

Queens



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Hospital offering free heart screenings

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Peninsula Hospital Center's Charmont Young attends to patient.

Peninsula Hospital Center is offering free "angioscreen" tests for angioplasty to Rockaways locals, giving them the opportunity to lower their risk of heart attack and stroke.

According to the city Health Department, the Rockaways' populace leads the city in strokes and heart attacks.

"Heart attacks are the leading cause of death on the peninsula," said Dr. Stanley Sprecher, director of radiology and imaging services for Peninsula.

The angioscreen, a simple noninvasive vascular screening, provides information about heart rhythm, neck and leg arteries, blood pressure and overall fitness.

With the help of the screening procedure, "we can diagnose a person with heart disease and refer them to North Shore-Long Island Jewish Hospital Center," Sprecher said.

The six-minute screening consists of two tests: an ultrasound scan that shows the flow of blood in the neck arteries that go to the brain, and an ankle brachial index screening for blockages in the arteries that go to the legs.

"This is a very broad way of telling someone about a problem they weren't aware of before," said Sprecher.

The hospital is offering the free screenings along with informative literature as part of its 100th anniversary. Patients screened receive a printout of their results to give to their primary physician.

Without insurance coverage, an angioscreen could cost as much as \$150. Peninsula Hospital, a state-certified stroke center, acquired a \$100,000 grant to provide the ongoing service.

"It's been received with overwhelming support," said Dr. Richard Steinberg, co-director of radiology and imaging services for PHC.

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