

“Providing primary care in the community is vital to the health and welfare of our community. Innovative ways to provide the highest quality of patient care in a fiscally conservative manner is required to meet this goal. The physicians at North Star have shown their commitment to patient care by joining together for the good of the community.”

THE GROUP ADVANTAGE:

Patients Benefit When Physicians Collaborate

Physician consolidation into larger and larger groups is now the rule rather than the exception, even in conservative Westchester County. In order to maintain the highest quality of patient care and achieve financial stability, there is power in numbers.

After more than two years, North Star Medical Group, P.C. (NSMG) has achieved many goals to benefit the health care needs of their patients.

As a regional group, North Star provides primary care in offices convenient to where patients live and work, including Dobbs Ferry, Sleepy Hollow, Tarrytown, Briarcliff, Pleasantville, Ossining, Croton, and Buchanan. Internal Medicine and Family Medicine physicians are all Board Certified and in addition to being attending physicians at Phelps, are Affiliated Physicians at Columbia University, College of Physicians & Surgeons. NSMG physicians include: Stere Carniciu, M.D., Michael Christensen, M.D., Lawrence Goldstein, M.D., Bruce Heckman, M.D., M.P.H., Christy Joyce, M.D., Irina Klyatis, M.D., Martin Melman, M.D., Edward Merker, M.D., Dora Piccirilli, M.D., Frank Soroka, M.D., Charles Starke, M.D., Richard Strongwater, M.D., Walter Szpur, M.D., and Mary Wolfe, M.D. Recruitment of additional primary care physicians and specialists is on-going.

According to Bruce H. Heckman, MD, MPH, President of North Star

Medical Group, P.C., “Our primary goal in forming a group was to ensure that the highest quality of patient care was available to patients during very difficult economic times.”

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All NSMG offices are connected to an internet-based practice management system and electronic health record with direct access to Phelps Hospital and all local pharmacies. This facilitates better patient care by allowing physicians to access patient records from remote sites so that history and diagnostic records are available. E-prescribing automatically checks for medication allergies, drug interactions, and transmits a legible prescription to the pharmacist by the time the patient leaves the office. The medical information allows for computerized studies of patients’ records that identify the need for health maintenance follow-up in healthy patients and display follow-up tests and treatments for patients with chronic illness. The system also allows front-desk staff to work with the patient in ensuring that his or her insurance plan is active, reviewing the requirements for co-payments and

NORTH STAR MEDICAL GROUP



Stere Carniciu



David Christensen



Lawrence Goldstein



Bruce Heckman



Christy Joyce



Martin Meiman



Edward Merker



Dora Piccirilli



Frank Soroka



Charles Starke



Richard Strongwater



Walter Szpur



Irina Klyatis



Mary Wolfe

deductibles, and determining the need for referrals to specialists and for procedures.

NSMG has an extensive laboratory facility and performs Echos, Ultrasounds, Holters, and other testing at the physician's office for the convenience of the patient. Nutritional counseling services are provided at the local site. A Travel Medicine program is also available.

In providing the broadest spectrum of medical care to meet their patients' needs, North Star physicians provide urgent and routine medical care in their offices, in the hospital setting and emergency room, in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

Further information about North Star Medical Group, P.C. can be obtained by calling 914-923-9414.

Group Counseling:

Offering help during difficult times

Phelps Counseling offers group therapy services for people who are:

- Sad, or nervous
- Not sleeping or eating well
- Arguing more with family or friends
- Grieving over the loss of a loved one
- Going through a separation/divorce
- Living life without a partner
- Older and feeling less purposeful or productive
- Adolescents struggling with school, family or friends
- Experiencing chronic physical illness that is upsetting

Bilingual services are available. Most insurance plans are accepted. For information or an appointment, please call:

Phelps Counseling Service,
Sleepy Hollow, NY
(914) 366-3600

Phelps Ossining Satellite Clinic,
Ossining, NY
(914) 944-5250

Echo Hills Counseling Service,
Hastings-on-Hudson, NY
(914) 478-0633