in medicine, elimination of health disparities and promotion of optimal health.

History

“Conceived in no spirit of racial exclusiveness, fostering no ethnic antagonism, but born of the exigencies of the American environment, the Empire State Medical Society has for its object the banding together of mutual cooperation and helpfulness, the men and women of African descent who are legally and honorably engaged in the practice of the cognate professions of medicine, surgery, pharmacy and dentistry.”

Mission Statement

The Empire State Medical Association promotes the collective interests of physicians and patients of African descent. We carry out this mission by serving as the collective voice of physicians of African descent and a leading force for parity in medicine, elimination of health disparities and promotion of optimal health.

Katrina Statement

The Empire Medical Association will assist in providing volunteer consultation and healthcare to those Victims of Katrina. We have volunteer physicians and have physicians that will assist in helping the Katrina victims access appropriate medical care. We also have physicians in New York to help those who have been relocated to the New York area. We have asked all of our local affiliates to help directly with donation of food, money for clothing, and assisting with medical supplies and volunteer healthcare to those victims in need.

Officers

President, Daniel Laroche M.D. 2004 – 2006
2090 Adam Clayton Powell Blvd. Suite 200B
New York, NY 10027
212-663-0473

Treasurer Dr. Kathleen R Watson M.D 2004 - 2006
89 St. Marks Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11217
718-398-7295

Secretary-Garfield Clunie MD
917-370-7565

The Association is made of the local New York Affiliates of the National Medical Association which include:

Manhattan Central Medical Society
Clinical Society of Queens and Long Island
Provident Medical Society of Brooklyn
Susan B. Smith McKinney Medical Society

Our official National Medical Association contacts around the country coordinating healthcare from African American Physicians in the local communities include:

Rahn Bailey, M.D. of Houston, Texas
Phone: (281) 726-2807, (281) 554-7188 or (281) 834-0457
Email: rahnbailey@yahoo.com

Leonard Weather, M.D. of New Orleans, Louisiana
(Currently residing in Shreveport)
Phone (318)-861-6111
Email: drweather@bellsouth.net

Roosevelt McCorvey, MD. Of Montgomery, Alabama
Phone: (334)-262-1723

Reginal Rigsby, MD. Of Madison, Mississippi
Phone: (9662) 834-1857 or (601) 454-2459
Email: rdrigsbymd@aol.com

Claudette Shepard, M.D. of Memphis, Tennessee
Phone: (901) 448-4792 or (901) 387-1496
Email: cshepard@utmen.edu

Niva Lubin Johnson, M.D. of Chicago, Illinois
Phone (773) 388-220 or (773) 617-2598
Email: nivajoe@sbcglobal.net

Walter Faggett, M.D., D.C. Department of Health, Washington, DC
Phone: (202) 997-5211 or (202) 442-9077
Email: walter.faggett@dc.gov

Ingrid Taylor, M.D. of St. Louis, Missouri
Phone (314) 522-6410, ext 6039 or 314-517-0310
Email: itaylor3167@earthlink.net

Christopher Ervin, M.D. of Atlanta, Georgia
Email: cprdoc@pol.net

Wilma Wooten, M.D. of San Diego, California
Phone (619) 666-3455, (619) 515-6519, or (619) 582-1227
Email: at Wilma.wooten@sdcounty.ca.gov or wjwooten@cox.net

Joseph Webster, M.D. of Tallahassee Florida
Phone; (850)-878-0471
Email: jceleeweb1@aol.com

Leonard Bass, M.D. of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
Phone: (954) 484-8590
Email: lbass32179@aol.com

Ramelda Saunders-Jones, M.D. of Tallahassee, Florida
Phone (850) 386-4898

Rogers Cain. M.D. of Jacksonville, Florida
Phone: (904) 766-2992

Deidre Holloway, M.D., of Detroit, Michigan
Phone: (258) 858-8330 or (248) 569-5577
Email: dwat248@comast.net

Clifton Peay, M.D. of Midlothian Virginia
Phone (804) 559-7002
Email: cpvision@msn.com

New York Contacts

Daniel Laroche, M.D., President Empire State Medical Association
212-663-0473 or 718-217-0424
Email: dlarochemd@aol.com

Gerald Hoke MD, President, Manhattan Central Medical Society
212-305-5524 or 917-885-5913
Email: gh11@columbia.edu

Angela Todd MD, President, Clinical Society of Queens and Long Island
718-461-9000
Email: Angelatodd@hotmail.com

Darren Harper MD, President, Provident Medical Society of Brooklyn
718-723-5679 or 917-204-4427
Email: dharpelof5@netzero.com

CENTER FOR HURRICANE KATRINA EVACUEES TO CHANGE LOCATION

Effective Thursday, September 29, the City's Katrina Welcome Center for Hurricane Katrina evacuees will be located at 80 Centre St., at the corner of Worth and Centre Streets in lower Manhattan. The Welcome Center, which serves as the entry point to the City's Disaster Assistance Service Center (DASC), was formerly located at the City College of New York's Great Hall at 138 Street and Convent Avenue.

Evacuees seeking social services from the City should report to 80 Centre St. beginning Thursday to schedule an appointment at the DASC and fill out initial paperwork. The City encourages evacuees to bring as much documentation as possible to prove their identity and residency in the affected area.

The center will remain open Monday-Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until evacuees' needs are met. However, both the Welcome Center and the DASC will be closed October 8-10 in observance of Columbus Day weekend. Both centers will reopen Tuesday, October 11, at 12 p.m.

On September 15, Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Commissioner Joseph F. Bruno, in partnership with the Human Resources Administration, The Department of Homeless Services, and American Red Cross in Greater New York, opened a DASC to better serve Hurricane Katrina evacuees who have relocated to New York City. Relocating the Welcome Center and DASC to 80 Centre St. will serve to consolidate City resources for Katrina evacuees under one roof.

The DASC will remain at its current location in upper Manhattan until Sunday, October 2, when it will also move to 80 Centre St. Evacuees who have appointments to see case specialists for October 3 and beyond should report to 80 Centre St.

Staffed by representatives of several City, State and federal agencies and disaster relief organizations, the DASC addresses the needs of those displaced by last month's storm. On arrival at the DASC for their scheduled appointments, evacuees can expect to meet with staff from a host of government and voluntary agencies to discuss disaster housing, school enrollment, financial assistance for food, clothing and emergency expenses, and more. Since the DASC offers a wide array of resources, the City encourages evacuees to allow plenty of time for their visit.

The City urges evacuees to register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) before reporting to the Welcome Center. FEMA estimates it will take at least 20 minutes to complete the registration process via phone (800-621-FEMA; TTY: 800-462-7585) or internet (www.fema.gov).

Both the Welcome Center and the service center rely on volunteers for staffing. To volunteer, visit New York Cares' website at www.nycares.org or call 212-402-1171.

There are Katrina families that are in New York. About 100 families in need of clothing, food, healthcare, jobs. The day to day needs change. They are currently at the Radisson Hotel near JFK airport. Fred Simmons from Senator Malcolm Smith office in Queens is a contact person regarding (Direct) assistance to these families. He can be reached at 718-528-4290 and (cell-347-453-5065).

Survivors Needing Assistance (both Katrina and Rita):
Please call 1-888-363-2769, for nearest place for food and clothing.

The Empire State Medical Association is also accepting donations for medical supplies, food and clothing to be given directly to evacuees in need from Katrina and Rita.

Please make Checks available to Empire State Medical Association and mail to Empire State Medical Association, 2090 Adam Clayton Powell Blvd. Suite 200B, New York, NY 10027

FIND A PHYSICIAN/DOCTOR IN NEW YORK

EMPIRE STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (NYS NMA AFFILIATE) PHYSICIAN LISTING

ADDICTION MEDICINE

ADMINISTRATIVE MEDECINE

ADOLESCENT MEDECINE

Mills, Regina M., M.D.
97 Amity Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201

718-780-1025

ALLERGY/IMMUNOLOGY

ANESTHESIOLOGY

Herbert, John T. (jrh23@columbia.edu)
121 St. Nicholas Ave. #4C, NY, NY
Speaker Bureau- Merck

212-939-3555

Hill, Constance H., M.D.
339 Hicks Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201

718-270-3765

Verdier, Lemonier, M.D.
Lenox Hill Hospital, New York, NY

212-4342878

CANCER SURGERY

Charles, Melita A., M.D.
Long Island College Hospital, Brooklyn, NY

718-780-2777

Freeman, Harold P., M.D.
North General Hospital, New York, NY

212-423-1459

CARDIOLOGY

Akinboboye, Ola, M.D. 888-432-7801
224-14 Merrick Blvd., Laurelton, NY 11413, olak2@yahoo.com

Jones, Raymond, M.D. 718-740-4066
205-07 Hillside Avenue, Hollis, NY 11423

Martin, Kevin L., M.D. 212-280-8100
306 West 106th Street, New York, NY 10025
Hospital affiliation:
Mt. Sinai Medical Center
North General Hospital
St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital

Perry-Bottinger, Lynne, M.D. 914-576-7577
140A Lockwood Avenue, New Rochelle, NY 10801
Hospital Affiliation:
New York Presbyterian Hospital
New York Hospital Queens

Akinboboye, Ola, M.D. 516-622-4548
St. Francis Hospital, Roslyn, NY

Aklog, Lishan, M.D. 212-695-6811
Mount Sinai Medical Center, New York, NY

Badero, Oluyemi, M.D. 718-209-8000
University Hospital of Brooklyn, Brooklyn, NY

McLarty, Allison, M.D. 631-444-1820
Health Science Center, Stony Brook University Hospital, Stony Brook, NY

Mieres, Jennifer, M.D. 516-562-4100
North Shore Medical Hospital, Manhasset, NY

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

Gasinu, Koku, M.D.
2115 Starling Avenue, Bronx, NY 10462

718-822-2810

CARDIOVASCULAR SURGERY

CHIROPRACTIC

COLORECTAL SURGERY

Ford, Kenneth A., M.D.
New York, NY

212-305-5394

COSMETIC SURGERY

Edwards, Charles C. H., M.D.
Acu-Med Surgical/Medical Facility, New York, NY

212-647-0600

DENTAL/ORAL SURGERY

Austin, Catrise, DDS
VIP Smiles, New York, NY

212-262-6054

Ogle, Orrett E., DDS
Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center, Brooklyn, NY

718-963-8381

Bean, Donald, DDS
120-27 Guy Brewer Blvd., Jamaica, NY

718-723-1552

Miller, Donald, DDS
200-17 Linden Blvd., St. Albans, NY 11412

718-712-0605

Dermatology

Alexis, Andrew F., M.D. 212-523-2854
St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center, New York, NY

Carter, Eric, M.D. 212-305-5293
New York Presbyterian Hospital, New York, NY

Cook-Bolden, Fran, M.D. 212-249-8377
425 West 59th Street, New York, NY 10019
Hospital Affiliations:
St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital

Garries, Rosetta, M.D. 212-234-3859
2544 Frederick Douglas Blvd., New York, NY 10030

Ingleton, Rosemarie, M.D. 212-673-7100
New York, NY

Patterson, Bentley, M.D. 718-324-2296
4769 White Plains Road, Bronx, NY 10470

Simmons, Deborah, M.D. 212-865-3376
132 West 96th Street, New York, NY 10025

Strachan, Dina, M.D. 212-360-5486
1789 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10035
Second Office:
161 Sixth Avenue, 13th FL, New York, NY 10013, 212-627-1222

Taylor, Susan, M.D. 212-828-7543
1090 Amsterdam Avenue, Suite 11D, New York, NY 10025

Troyer, Claudette, M.D. 914-668-8080
153 Stevens Avenue, Suite 4, Mount Vernon, NY 10550

Walker, Erin, M.D. 914-682-6426
210 Westchester Avenue, White Plains, NY 10604

EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Guishard, Kim A., M.D. 718-250-6889
The Brooklyn Hospital Center, Brooklyn, NY

Richardson, Lynne D., M.D. 212-659-1653
Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY

ENDOCRINOLOGY

Burroughs, Valentine, M.D. 212-423-4065
North General Hospital

Cobbs, Ronald K., M.D. 212-423-6262
Metropolitan Hospital Center, New York, NY

ENDOSCOPIC SURGERY

Adu, Alexander, M.D. 718-822-2810
2115 Starling Avenue, Bronx, NY 10462

ENT

Granady, Lynelle C., M.D. 212-722-5570
12 East 87th Street, New York, NY 10128

Jones, Jackeline, M.D. 212-746-2236
520 East 70th Street, Room 541, New York, NY 10021
New York Presbyterian Hospital

FAMILY PRACTICE

Adair, Robert, M.D. 212-866-2000
41 West 96th Street, New York, 10025

Agho, Peter, M.D. 718-597-3111
1380 Metropolitan Avenue, Bronx, NY 10462

Brown, Deborah, M.D. xxx-xxx-xxxx
105 Stevens Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY 10550

Brown, Noel, M.D. 914-663-1368
105 Stevens Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY 10550

Elliot, Tricia, M.D. 31 Euclid Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10705	718-933-2400
Gayle, Eric G., M.D. 1597 Unionport Road, Bronx, NY 10462	718-822-1818
Graves, Daryl, M.D. 34 Dalewood, Hartsdale, NY 10530	914-681-4518
Griffith, Barbara, M.D. 296 Kimball Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10704	914-776-7758
Harding-Marin, Eastlyn, M.D. 909 Cornaga Avenue, Arverne, NY 11692	718-337-1043
Huggins, Eustace, M.D. 200-17 Linden Blvd., St. Albans, NY 11412	718-525-7818
Joseph, Wayne, M.D. 3360 East 193 rd Street, Bronx, NY 10458	718-933-2400
Kitson, Kwame A., M.D. 1894 Walton Avenue, Bronx, NY 10453	718-583-3060
Lefevre, Cluny, M.D. 59 Lehrer Avenue, Elmont, NY 11003	718-278-6885
Marshall, Kenneth C., M.D. 11903 Jamaica Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11418	718-291-6161
Moise, Serge, M.D. 3130 Grand Concourse, Bronx NY 10458	718-733-5226
Montgomery, Douglas, M.D. 88-25 153 rd Street, Dept. of Family Practice, Jamaica, NY 11432	718-558-2000
Moore, Carlton R., M.D. 1470 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10029	212-824-7636
Morgan, Michelle, M.D. 470 East Fordham Road, Bronx, NY 10458	718-960-3875
Sanders, Barbara H., M.D. 360 East 193 rd Street, Bronx, NY 10458	718-933-2400

Wawes, Keith, M.D. 718-231-0078
940 Burke Avenue, Bronx, NY 10469

White Jr., Bennie R., M.D. 631-425-5250
13750 Jamaica Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11435

GASTROENTEROLOGY

Adeonigbagbe, Olusegun, M.D. 718-217-7744
192-03 Jamaica Avenue, Hollis, NY 11423

Cowan, Jay, M.D. 212-281-5252
470 Lenox Avenue, New York, NY 10037
Hospital Affiliations:
North General Hospital
St. Luke's-Roosevelt hospital

Daniel, Samuel, M.D. 212-423-4700
1824 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10035

Khan, Azeem, M.D. 718-459-8460
97-45 Queens Blvd., Lefrak Tower, Suite 1110, Rego Park, NY 11374

Marsh, Franklin, M.D. 212-288-8820
342 East 67th Street, New York, NY 10021
Specialty: GI

Donaldson, Brian, M.D. 212-939-1645
Harlem Hospital Center, New York, NY

Okadigwe, Chukuma, M.D. 718-287-0505
New York Methodist Hospital, Brooklyn, NY

GENERAL SURGERY

Beiles, Carl M., M.D. 516-487-6527
1010 Northern Blvd., Suite 140, Great Neck, NY 11021

Branche, Matthew, M.D. 914-699-7200
148 Stone Oaks Drive, Hartsdale, NY 10530

Folk, Frank S., M.D. 718-363-6600
445 Lenox Road, Suite F, Brooklyn, NY 11203

Nnaemeka, peter, M.D. 914-235-0584
140 Lockwood Avenue, New Rochelle, NY 10801

Ramsey Jr., Walter S., M.D. 516-681-1414
700 Old Country Road, Plainview, NY 11803

Smith, Arthur D., M.D. 718-470-7290
410 Lakeview Road, New Hyde Park, NY 11040

GERIATRICS MEDICINE

Adomfeh, Charles N., M.D. 518-383-9262
1741 Route 9, Clifton Park, NY 12065

Ellis, Earl A., M.D. 718-282-4412
66 Rutland Road, Brooklyn, NY 11225

GYNECOLLOGICAL ONCOLOGY

HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY

Sajous, Taylor, M.D. 718-328-1070
880 Thieriot Avenue, Bronx, NY 10473

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Smith, Miriam A., M.D. 718-470-7290
410 Lakeview Road, New Hyde Park, NY 11040

Croney, Cheryl, M.D. 718-240-5028
Brookdale University Hospital, Brooklyn, NY

Persaud, Anand, M.D. 718-657-4000
173-25 Jamaica Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11432

INTERNAL MEDICINE

Adair, Robert, M.D. 212-866-2000
41 West 96th Street, New York, NY 10025

Adamson, Karen, M.D. 212-862-8722
470 Lenox Avenue, Suite 1P, New York, NY 10037
Hospital Affiliations:
North General Hospital
St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital

Adebayo, A.T., M.D. 212-281-6403
40 West 135th Street, Suite 1D, New York, NY 10037
Hospital Affiliations:
North General Hospital
St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital

Adubor, Christopher, M.D. 914-668-1400
153 Stevens Avenue, Suite 4, Mount Vernon, NY 10550

Aiken, Brenda, M.D. 718-920-5521
6113 Spencer Avenue, Bronx, NY 10471

Akuoku, Samuel, M.D. 516-377-0608
224-14 Merrick Blvd., Laurelton, NY 11413, sokuoku@nyc.rr.com

Alerte, Marc-Antoine, M.D. 212-749-3507
159 West 127th Street, New York, NY 10027

Anthony, Antoinette M., M.D. 718-826-4000
3245 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11229

Ayinla, Raji, M.D. 212-423-4700
1824 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10035
Hospital Affiliations:
North General Hospital
St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital
Cabrini Medical Center
Specialty: Pulmonary Diseases

Bailey-Wallace, Gail, M.D. 914-997-5015
124 Maryton Road, White Plain, NY 10603

Balzora, Jean, M.D. 96-17 Astoria Blvd., East Elmhurst, NY 11369	718-465-0603
Barnes, Cynthia, M.D. 623 West 145 th Street, New York, NY 10031 Hospital Affiliation: North General Hospital	212-234-0100
Bennett, Brenda, M.D. 470 Lenox Avenue, Suite 1P, New York, NY 10037 Hospital Affiliation: Harlem Hospital	212-491-9200
Bioh, Dominick, M.D. 307 West 125 th Street, New York, NY 10027 Hospital Affiliation: St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital	212-961-4200
Boykin, Roger, MD. 120-31 Guy Brewer Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11434	718-949-3241
Bradnock, Howard, M.D. 195-04 Hillside Avenue, Hollis, NY 11423	718-217-6806
Bradshaw, Jeffrey, M.D. 132 West 96 th Street, New York, NY 10025 Hospital Affiliation: North General Hospital	212-662-7790
Byssainthe, Paul, M.D. 89-31 161 st Street, Jamaica, NY 11432	718-291-6161
Caesar, Arturo, M.D. Renaissance Care Network, New York, NY	212-932-6500
Charles, Antoine, M.D. 208-09 Hillside Avenue, Queens Village, NY 11427	718-776-1013
Cobbs, Winston, M.D. 1800 Dutch Broadway, Elmont, NY 11003	516-775-2184
Cunningham, Calvin, M.D. 1665 Tillotson Avenue, Bronx, NY 10469	718-654-8822
Crooks, Michael, M.D. 85 West Burnside Avenue, Bronx, NY 10453	718-716-4400

<p>Dayson, Don, M.D. 470 Lenox Avenue, Suite 1R, New York, NY 10037 Hospital Affiliation: North General Hospital</p>	<p>212-862-6000</p>
<p>Delph, Walter, M.D. 1090 Amsterdam Avenue, Suite 7G, New York, NY 10025</p>	<p>212-523-2442</p>
<p>Desroches, Lionel, M.D. 1975 Linden Blvd., Elmont, NY 11003</p>	<p>516-285-2850</p>
<p>Dockeray, Alan, M.D. 175 Memorial Highway, New Rochelle, NY 10801</p>	<p>914-633-5700</p>
<p>Dove, Arthur, M.D. 284 Convent Avenue, New York, NY 10031 Hospital Affiliation North General Hospital</p>	<p>212-926-6900</p>
<p>Edwards, Keith, M.D. 100 Stevens Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY 10550</p>	<p>914-668-6739</p>
<p>Essien, Ralph, M.D. 175 Memorial Highway, Suite 1-3</p>	<p>914-636-1967</p>
<p>Ezrick, Edward, M.D. 3131 Kings Highway, Suite B9, Brooklyn, NY 11234</p>	<p>718-338-0333</p>
<p>Fields, Jesse, M.D. 1824 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10035 Hospital Affiliations: North General Hospital St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital</p>	<p>212-423-4700</p>
<p>Francois, Max, M.D. 470 Lenox Avenue, Suite 1F, New York, NY 10037 Hospital Affiliations: North General Hospital St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital</p>	<p>212-491-2626</p>
<p>Freeman, Melissa, M.D. 407 West 147th Street, New York, NY 10031 Hospital Affiliation: St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital</p>	<p>212-281-5613</p>

Gibbs, Robert S., M.D. 10 West 135 th Street, New York, NY 10037	212-281-5600
Granderson, Joseph, M.D. 711 West End Avenue, Suite 1AS, New York, NY 10025 Specialty: Pulmonary	212-678-1152
Grant, Fitzclaud, M.D. 444 Elmont Road, Elmont, NY 11003	516-488-3550
Griffith-Reece, Wendy, M.D. 145-24 130 th Street, Rosedale, NY 11413	718-712-6886
Hart, Patricia MD 2020 Cortelyou Road, Brooklyn, NY 11226	718-282-4643
Herard, Wilfrid, M.D. St. Mary's Hospital of Brooklyn, Brooklyn, NY	718-693-2800
Huff, Wanda, M.D. New York, NY	917-685-3626
Huggins, Eustace, M.D. 200-17 Linden Blvd., St. Albans, NY 11412	718-525-7818
Jones, Vann K., M.D. 121 DeKalb Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11201	718-250-6100
Julien, Leslie, M.D. 174 Winding Brooks Road, New Rochelle, NY10804	914-633-2025
Lewin, Bernard, M.D. 87-19 193 rd Street, Hollis Wood, NY 1375	718-740-5440
Lewis, Paula, M.D. New York Methodist Hospital, Brooklyn, NY	718-284-4440
Lowe, Kevin, M.D. 114-30 175 th Street, Jamaica, NY 11747	718-523-5050
Marshall Jr., Lewis W., M.D. Brookdale University Hospital, Brooklyn, NY	718-240-6899
Mensah, Doreen 411 West 113th St. NY, NY 10025 St. Lukes Hospital, New York	212 866-5461

Mitchell, Harrison F., M.D. 2368 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd., NY, NY 10030 Hospital Affiliations: New York Presbyterian Hospital St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital	212-690-3200
Nduka-Nwosu, Ijeoma, M.D. 105 Stevens Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY 10550	914-669-1900
Nicoleau, Aryel, M.D. 92-04 Springfield Blvd., Queens Village, NY 11428	718-465-3040
Nicoleau, Carl, M.D. 96-17 Astoria Blvd., East Elmhurst, NY 11369	718-465-0603
Nurse, Sandra, M.D. 29-15 Far Rockaway Blvd., Far Rockaway, NY 11691	718-337-7000
Pennant, Ainsley G., M.D. 808 New York Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11203	718-462-4882
Ramos, Elizabeth, M.D. 210 East 86 th Street, Suite 502, New York, NY 10028 Hospital Affiliation: New York Presbyterian Hospital	212-369-0355
Reed, Michele, M.D. 144-07A 243 rd Street, Rosedale, NY 11422	718-949-0146
Scimmager, Leon, M.D. 411 West 113 th Street, New York, NY 10025 Hospital Affiliation: St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital	212-866-7064
Sewell, Clinton, M.D. 230-11 Linden Blvd., Cambria Heights, NY 11411	718-276-3401
Small, Allen, M.D. 140-15 Sandford Avenue, Flushing, NY 11355	718-670-6458
Streete-Small, Sophia, M.D. 144-07A 243 rd Street, Rosedale, NY 11422	718-949-0146
Valery, Emmanuel, M.D. New York Methodist Hospital, Brooklyn, NY	718-783-0070

Walter, Jenny, M.D. 212-665-8012
1301 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY 10027
Hospital Affiliation:
St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital

LAPAROSCOPIC SURGEON

Rosser, James C., M.D. 212-420-4337
Beth Israel Medical Center, New York, NY

NEONATOLOGY

Ellington, Marty, M.D. 917-748-6853
Lenox Hill Hospital

NEPHROLOGY

Adobor, Chris 914-668-1400

Afari, Jacquelyn, M.D. 718-881-2700
1619 Pelham Pkwy North, Bronx, NY 10469

Burns, Godfrey C., M.D. 212-604-7000
153 West 11th Street, New York, NY 10011

Pogue, Velvie A., M.D. 212-939-1449
Harlem Hospital Center, New York, NY

Scott, David, M.D. 718-276-4750
134-35 Springfield Blvd., Springfield Gardens, NY 11413

Ukponmwan, Osahon, M.D. 914-779-014
1730 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10710

NEUROLOGICAL/SURGERY

King, Wesley A., M.D. 212-241-5052
5 East 98th Street, New York, NY 10029
Hospital Affiliation:
Mt. Sinai Medical Center

Williams, Arthur, M.D. 212-523-6720
1000 10th Avenue, New York, NY 10019
Hospital Affiliations:
St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital
Lenox Hill Hospital

NEUROLOGY

Benson, Richard T., M.D. 212-523-3144
411 West 113th Street, New York, NY 10025
Hospital Affiliation:
St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital

Britton, Carolyn, M.D. 212-305-5220
710 West 168th Street, New York, NY 10032

Brockington, Carolyn, M.D. 212-870-9444
Beth Israel Medical Center, New York, NY
Hospital Affiliation:
New York Presbyterian Hospital

Ford, Grace, M.D. 516-256-6134
19 Sands Point Road, Port Washington, NY 11050

Lajoie, Josiane, M.A., M.D. 212-263-8378
NYU Comprehensive Epilepsy Center
403 East 34th Street, New York, NY 10016

Payne, Richard, M.D. 212-639-6594
1275 York Avenue C-723, New York, NY 10021

Vilceus, Antenor, M.D. 718-291-6444
89-31 161st Street, Jamaica, NY 11412, avilceus@aol.com

OBSTETRICS/GYNECOLOGY

Adams, Joan, M.D. 914-961-6660
3 Burbank Street, Yonkers, NY 10710

Abel-Bey, Geddis, M.D. 718-463-5511
4161 Kissena Boulevard, Suite 20, Flushing, NY 11335

Agnant, Guirlaine, M.D. 100 Stevens Avenue, Suite 601, Mount Vernon, NY 10550	914-668-6366
Allen, Michelle Harris, M.D. Bellvue Hospital Center, New York, NY\	212-562-3685
Alleyne, Erskine B., M.D. 200 Brooklyn Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11213	718-771-8608
Andeson, Claudette, M.D. 11 West Prospect Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY 10550	914-665-0990
Antoine, Clarel, M.D. New York University Medical Center, New York, NY	212-263-6541
Bell, Nicole, M.D. 177-14 Wexford Terrace, Jamaica Estates, NY 11432	718-523-4422
Biggers, Sean, M.D. 12 West 72nd Street, New York, NY 10023 Hospital Affiliations : New York Presbyterian Hospital	212-746-7800
Blanchette, Dennis, M.D. 115 Pacific Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201	718-852-9180
Boafo, Alexander, M.D. 2115 Starling Avenue, Bronx, NY 10462	718-822-2810
Bowen-Ericksen, Marcia, M.D. 131-76 Laurelton Parkway, Laurelton, NY 11422	718-525-9655
Bush, Jacqueline, M.D. New York Methodist Hospital, Brooklyn, NY	718-246-8500
Camilien, Louis D., M.D. New York Methodist Hospital, Brooklyn, NY	718-780-3272
Clark III, John F., M.D. 255 Central Park West, New York, NY 10024	212-769-0666
Clarke, Mildred, M.D. New York Methodist Hospital, Brooklyn, NY	718-789-1574
Clemendor, Anthony, M.D. Lenox Hill Hospital, New York, NY	212-628-1210

Comrie, Millicent, M.D. 115 Pacific Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201	718-852-9180
Deans, Sharon D., M.D. 444 Community Drive, Suite 105, Manhasset, NY 11030	516-365-3666
Defour-Jones, Monique, M.D. 444 Community Drive, Manhasset, NY 11030-3820	516-869-8071
Douglas, Albert S., M.D. 576 Linden Boulevard, Brooklyn, NY 11203	718-287-5100
Dunbar, Jacqueline, M.D. 786 Mamaroneck Aveue, Bronx, NY 10605	914-428-0997
Ellison, Thomasena L., M.D. 100 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201	718-222-0393
Haynes, Milton O.C., M.D. 231East 76 th Street, New York, NY 10021	212-744-7727
Hutcherson, Hilda Y., M.D. New York Presbyterian Hospital, New York, NY	212-305-1107
Jacob III, Clyde T., M.D. 2368 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd., New York, NY 10030 Hospital Affiliation: St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital	212-690-3200
Johnson, Lisa, M.D. Lenox Hill Hospital, New York, NY	212-434-3430
Kerr, Angela D., M.D. The Brooklyn Hospital Center, Brooklyn, NY	718-250-8318
Manderville, Edgar, M.D 177-14 Wexford Terrace, Jamaica, NY 11432	718-523-4422
Martin, Anita-Kay, M.D. 205-07 Hillside Avenue, Suite 14, Hollis, NY 11423	718-217-1125
Mason, Tina C., M.D. Brookdale University Hospital, Brooklyn, NY	718-240-5978

McIntosh, Carol, M.D. 40 West 135 th Street, Suite 1C, New York, NY 10037	212-234-2200
Michel, Ketley, M.D. 425 West 59 th Street, Suite 5A, New York, NY 10019	212-757-3724
Murray, Cyrus A., M.D. 1917 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225	718-282-0100
Knight-DeBrady, Alicia M.D. 119-40 Metropolitan Avenue, E-1, Kew Gardens, NY 11415	718-849-0839
Njapa, Anthony, M.D. 603 East 187 th Street, Bronx, NY 10458	718-329-2930
Okeke, Emeka E., M.D. 8906 135 th Street, Suite 106, Jamaica, NY 11418	718-206-6708
Semple, Sandra, M.D. 280 Dobbs Ferry Road, White Plains, NY 10607	914-946-5202
Sherman, Alonzo, M.D. 18930 Linden Boulevard, St. Albans	718-385-1230
Stephen-Johnson, Gail A., M.D. 233 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11205	718-826-5900
Thomas, Calvin E., M.D. Woodhull Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY	718-9638533
Thompson, Errol, M.D. 102-07 135 th Street, Jamaica, NY 11419	718-526-1839
Thornton, Melvin, M.D. Center For Woman's Reproductive Care 1790 Broadway, 2 nd Fl, New York, NY 10019 Specialty: Infertility	646-756-8282
Todd, Angela, M.D. 41-61 Kissena Blvd, Suite C, Flushing, NY 11355-3105	718-461-9000
Villanueva , Rachel MD Arcadia Ob/Gyn 148 Madison Ave Suite 200, New York, NY 10016 Affiliation: NYU	212-252-0111

Walter, Riley W., M.D. 212-281-3030
40 West 135th Street, New York, NY 10037

Welcome, Ronald (retired) 914-698-3981
704 Meadow Street, Mamaroneck, NY 10543

Wyse, Linda, M.D. 914-243-7810
215 Underhill Avenue, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE

ONCOLOGY

Ashford, Alfred R., M.D. 212-939-1401
Harlem Hospital Center, New York, NY

Brown, Carol L., M.D. 212-639-7659
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY

Duncan, Albert, M.D. 718-778-6898
Brooklyn, NY

Holcomb, Kevin M., M.D. 212-844-5729
Beth Israel Medical Center, New York, NY

OPHTHALMOLOGY

Delerme, Milton, M.D. 212-861-9000
133 East 73rd Street, New York, NY 10021

Evans, Rhondai, M.D. 718-271-6969
91-42 60th Avenue, Suite A2, Rego Park, NY 11373

Laroche, Daniel, M.D. (dlarochemd@aol.com) 212-663-0473
2090 7th Avenue, Suite 200B, New York, NY 10027
215-43 Jamaica Avenue, Queens Village, NY 11428 718-217-0424
North General Hospital , St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital
NY Eye & Ear Infirmary
Glaucoma Specialist

Mitchell, John M.D (mitchellmdj@aol.com) 212-928-1498
309 East 105th Street, Suite 6A, NY, NY

Neuro-ophthalmology

Morgan, Charles, M.D.

94-02 60th Avenue, Suite 2A, Rego Park, NY

Pediatric Ophthalmology

718-271-7015

Najac, Richard, M.D.

125-10 Queens Blvd., Suite 305, Kew Gardens, NY 11415

Cornea and Refractive Surgery Specialist

718-261-2666

Olive Osborne MD

2525 Eastchester Road, Suite LL, Bronx, New York 10469

Retina Specialist

718-231-7111

ORAL SURGERY

Ngozi, Etufuh, M.D.

New York, NY

212-371-2930

ORGAN TRANSPLANT

John, Devon G., M.D.

New York University Medical Center, New York, NY

212-263-8134

ORTHODONTIST

ORTHOPEDIC

Allen, Answorth, M.D. (allena@hss.edu)

535 East 70th Street, New York, NY 10021

Hospital Affiliations:

Hospital for Special Surgery

New York Presbyterian Hospital

Glen Cove Hospital

212-606-1447

Carr, Frank, M.D.

205-07 Hillside Avenue, Hollis, NY 11423

718-465-4540

Frazier, Daveed D., M.D. 212-765-2260
343 West 58th Street, New York, NY 10019
Hospital Affiliations:
Long Island College Hospital
St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital
Specialty: Orthopedic Spine Surgery

Parks, Michael L., M.D. 212-241-8853
5 East 98th Street, New York, NY 10029
Hospital Affiliation:
Mt. Sinai Medical Center

OTOLARYNGOLOGY

Grimes, Cecil D., M.D. 718-638-4667
1 Hanson Place, Suite 1204, Brooklyn, NY 11243

Palmer, Orville, M.D. 212-939-8180
Harlem Hospital Center, New York, NY

PAIN MANAGEMENT

Agbonkpolo, Francis, M.D. 914-235-2387
175 Memorial Hwy, Suite 3-1, New Rochelle, NY 10801

Payne, Richard, M.D. 212-639-6594
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
1275 York Avenue, C-723, New York, NY 10021
Hospital Affiliation:
Memorial Sloan-Kettering

PEDIATRICS

Adotey, Alexander 718-822-2810
2115 Starling Avenue, Bronx, NY 10462

Augustin, Lubin C., M.D. 845-425-9600
Spring Valley, NY

Brea, Frantz Emmanuel, M.D. Woodhull Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY	718-963-8184
Butts, Gary, M.D. Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY	212-241-8226
Chambers, Hazel J., M.D. 1500 Astor Avenue, Bronx, NY 10469	718-881-0100
Cooper, Donna, M.D. Queens Health Network, Springfield Gardens, NY	718-883-6800
Doyle, Cheryl J.E., M.D. Woodhull Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY	718-963-8778
Duckett, Delores, M.D. 760 Broadway, Brooklyn, NY 11206	718-963-8040
Ellington Jr., Marty, M.D., MPH 56-45 Main Street, Flushing, NY 11355-5095 Hospital Affiliations: New York Presbyterian Hospital Queens Children's Hospital of NY-Presbyterian	718-670-1578
Gattereau-Edwards, Maritza, M.D. Acu-Med Surgical/Medical Facility, Hollis, NY	718-468-8400
Goslee, Leonard T., M.D. 11218 Springfield Boulevard, Queens Village, NY 11429	718-479-6600
Hall, Arthur, M.D. 101 Park Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY 10530	914-667-0408
Jackson, Rosemary, M.D. 86 East 49 th Street, Apt#G, Brooklyn, NY 11203	718-363-6646
Jean, Mona, M.D. 274 Kimball Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10705	914-776-7291
Jordan, Michael R., M.D. 1200 Driving Park Avenue, Newark, NY 14513	315-331-5065
Laraque, Danielle, M.D. Mount Sanai School of Medicine, New York, NY	212-241-5866

Mullings, Patricia M., M.D. 718-240-8950
1380 Linden Boulevard, Bronx, NY 11212

Opoku, Evelyn, M.D. 718-260-7503
Woodhull Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY

Price, Winston S., M.D. 718-467-3991
156 East 37th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11203

Reid, Malcolm, M.D. 212-523-6595
1000 10th Avenue, New York, NY 10019

Rodriguez, Isabel C., M.D. 718-589-8324
731 White Plains Road, Bronx, NY 10473

Saint-Laurent, Mario MD 718-230-0500
1129 fulton st close to franklyn ave, Brooklyn, NY.

Sheares, Beverly J., M.D. 212-305-5122
New York Presbyterian Hospital 3959 Broadway, 7th Fl, New York, NY 10032

Sutton, Millicent, M.D. 212-523-4000
1111 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY 10025

PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGY

McFalane-Ferreira, Yvonne, M.D. 718-780-5225
New York Methodist Hospital, New York, NY

PEDIATRIC HEMATOLOGY-ONCOLOGY

Bellevue, Rita, M.D. 718-857-5643
New York Methodist Hospital, Brooklyn, NY

PERIODONTIST

PHYSICAL & REHABILITATION MEDICINE

Adler, Steven Michael, M.D. 718-206-6894
8906 135th Street, Suite 5H, Jamaica, NY 11418

Carol V.R. De Costa, M.D. 718 852-6949
Certified in Medical Acupuncture
189 Montague Street Suite 700, Brooklyn, New York 11201
<http://www.remass.org/>

Reid, Malcolm, M.D. 212-523-6595
1000 Tenth Avenue #3B-20, New York, NY 10019

Thornhill, Herbert L., M.D. 212-939-4401
Harlem Hospital, New York, NY

PLASTIC SURGERY

Cooper, Michael, M.D. 212-988-4800
133 East 73rd Street, New York, NY 10021

Second Office
120 East 61st Street, New York, NY 10021

Hospital Affiliations:
Jamaica Hospital Medical Center
North General Hospital
St. Vincents Hospital & Medical Center
Staten Island University Hospital

Long, Kim, M.D. 212-988-4800
133 East 73rd Street, New York, NY 10021

Gayle, Lloyd B., M.D. 000-000-0000
New York Presbyterian Hospital, New York, NY

Morrison, Norman G., M.D. 212-289-3600
New York, NY

Ofodile, Ferdinand, M.D. 212-939-3537
Harlem Hospital Center, New York, NY

Olivier, Wendy, M.D. 718-250-6920
1085 Park Avenue, Suite 1N, New York, NY 10128

Smith, Aloysius, M.D.
955 Yonkers Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10704

914-237-6002

PODIATRIST

Anthony, Diane D.P.M

888-793-8285

Pinnock, Richard, M.D.
87-59 171st Street, Jamaica, NY 11412

718-291-4111

Ransom, Sherry, M.D.
360 North Columbus Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY 10552

914-668-5296

Sears, Dawn, M.D.
187-25 Linden Blvd., St. Albans, NY 11412

718-527-4510

Sears, Floyd, M.D.
187-25 Linden Blvd., St. Albans, NY 11412

718-527-4510

PODIATRY MEDICINE

Archer, Jean, M.D.
Jamaica, NY

718-864-1111

Everette, Denise
120-31 Guy Brewer Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11434

718-723-3143

Fung-Schwartz, Jennifer, M.D.
50 West 97th Street, Suite 1A, New York, NY 10025

212-281-5613

Harris, Carline N., D.P.M.
116 Clinton Street, Suite 1FF, Brooklyn, NY 11201

718-834-7663

Nowell, Patricia, M.D.
140 West 140th Street, New York, NY 10021

212-932-3548

Ward, Andrea, M.P.M.
58 East 116th Street, New York, NY 10029

212-426-6179

Hospital Affiliations:
North General Hospital

Hurt, Melvin, M.D.
221-10 Jamaica Avenue, Suite 104, Queens Village, NY 11428

718-776-7323

PSYCHIATRY

Ballard, Bruce, M.D.
445 East 69th Street, Room 110, New York, NY 10021
Hospital Affiliation:
New York Presbyterian Hospital

212-746-1057

Barnes, Cynthia D., M.D.
875 Avenue of the America, Suite 2401, New York, NY 10001

212-563-1112

Ellis, Gloria, M.D.
146 Central Park West, New York, NY 10023

212-580-7528

Harrison-Ross, Phyllis MD

212-334-0125

McCurtis, Henry L., M.D.
146 Central Park West, New York, NY 10023
Hospital Affiliation:
New York Presbyterian Hospital
Harlem Hospital

212-580-2222

Sindos, Maria, M.D.
69 Crawford Terrace, New Rochelle, NY 10804

718-760-0440

Williams, Daniel T., M.D.
300 New Hyde Park Rd., Suite 204, New Hyde Park, NY 11042

516-488-3636

PSYCHOLOGY

Brice-Baker, Janet R., Ph.D.
1300 Morris Park Avenue, Bronx, NY 10461

718-430-3857

PULMONARY MEDICINE

Ankobiah, William 718-341-3535
253-02 147th Avenue, Rosedale, NY 11422

Babb, Frank, M.D. 212-926-6900
284 Convent Avenue, New York, NY 10031
Hospital Affiliation:
North General Hospital

Makolo, Eric 914-663-6663
153 Stevens Avenue, Suite 4, Mount Vernon, NY 10550

RADIOLOGY

Efiong, James, M.D. 914-667-5907
105 Stevens Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY 10550

McPherson Jr., Henry A., M.D. 718-226-9000
2655 Richmond Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10314

Miles, W. A., M.D. xxx-xxx-xxxx
P.O. Box 187, Rye, NY 10580

Payne David R., M.D. 212-477-8180
380 2nd Avenue, New York, NY 10010

Plummer, Robert, M.D. 718-324-2296
4769 White Plains Road, Bronx, NY 10470

Wilkins, Robert, M.D. 212-459-8172
415 West 51st Street, New York, NY 10019

REHABILITATION MEDICINE

Carter, Alicia Russell, M.D. 212-375-1438
380 Second Avenue, Suite 306, New York, NY 10010

Gibbs, William, M.D. 718-977-8022
134-35 Springfield Blvd., Springfield Gardens, NY 11413

Gillego, Azucena, M.D. 000-000-0000
205-07 Hillside Avenue, Suite #10, Hollis, NY 11423

Goldson, Jeffrey, M.D. 718-604-5000
168 Evergreen Drive, Westbury, NY 11590

Graham, Kenneth, M.D. 000-000-0000
108-48 Ditmars Blvd., East Elmhurst, NY 11369

Reid, Malcolm, M.D. 212-523-6595
St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital
1000 Tenth Avenue, #3B-20, New York, NY 10019
Hospital Affiliation:
St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital

SPINAL DEFORMITIES

Boachie-Adjiei, Oheneba, M.D. 212-606-1948
Hospital for Special Surgery, New York, NY

SPORTS MEDICINE

King, Osric, M.D. 718-591-5693
Fresh Meadows, NY

SURGERY

Auguste, Louis-Joseph, M.D. 516-775-3650
410 Lakeville Road, Suite 100, New Hyde Park, NY 11042

Godfrey, Henry, M.D. 212-423-4700
1824 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10035

Mendez, Donna, M.D. 212-636-4990
2090 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY 10025

Hospital Affiliations:
Lenox Hill Hospital
North General Hospital
St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital
Specialty: Vascular Surgery

Satterfield, James, M.D. 718-297-3788
86-90 188th Street, Hollis, NY 11423

TRANSPLANT SURGERY

UROLOGY

Barnswell, Carlton, M.D. 516-328-8775
442 Elmont Road, Elmont, NY 11003

Coleburn, Norman H., M.D. 212-523-3726
1090 Amsterdam Avenue, Suite 7G, New York, NY 10025
Hospital Affiliation:
St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital

Cowan, Jay, M.D. 212-281-5252
470 Lenox Avenue, New York, NY 10037

Delph, Walter, M.D. 212-523-2442
1090 Amsterdam Avenue, Suite 7G, New York, NY 10025
Hospital Affiliations:
Lenox Hill Hospital
North General Hospital
St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital

Hoke, Gerald P., M.D. 212-305-5524
180 Fort Washington Avenue, New York, NY 10032
Hospital Affiliations:
Harlem Hospital
New York Presbyterian Hospital
North General Hospital

Stone, Brian, M.D. 212-305-0120
180 Fort Washington Avenue, Suite 212, New York, NY 10032
Hospital Affiliations:
New York Presbyterian Hospital
Harlem Hospital
Montefiore Hospital
North General Hospital

Reid, Roberto, M.D. 718-904-0222
1695 Eastchester Road, Bronx, NY 10461

Winkler, Alfred, M.D. 718-906-1352
187-18 Linden Blvd., St. Albans, NY

VASCULAR SURGERY

Garvey, Julius, M.D.

516-326-3255

3003 New Hyde Park Road, Suite 410, New Hyde Park, NY 11042

Mendez, Donna M., M.D.

212-636-4990

1090 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY 10025

Ohajekwe, Ogedi, M.D.

914-668-2288

200 Stevens Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY 10550

Medicaid

How do I apply for Medicaid?

You can apply for Medicaid in any one of the following ways:

- Write, phone, or go to your [local department of social services](#).
- In New York City, contact the [Human Resources Administration](#) by calling (718) 557-1399. Residents of the five boroughs of New York City may call toll free at 1-877-472-8411.
- Pregnant women and children can apply at many clinics, hospitals, and Prenatal Care Assistance Program (PCAP) offices. Call your local department of social services to find out where you can apply.
- If you are in a facility operated by the [New York State Office of Mental Health](#), contact the patient resource office.
- If you are in a facility certified by the [New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities](#), contact the revenue and reimbursement office.

What is Medicaid?

Medicaid is a program for New Yorkers who can't afford to pay for medical care.

How do I know if I qualify for Medicaid?

You may be covered by Medicaid if:

- You have high medical bills.
- You receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- You meet certain income, resource, age, or disability requirements.

How do I apply for Medicaid?

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Pregnant women and children can apply at many clinics, hospitals, and Prenatal Care Assistance Program (PCAP) offices. Call your local department of social services to find out where you can apply.

If you are in a facility operated by the [New York State Office of Mental Health](#), contact the patient resource office.

If you are in a facility certified by the [New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities](#), contact the revenue and reimbursement office.

When I go for my application interview, what should I take with me?

- Proof of age, like a birth certificate
- Proof of citizenship or alien status*
- Recent paycheck stubs (if you are working)
- Proof of your income from sources like Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran's Benefits (VA), retirement
- Any bank books and insurance policies that you may have
- Proof of where you live, like a rent receipt or landlord statement
- Insurance benefit card or the policy (if you have any other health insurance)
- Medicare Benefit Card

***NOTE:** Medicaid coverage is available, regardless of alien status, if you are pregnant or require treatment for an emergency medical condition. A doctor must certify that you are pregnant or had an emergency, and you must meet all other eligibility requirements.

If I think I am eligible for Medicaid, should I cancel any other health insurance I might already have?

No. If you currently pay for health insurance or Medicare coverage or have the option of getting that coverage, but cannot afford the payment, Medicaid can pay the premiums under certain circumstances.

Even if you are not eligible for Medicaid benefits, the premiums can still be paid, in some instances, if you lose your job or have your work hours reduced. If you need help with a COBRA premium, you must apply quickly, to determine if Medicaid can help pay the premium.

You may be eligible for the Medicare Buy-in Program. This program pays your Medicare premiums and deductibles.

If you have Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Medicaid may be able to help pay your health insurance premiums.

If I can't leave the house, can I still apply?

Yes. Call your local social services office and ask how this can be done.

How do I know if my income and resources qualify me for Medicaid?

The chart below shows how much income you can receive in a month and the amount of resources you can retain and still qualify for Medicaid. The income and resource levels depend on the number of your family members who live with you.

2005 Income & Resource Levels*

Number in Family	Monthly Net Income	Resources
1	\$667	\$4000

2005 Income & Resource Levels*

Number in Family	Monthly Net Income	Resources
2	\$975	\$5850
3	\$984	\$5900
4	\$992	\$5950
5	\$1000	\$6000
6	\$1134	\$6800
7	\$1275	\$7650
8	\$1417	\$8500
For each additional person, add:	\$142	\$850

Income and Resource Levels are subject to yearly adjustments.

You may also own a home, a car, and personal property and still be eligible. The income and resources of legally responsible relatives in the household will also be counted.

Can I be eligible for Medicaid even if I make more money than the chart shows?

Yes, some people can. Pregnant women and children can have higher income levels and no resource limits.

Pregnant women, children, disabled persons, and others may also be eligible for Medicaid if their income and/or resources are above these levels and they have medical bills. Ask your Medicaid worker if you fit into one of these groups.

Expanded Income levels for Children and Pregnant Women

- Infants to age one and pregnant women - 200% of the federal poverty level.
- Children age 1 through 5 years - 133% of the federal poverty level.
- Children age 6 through 18 years - 100% of the federal poverty level effective April 1, 2005 - 133% of the federal poverty level prior to April 1, 2005.

Monthly Income Effective January 1, 2005*

Number in Family	100% FPL**	133% FPL**	200% FPL**
1	798	1061	1595
2	1070	1422	2139
3	1341	1784	2682
4	1613	2145	3225
5	1885	2506	3769
6	2156	2868	4312
7	2428	3229	4855

Monthly Income Effective January 1, 2005*

Number in Family	100% FPL**	133% FPL**	200% FPL**
8	2700	3590	5399
For each additional person, add:	+272	+362	+544

* Income Levels are subject to yearly adjustments.

** FPL = Federal Poverty Level

What are my rights?

If you wish to apply for Medicaid, contact the [local department of social services](#). Generally, local districts must determine if you are eligible and send a letter notifying you if your application has been accepted or denied within 45 days of the date of your application. If you are pregnant or applying on behalf of children, the local district has 30 days from the date of your application to determine if you are eligible for Medicaid. If you are applying and have a disability which must be evaluated, it can take up to 90 days to determine if you are eligible.

If you are dissatisfied with a decision made by the local social services district, you may request a conference with the agency. You may also appeal to the [New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance](#) and request a Fair Hearing.

To apply for a Fair Hearing you should telephone the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance Fair Hearing Office. Effective March 15, 2004 the Office of Administrative Hearings established a statewide toll-free number for clients and representatives to use when requesting a hearing.

The new statewide toll-free request number is 800-342-3334

Or write:

*Fair Hearing Section
New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
P.O. Box 1930
Albany, NY 12201*

Can I still keep part of my income if I am in a nursing home (Residential Health Care Facility) or in an intermediate care facility for the developmentally disabled?

Yes. Under Medicaid you are allowed to keep a small amount for your personal needs. You can also keep some of your income for your family if they are dependent on you. A spouse who remains in the community may also keep resources and income above the levels shown.

Will there be a lien (legal claim) placed on my estate (my assets) when I die?

If you receive medical services paid for by Medicaid on or after your 55th birthday, or when permanently residing in a medical institution, Medicaid may recover the amount of the cost of these services from the assets in your estate upon your death.

What health services are covered by Medicaid?

In general, the following services are paid for by Medicaid, but some may not be covered for you because of your age, financial circumstances, family situation, transfer of resource requirements, or living arrangements. Some services have small co-payments. These services may be provided using your Medicaid card or through your managed care plan if you are enrolled in managed care. You will not have a co-pay if you are in a managed care plan.

- smoking cessation agents
- treatment and preventive health and dental care (doctors and dentists)
- hospital inpatient and outpatient services
- laboratory and X-ray services
- care in a nursing home
- care through home health agencies and personal care
- treatment in psychiatric hospitals (for persons under 21 or those 65 and older), mental health facilities, and facilities for the mentally retarded or the developmentally disabled
- family planning services
- early periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment for children under 21 years of age under the Child/Teen Health Program
- medicine, supplies, medical equipment, and appliances (wheelchairs, etc.)
- clinic services
- transportation to medical appointments, including public transportation and car mileage
- emergency ambulance transportation to a hospital
- prenatal care
- some insurance and Medicare premiums
- other health services

If you are eligible for Medicaid, you will receive a Benefit Identification Card which must be used when you need medical services. There may be limitations on certain services.

For you to use your Benefit Identification Card for certain medical supplies, equipment, or services (e.g., wheelchair, orthopedic shoes, transportation), you or the person or facility that will provide the service must receive approval before the service can be provided (prior approval).

What is a Medicaid managed care program?

Enrollment in a Medicaid managed care program through a Health Maintenance

Organization (HMO), clinic, hospital, or physician group is available at any [local departments of social services](#). You may be required to join a managed care plan. When you join a managed care program, you will choose a personal doctor who will be responsible for making sure all your health care needs are met. The doctor will send you to someone else if you need more help than the doctor can provide.

What does managed care cover?

Managed care covers most of the benefits recipients will use, including all preventive and primary care, inpatient care, and eye care. People in managed care plans use their Medicaid benefit card to get those services that the plan does not cover.

Do I have to join a managed care plan?

In many counties you can join a plan if there is one available and you want to. However, there are some counties where families will have to join a plan. In these counties there are some individuals who don't have to join. Please check with your local social services department to see if you have to join a plan.

Of special interest to persons with disabilities:

If you think you are disabled, and if you meet the criteria for disability included in the Social Security Act, you may be eligible for Medicaid.

If you believe you are disabled, you must furnish the [local department of social services](#) with medical evidence about your impairment(s).

It may be necessary for you to have further examinations and/or tests for the disability to be determined.

The cost of such examinations, consultations, and tests requested by the disability review team, if not otherwise covered, will be paid by the local social services agency.

NOTE: Persons who are denied for reasons of failure to meet the disability criteria are entitled to appeal the disability decision that led to the denial of their application. See the section of this page entitled "[What are my rights?](#)". Any person dissatisfied with the Fair Hearing decision of the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance may also appeal to the court system.

[Local Department of Social Services](#)

NAACP New York Branch Contacts

- **Buffalo Branch**
Phone: (716)884-7242
Fax: (716)884-7243
Address: 1490 Jefferson Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14208-1518
Web Site: www.apollo3.com/naacp/
- **Central Long Island NAACP Branch**
Phone: (631)842-6054
- **Huntington Branch**
Phone: (631)351-1211
- **Islip Town Branch**
Phone:
Address: Islip Town Naacp ACT-SO Program,
Bay Shore, NY 11706-6721
- **Long Beach Branch**
Phone:1-(877)841-3296
Address: P.O. BOX 774 , Long Beach, NY 11561
Web Site: www.lbnaacp.org
- **Mid-Manhattan**
Phone: (212)749-2323
Address: 270 West 96th Street, New York, NY 10025
- **Freeport-Roosevelt Youth Council**
Phone: (516)223-0111
Fax: (516)623-1482
Address: 434 Nassau Road Roosevelt, NY 11575
- **NYC Dept. of Social Services**
NYC Dept. of Housing
NYC Mid-Manhattan
NYC Williamsbridge
Address: 270 West 96th Street, New York, NY 10025
Phone: (212)749-2323
email:mmbnaacp@aol.com
- **Syracuse Branch**
Phone: (315)478-0480
Address: 311 Parkway Drive, Syracuse, NY 13207
- **Troy Branch**
Phone: (518)271-9086
Address: 542 8th Street, Troy, NY 12180
- **Westchester Region Branch**
Phone: (914)592-5600
- **Williams bridge Branch**
Phone: (212)666-9348

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- Contractors: <http://www.ccr.gov/>
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To extend equally to all New Yorkers, regardless of their ability to pay, comprehensive health services of the highest quality in an atmosphere of humane care, dignity and respect;

To promote and protect, as both innovator and advocate, the health, welfare and safety of the people of the City of New York;

To join with other health workers and with communities in a partnership which will enable each of our institutions to promote and protect health in its fullest sense -- the total physical, mental and social well-being of the people.

Bellevue Hospital Center

462 First Avenue
New York, New York 10016
General Information: (212) 562-1000

Elmhurst Hospital Center

79-01 Broadway
Elmhurst, New York 11373
General Information: (718) 334-4000

Harlem Hospital Center

506 Lenox Avenue
New York, New York 10037
General Information: (212) 939-1000

Jacobi Medical Center

1400 Pelham Parkway South
Bronx, New York 10461
General Information: (718) 918-5000

Kings County Hospital Center

451 Clarkson Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11203
For Appointments: (718) 245-3325
General Information: (718) 245-3131

North Central Bronx Hospital

3424 Kossuth Avenue
Bronx, New York 10467
General Information: (718) 519-5000

Renaissance Health Care Network Diagnostic & Treatment Center

215 West 125 Street
New York, New York 10027
General Information: (212) 932-6500

Queens Hospital Center

82-70 164th Street
Jamaica, New York 11432
General Information: (718) 883-3000

