

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
March 5 2019**

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**IMMIGRANT CENTER AND HEALTH CARE INSTITUTION JOIN FORCES TO SUPPORT
LOW-INCOME IMMIGRANT PATIENTS**

Boston Medical Center and the Irish International Immigrant Center announce agreement to provide free legal support to patients with immigration matters

Boston, MA – Launched in March 2019, the Irish International Immigrant Center (IIC) and Boston Medical Center (BMC) have teamed up to provide immigration legal services to the hospital’s low-income immigrant patients and their families. This agreement could make life-changing differences for immigrant and refugee families, as immigration status can diminish healthy outcomes for patients.

BMC and the IIC have collaborated for more than 10 years, with BMC healthcare professionals regularly referring patients to the IIC for legal aid. As part of a new partnership, the IIC will provide an on-site attorney at BMC to give patients access to free legal clinics, one-on-one consultations and the possibility of full representation. IIC’s expert attorneys will also provide professional development for BMC staff on immigration law.

The agreement marks a commitment by both IIC and BMC to providing legal aid to patients who are in need by establishing a monthly clinic to offer legal consultation to patients who are visiting the hospital.

IIC staff immigration attorney Jacqueline Kelley will lead the monthly legal clinic during which she can meet with patients and consult on their immigration options. On the partnership, Jacqueline shares, “it is exciting to partner with passionate advocates who understand that immigration issues impact health outcome. Comprehensive healthcare must address the legal issues of immigrants and refugees in our community.”

“We know that immigration status is a key driver of health outcomes,” said Sarah Kimball, MD, co-director of the Immigrant Health Center at BMC. “Bringing accessible legal support to our most complex patients through this partnership with IIC is a vital intervention to support their medical, psychological, and social well-being.”

IIC Executive Director Ronnie Millar shares “oftentimes being able to legally stay in the US for medical treatment is lifesaving, and for sure, immigrant patients and their families experience additional stress and anxiety when they need to navigate the complex US immigration system. The IIC is privileged to be able to come alongside patients, and their families at this most stressful time to provide free immigration legal services.”

About the Irish International Immigrant Center (IIC): The IIC is a nonprofit founded in 1989. The IIC empowers immigrants and refugees from more than 120 countries by providing the critical legal,

wellness and educational support they need to build successful lives. Building on Irish roots of welcoming others and social justice, the IIC helps newcomers find community and stands up for immigration policies that are humane and just. America is a nation of immigrants, and despite the current political climate, the IIC is proud to continue the tradition of welcoming immigrants to this country and working together to create a better future for all. To learn more about the IIC, please visit our website at www.iiicenter.org.

About Boston Medical Center: Boston Medical Center is a private, not-for-profit, 487-bed, academic medical center that is the primary teaching affiliate of Boston University School of Medicine. It is the largest and busiest provider of trauma and emergency services in New England. Committed to providing high-quality health care to all, the hospital offers a full spectrum of pediatric and adult care services including primary and family medicine and advanced specialty care with an emphasis on community-based care. Boston Medical Center offers specialized care for complex health problems and is a leading research institution, receiving more than \$116 million in sponsored research funding in fiscal year 2017. It is the 15th largest recipient of funding in the U.S. from the National Institutes of Health among independent hospitals. In 1997, BMC founded Boston Medical Center Health Plan, Inc., now one of the top ranked Medicaid MCOs in the country, as a non-profit managed care organization. It does business in Massachusetts as BMC HealthNet Plan and as Well Sense Health Plan in New Hampshire, serving 332,000 people, collectively. Boston Medical Center and Boston University School of Medicine are partners in the Boston HealthNet – 14 community health centers focused on providing exceptional health care to residents of Boston. For more information, please visit <http://www.bmc.org>.

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