

## **UMMS Partnership with State University of New York (SUNY)**

In 2007, UMass Medical School established a sub-contract with the State University of New York (SUNY) to provide pharmacy related programs and services to New York Department of Health (NYDOH). This relationship was response to a 2006 Memorandum of Understanding between NYDOH and SUNY.

As a benefit, SUNY and NY DOH received access to UMMS clinical expertise, our capacity to implement and evaluate new programs, to improve utilization of services, improve quality and incur cost savings. The Office of Program Development served as an integral part of this team to provide project management direction and support.

As academic partners, UMMS worked closely with SUNY staff in the delivery of pharmacy related programs such as:

- Retro Drug Utilization Review (RetroDUR)
- Prescriber Education Program (NYPEP)
  - Designed to educate prescribers on “best practices”, to provide optimal strategies for disease control, and promote adherence to national clinical guidelines. Specific focus was on hypertension and antipsychotic drug prescribing.
  - Consisted of two program components which consisted of:
    1. A web-based, best practices curriculum
    2. Provider-directed, prescriber education program
  - This partnership also developed the Synagis © prescriber education program which became operational and received very positive feedback from prescribers. Top tier Palivizumab prescribers and others, received face to face interventions to educate them on the appropriate prescribing and use of the drug. All other NY Medicaid prescribers from the 2007-2008 season received written education materials and were directed to a web curriculum. As a result of this program, the decrease in claims translated into a cost avoidance of \$500,000 per month.
- Medication Therapy Management Program (MTM)
  - This program utilizes community pharmacists to provide education directly to patients on general disease management strategies, the importance of medication