

CRAIN'S HEALTH pulse

A daily fax on the business of health care

TODAY'S NEWS

ATKINS PRACTICE

The medical practice of the Atkins Center for Complementary Medicine in midtown Manhattan will continue as a new practice under Dr. Keith Berkowitz, the former medical director of the Atkins Center. The Atkins Center, which had 66,000 patients, was recently closed by the Atkins estate. Though Dr. Robert Atkins was known for his groundbreaking Atkins Diet, he treated patients not only for weight management but also for early detection of heart disease, metabolic and hormonal disorders, diabetes and polycystic ovarian syndrome. His sudden death left thousands of people without a plan for continued care. Several professionals from the Atkins Center will work at Dr. Berkowitz's new practice, which opened on Irving Place last week.

OB/GYN TRAINING

Aetna has awarded a \$49,000 grant to the New York state chapter of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists to fund a cultural-competency training program. The program, which will be developed and tested on 225 OB/GYNs in New York City and Rochester and on Long Is-

PULSE EXTRA: Today's edition is the first of two detailing a Leapfrog Group Survey on patient safety practices.

Plan calls for more city clinics

The Community Health Care Association of New York State is calling for a dramatic expansion in the number of clinics in New York City and in rural counties. The association recently released its statewide strategic plan which was undertaken in response to a funding initiative by the Bush administration to expand the number of clinics nationwide.

The plan envisions increasing the number of clinics and satellite clinics to 290 from about 240 by 2006. Combined with expansions of existing clinics, the number of people served would increase by about 43%. The association hopes to see much of that expansion take place in New York City. Some 68 of the 114 proposed expansions of clinics and services would happen in the city.

How much of the plan becomes a reality, remains to be seen. Very little of the estimated \$94 million in capital investment would be provided by federal grants. The association plans to work with the Primary Care Development Corp., a nonprofit that helps clinics obtain funding, to identify additional public and private sources of funds.

land this spring, is designed to help physicians overcome patients' cultural barriers to receiving care. Complex cultural beliefs and traditions typically surround issues like women's health, pregnancy and childbirth, and can prevent patients from following the advice of doctors. ACDG plans to eventually offer the program to the 3,600 OB/GYNs throughout the seats.

ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON

Ratings agency Standard & Poor's has lowered its outlook on bonds for Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in Now Brunswick, N.J., to 'negative' from 'stable.' The ratings agency has reaffirmed its A+ rating on the bonds, however. While the hospital has a strong market share

and historically has made money, S&P notes that it lost \$19 Million during the eight month period ended Aug. 31, due to increased costs and unfavorable managed care contracts. This past summer, MOWS Investors Service downgraded Robert Wood Johnson's bonds to A2 from to A1.

AT A GLANCE

WHO'S NEWS: Dr. Steven Bergmann has been named chief of cardiology at Belt Israel Medical Center. Dr. Bergmann was also named the now clinical director of the Continuum Heart Institute. He previously served as director of nuclear cardiology at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center.