

## **Northwell, CHSLI to launch ED opioid pilots**

Often when patients wake up in a Northwell Health emergency department after overdosing on opioids, they realize they are in withdrawal and want to leave immediately to get high again, said Jonathan Morgenstern, director of substance abuse services at Northwell. In a few weeks the health system is launching a pilot program at Long Island Jewish Medical Center that will allow emergency department doctors to offer a patient buprenorphine treatment on-site with their consent to help reduce opioid cravings. "If we can prescribe people buprenorphine, it will help them feel better and hopefully get connected to care," said Morganstern.

Catholic Health Services of Long Island is in the process of training emergency-department doctors in order to roll out a similar pilot at Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center, which will also include peer navigators to help get people into treatment, said Dr. Christopher Raio, chairman of emergency medicine at CHSLI.

Raio will be speaking about the initiative at an event this weekend hosted by the Medication-Assisted Treatment Learning Collaborative—a new coalition of religious organizations and medical professionals on Long Island that are pushing for health care and drug-treatment providers to expand access to medication-assisted treatment.

Both Raio and Morganstern say one of the biggest challenges in getting the pilots up and running has been creating warm hand-offs with treatment programs that can continue prescribing buprenorphine and offer other types of substance-use services once patients are released.