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## Welvista Reduces Hospital Costs for Uninsured Diabetes Patients

A pre and post study of change in hospital use by diabetes patients enrolled in Welvista's medication assistance program showed a significant decrease in both inpatient and ED visits by patients receiving their essential medications.\*

A total of 530 diabetes patients were studied for 12 months prior to their enrollment and 12 months after receipt of their first prescription from Welvista.

Findings showed a 25% decrease in ED use and a 44.8% decrease in inpatient hospitalization by diabetes patients enrolled in Welvista's medication assistance program

Based on these findings, an estimated \$169 million\*\* could be saved if all uninsured patients in South Carolina with diabetes and related conditions were enrolled in the Welvista medication assistance program and were compliant with their drug therapy.

\* Methodology: Uninsured Inpatient and ED cases where the primary diagnosis was "diabetes/hypertension or a related condition" were identified from the 2008 Uniform Billing database. \*\*This is not a representation of dollars actually saved for clients already enrolled in Welvista.



### Welvista thanks our pharmaceutical partners:



► Welvista announces E-Prescribing, a new program enabling physicians to send prescriptions to our pharmacy electronically.



► SMILES patient Shammah Scott enjoys his trips to see Dr. Patrick at the SMILES Center in Allendale.



► Welvista helps uninsured cancer patient Lauriette Kirkland receive essential medication.



► Studies show Welvista reduces hospital costs for uninsured diabetes patients.

# Welvista

Formerly Known As CommuniCare

## news

Fall 09



### Sincere Thanks to Dr. Rudolph Rustin

The Board of Directors of Welvista extends its deepest appreciation to our outgoing Chairman, Dr. Rudolph Byrd Rustin, III, thanking him for many years of leadership and service to our cause.

A longtime supporter of Welvista, (which was founded by his late stepfather, Dr. Bart Barone) Dr. Rustin was elected Chairman of the Board in January 2003 and has worked with tireless dedication, leadership, and expertise to help shape the future of Welvista.

Dr. Rustin's passion for carrying out Welvista's original mission of helping all people live healthier, more productive lives has continued the legacy of founder Dr. Bart Barone.

As Dr. Rustin continues using his talents to promote wellness through his own medical practice and his work with other charitable organizations, we thank and honor him for his commitment and ongoing support of Welvista.

## A Conversation With John J. Singerling COO, Palmetto Health Richland



Like other hospitals in South Carolina and across America, Palmetto Health Richland is feeling the effects of the financial crisis, as more uninsured and underinsured patients seek care in their facilities. We spoke with John Singerling, Chief Operating Officer of Palmetto Health Richland in Columbia, to learn how the economy is impacting them.

### WV: Has the recession affected your patients?

**Singerling:** We are seeing a dramatic increase in requests for financial assistance, as people struggle to make ends meet. As a result, we are forced to absorb uncompensated care, which includes charity care and bad debt. This places a huge challenge on our ability to sustain our current level of services.

### WV: Has it impacted your ability to provide care?

**Singerling:** We are implementing initiatives to strategically grow our business in order to achieve our social mission. By taking corrective action early in the recession and being good stewards of our resources, thus far we have been able to protect our core responsibility to our community.

### WV: What is the partnership between Palmetto Health Richland and Welvista?

**Singerling:** Welvista shares our commitment to improving the human condition. In June 2008, Welvista allocated a representative to our hospital to facilitate enrollment for patients who qualify for their medication assistance program. Since January 2009, over 500 patients have been enrolled in the Welvista program, consuming more than 1,862 prescriptions at a total value of \$546,300.

### WV: How does Welvista help your hospital?

**Singerling:** Bottom line, we believe Welvista is helping patients lead healthier, more productive lives. By providing the necessary medications, patients are more likely to be compliant with their treatment regimen, which in turn leads to a reduction in visits to our Emergency Department and re-admissions to our hospital.

### WV: How does Welvista impact our state?

**Singerling:** Welvista has developed partnerships with community donors, pharmaceutical companies, healthcare providers, free medical clinics, community health centers, and hospitals to supply needed medical information, treatment and medications to qualified, low-wage, uninsured citizens of South Carolina. When a person can obtain the medications they need to help control or cure their disease, it helps support the quality of their lives.

### WV: How does the problem of the uninsured affect our state and nation?

**Singerling:** The effect of the uninsured and underinsured on the economy is enormous. Payments for over 70% of patients do not cover their costs of care. By not covering their costs, hospitals are forced to shift the financial burden to the other 30% to subsidize the losses. Most people recognize the current healthcare system is broken. Without a doubt, too many of our citizens are uninsured or underinsured. We must develop an efficient delivery system that provides affordable and accessible care for all Americans.

**Read this interview in its entirety at [welvista.org](http://welvista.org)**

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