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NYC Care Launches in Brooklyn, Staten Island

By: Amanda Eisenberg

The de Blasio administration expanded a NYC Health + Hospitals effort to connect more indigent and undocumented New Yorkers in Brooklyn and Staten Island to primary care and other services today.

The effort — dubbed NYC Care — launched in the Bronx in August and has since enrolled more than 13,000 New Yorkers, officials said at a press conference in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. The program, which is not health insurance, will roll out to Manhattan and Queens by the end of the year.

NYC Care offers visits within two weeks — “which beats the private sector by 50 percent across the country” — and the health system has distributed more than 20,000 prescriptions, said Dr. Ted Long, a primary care physician at NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health, Morrisania.

“That means that those 20,000 medications before the program in the Bronx would not have been filled. Our patients would not have been able to get them,” he said. “We want to bring all this to Brooklyn and Staten Island now. We want to bring the two-week guarantee of primary care appointments, we want to bring our expanded hours.”

The health system also announced that all pharmacies in its 11 hospitals are open on weekdays until 9 p.m.

“Access to health care makes a difference in people’s lives,” Bitta Mostofi, the commissioner of the Mayor’s Office of Immigration Affairs, said at the press conference.