

## Health group collects data for New York consumers

A recently formed not-for-profit corporation composed of consumers and health professionals is collecting, analyzing, and distributing information to consumers about the quality, availability, and cost of medical care in New York City.

The group, the Consumer Commission on Accreditation of Health Services plans to survey and publish profiles about institutional health care providers in easily readable language, according to Edward Gluckmann, executive vice president of the organization.

The commission produced its first fact sheet, "Owners of Proprietary Hospitals Located in New York City," in April. Each investor-owned New York City hospital is listed in the publication by name; address; telephone number; the names of the partners or corporate officers; the name and title of the chief administrative officer; the number of beds by type of clinical service; and the Blue Cross, Medicaid, and Workmen's Compensation inpatient reimbursement rates.

The organization intends to accredit hospitals and other services that meet clearly defined standards prepared by the commission, according to Mr. Gluckmann.

Future fact sheets will provide average lengths of stay for each hospital by diagnosis, average number of laboratory and x-ray tests per admission, and other indicators, according to information in the group's publication *Health Perspectives*.

According to a spokesman for the Greater New York Hospital Association, the association has received letters from the commission but has not established a liaison and has no immediate plans to do so.