



The Menorah Model

Find out how the *Menorah Park Center for Senior Living* utilizes a unique continuous care model to help its clients heal, go home, and move forward.

by **Jennifer Woomer**

The scenario plays out at most skilled nursing centers: A sub-acute patient arrives from the hospital at 8 p.m. on a Friday, but the staff knows nothing about him except what they read in his medical charts. The patient's condition worsens over the weekend, necessitating a return trip to the hospital.

"Our goal is to reduce the re-hospitalization of sub-acute patients through a unique medical approach that combines a full-time medical staff and continuity of care from the hospital to Menorah Park," says Richard Schwalberg, administrator of *Menorah Park Center for Senior Living*.

Consistent, quality care is why Menorah Park is ranked among the top 10 percent of senior care centers nationally and boasts a five-star rating by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

"Because we have full-time doctors and physician assistants, there's a higher level of communication and collaboration, which enhances the care of each patient," says Dr. Michael Knight, medical director, who works closely with full-time physician Dr. Earl Polish. "Less than five percent of skilled nursing facilities have a full-time medical staff whose primary focus is on post-hospital rehab."

Also a member of the dedicated staff is Dr. Rajesh Agarwal, a part-time Menorah Park physician who also works in private practice. He has long recognized the importance of caring for patients through both hospitalization and post-hospital rehab.

Recently, Menorah Park teamed with Dr. Syed Ashraf and his medical group. "Dr. Ashraf serves his patients' needs at Hillcrest Hospital and follows them at Menorah Park in post-hospital rehab," Michael notes. "After their patients are admitted here, they continue under the care of Dr. Ashraf. We've used this successful care approach for about a year."

Continuity of care extends beyond Menorah Park's permanent medical staff.

"We invite physicians to follow their patients through the post-hospital program," Richard says. "When there's continuity of care and regular communication among physicians, physician assistants, and the interdisciplinary care team, it allows the patients to heal, go home and move forward with their lives."

Menorah Park Center for Senior Living is located at 27100 Cedar Road, in Beachwood. The phone number is 216-831-6500 and the web address is www.menorahpark.org.