**Value of the 340B Program**

Mercy Fitzgerald and Mercy Philadelphia Hospitals

__Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital__, located in Darby, PA, is a 178 licensed bed acute care community teaching hospital that has been serving a large number of economically fragile neighborhoods in Delaware County and Southwest Philadelphia for 85 years. __Mercy Philadelphia Hospital__ has been caring for the communities in West and Southwest Philadelphia for 100 years, and has 157 licensed beds.

Mercy Fitzgerald and Mercy Philadelphia Hospitals are members of Mercy Health System, a mission-driven Regional Health Ministry of Trinity Health whose Mission is to "...serve together in the spirit of the Gospel as a compassionate and healing presence within our communities." In fulfilling this Mission, we have a special concern for persons who are poor and disadvantaged. Our Vision is "... we will become the recognized leader in improving the health of our communities and each person we serve. We will be known as the most trusted health partner for life."

Both Hospitals serve communities struggling with acute needs. To illustrate this, a measure known as the Community Need Index (CNI) quantifies the existence and extent of five (5) socio-economic barriers to care: income, culture/language, education, insurance state and, housing in every zip code in the country. A score of four (4) or higher on the CNI scale demonstrates the greatest barriers to good health care. The CNI for the area served by Mercy Philadelphia Hospital is 4.5, one of the highest in Pennsylvania. The CNI for the area served by Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital is 3.8, also very high as compared to the State CNI of 2.7.

**THE BENEFITS OF THE 340B PROGRAM**

The 340B Prescription Drug Program is a vital lifeline for safety-net providers, supporting critical health services in our communities. This program is narrowly tailored to reach only hospitals that provide a high level of services to low-income individuals or hospitals that serve isolated rural communities. Significantly, more 340B hospitals provide money-losing vital health services than non-340B hospitals, such as trauma centers, HIV-AIDS services, and immunizations.

Beyond the hospital walls, Mercy Fitzgerald and Mercy Philadelphia healthcare teams have continually demonstrated their commitment to the well-being of the communities they serve. A comprehensive community outreach program offers free education, screenings and health events throughout the year, including the popular and free Dine with the Docs series, support groups and education, as well as alliances with churches, community organizations and leaders. Both Hospitals impact the lives of thousands of residents annually. In the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018 Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital provided over $11.1 million in community benefits serving 23,227 individuals, and Mercy Philadelphia Hospital provided $11.1 million in community benefits serving 30,757 individuals.
IMPACT IF THE 340B PROGRAM WAS SCALED BACK
As Safety Net Hospitals, Mercy Fitzgerald and Philadelphia Hospitals collaborate with various community organizations to improve the health of the community. The 340B savings enables these hospitals to provide the delivery of prescribed medications to patients prior to discharge. The Dine with the Docs is a free monthly educational series providing the community an opportunity to learn about important health topics, and creates an open dialogue with Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital and Mercy Philadelphia Hospital physicians and clinicians over a complimentary meal. Preventive educational and screening programs fill a vital community need that are made possible in part through the 340B program.

OUR STORIES

A Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital Patient Receives Life-Saving Care
Ms. C. is a 63-year-old patient diagnosed with Stage IV Adenocarcinoma of the Lung. Ms. C has no insurance and came to our Emergency Department after coughing up blood for more than a year.

She applied for Medicaid, was accepted and received a course of radiation therapy. However, she experienced a lot pain with the lung cancer and the radiation treatment.

With the support of the 340B program, she recently started a new protocol with Immunotherapy (Ketruda) and Chemotherapy (Carboplatinum) combined to attack the lung cancer. After two treatments with this regimen, her lung pain significantly decreased.

Without the 340B Program this patient would not have been able to receive this immunotherapy/chemotherapy regimen that will help prolong her life and relieve her pain and symptoms!

A Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital Supports Patient-Centered Cancer Care
Patient Z was diagnosed with breast cancer. With no medical insurance, she applied for state Medicaid.

She needed Chemotherapy and her regimen included Taxol, Herceptin and Prejeta. This patient would not have received this much-needed chemotherapy regimen if were not for the 340B Program.

Patient Z also had multiple social issues, including lack of transport and bed bugs in her home. With the support of our program, she was referred to our Oncology Social Worker who further assisted this patient. We got approval to buy her four sets of new clothes, paid for her home to be fumigated and inspected, and also paid for cab vouchers so that she did not have any discontinuation of her care regimen or chemotherapy.