

Opioid overdose program expands to Mount Sinai Beth Israel

Relay, an opioid overdose program, has expanded to Mount Sinai Beth Israel, the city's Health Department said Tuesday.

Part of the city's HealingNYC initiative to combat the opioid epidemic, Relay connects individuals who have survived opioid overdoses with trained wellness advocates while they are in emergency departments. The program is now available at seven hospitals throughout the five boroughs, according to the city.

Participating hospitals are able to contact Relay representatives 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to request a wellness advocate. The advocates provide risk counseling to individuals who have survived opioid overdoses, rescue training and a prevention kit containing naloxone to reverse the effects of an overdose.

"Whether it's naloxone training or support connecting to treatment for opioid use, we are committed to meeting our patients where they are at," said Acting Health Commissioner Dr. Oxiris Barbot in a statement.

Relay recently launched at Jamaica Hospital in Queens and will launch at BronxCare next month, the city said. The program has served 620 individuals as of Nov. 30 since its start in June 2017. It is slated to be in 15 hospitals by 2020.