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Hospital at Montefiore, in New York.

That said, Dr. Racine expressed full support for the aspects of the program that encourage preventive care. "The principle of actually using cash incentives to get people to do things is great. It's sort of the opposite of taxing. You tax things that you don't want people to do, and this is sort of an inverse tax," he said.

Currently, 5,100 families are being recruited via the schools' free-lunch program in six city neighborhoods in which the poverty rates exceed 40%. Candidates must have children in the fourth, seventh, or ninth grades and must be documented legal residents or U.S. citizens.

An equal number of families (2,550) will be randomly assigned to a study group and to a control group in order to study the

## Families Might Override Organ Donation Plans

ORLANDO — Patient wishes for organ donation were overridden by family members in about 20% of cases, creating "missed opportunities" for organ procurement, according to research conducted at a level I trauma center in Charlotte, N.C.

Dr. A. Britton Christmas and colleagues at the F.H. Sammy Ross Jr. Center at the Carolinas Medical Center reviewed 3 months of organ donation referrals at their center. They estimated that about 17 potential transplant recipients did not receive organs because a patient's previous donation intentions were overridden by family members. The research was presented in a poster at the annual congress of the Society of Critical Care Medicine.

The researchers examined charts to determine the appropriateness for donation, familial consent or denial for donation, and the number of organs transplanted from each donor. They compared their records with data from the state department of motor vehicles (DMV) related to organ donation designations.

The researchers analyzed information on 84 individuals who had information on file with the DMV and whose families had been approached by hospital staff for organ donation over the 3-month period. According to DMV records, 25 individuals were listed as organ donors, and 59 had not designated organ donation.

For the 25 individuals who had designated themselves as organ donors, 20 consents for donation were obtained from family members. Of the remaining 59 individuals, 22 consents for organ donation were obtained.

Although the organ recovery rate was higher among those who had already specified a desire to be donors (80% vs. 37%), some families chose to override a previous designation of organ donation. With an average of 3.4 organs transplanted from each eligible donor, the researchers estimated that the five individuals whose consent was withdrawn by the families resulted in 17 potential organ recipients who would not receive organs.

—Mary Ellen Schneider

program's efficacy, Ms. Gibbs explained.

Because many low-income families do not have bank accounts, the mayor's office recruited four banks and four credit unions to provide free checking accounts for program participants.

Opportunity NYC, which grew out of Mayor Bloomberg's antipoverty Center for Economic Opportunity, is not the first conditional cash transfer program. The government of Mexico offered the first such program to its citizens in 1997, and nearly one-fourth of the population is enrolled, according to a recent New York Times report. Approximately 20 countries now have such programs in place. ■

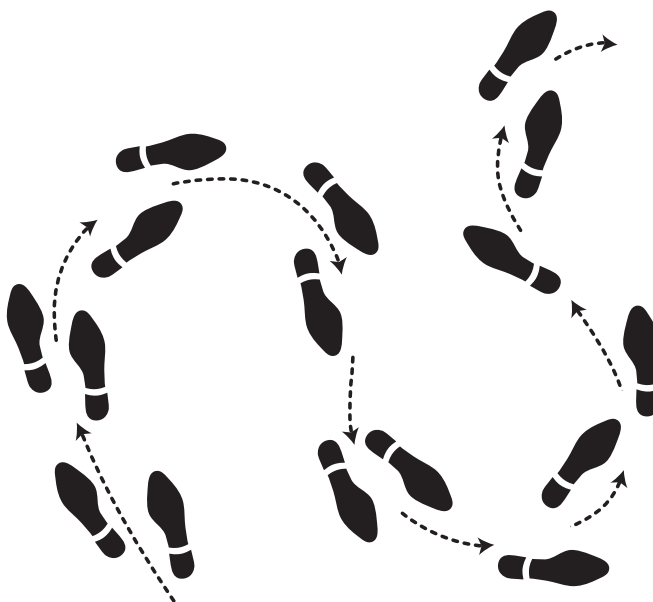


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Dr. Mark Krotowski, who practices in the Canarsie area of Brooklyn, near the target neighborhood of Brownsville, was sanguine about the program's potential.

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**IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION ABOUT MIRAPEX: Patients have reported falling asleep without perceived warning signs during activities of daily living, including operation of a motor vehicle.** Hallucinations and postural (orthostatic) hypotension may occur. The most commonly reported adverse events in RLS clinical trials for MIRAPEX vs placebo were nausea (16% vs 5%), headache (16% vs 15%), fatigue (9% vs 7%), and somnolence (6% vs 3%).

Patients and caregivers should be informed that impulse control disorders/compulsive behaviors may occur while taking medicines, including pramipexole, to treat Parkinson's disease and RLS.

Please see accompanying Brief Summary of Prescribing Information.

\*Results of a 12-week, placebo-controlled, randomized, double-blind, fixed-dose-treatment trial to assess the efficacy and safety of MIRAPEX vs placebo in the treatment of moderate to severe primary RLS.

Responders defined as patients with symptoms rated as "much improved" or "very much improved," as measured on the CGI-I.

Reference: 1. Data on file, Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc.



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Printed in U.S.A. (04/07) MRLS44101

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