

PARADE

Women's center proves it: Health is more than physical

The Albany Women's Medical Center at 5086 N. Elston Ave. in Chicago is an ambulatory surgical center. The center provides comprehensive women's medical care which includes health education and counseling services in a caring atmosphere.

"We are specialists in the field of women's health care," said Elaine Levy, the center administrator. "A woman can come here and get all the answers for her health needs."

The staff is bilingual. There are Spanish and Polish speaking counselors and physicians. All of Albany's counseling is free of charge.

Albany's new surgical wing has five operating rooms. A large modern recovery room accommodates all the needs of the patients.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield will pay for the patient's medical services at Albany. The company believes a facility like Albany helps to control your health care costs without sacrificing patient needs.

The basically healthy well woman who doesn't have any major medical problems can have a number of her surgeries completed on an outpatient basis. There are many advantages to same day surgery.

First, the woman doesn't have to stay overnight in a hospital. She doesn't have to emotionally adjust to a hospital setting. After her surgery, she can go home and be with her family.

Secondly, ambulatory surgical centers are more cost effective. You don't have to hire someone to watch your children while you are in the hospital and, of course, you have no hospital bills.

Regardless of why you've come to Albany, you meet with a woman counselor who is quite knowledgeable about women's problems. You discuss all your alternatives concerning your particular problem.

Albany offers gynecological services including cryosurgery. Albany can safely terminate pregnancies up to fourteen weeks. It offers tubal ligations which is a safe simple surgery for permanent birth control.

Tubal ligation is considered 100% effective and is a safe surgery taking approximately twenty minutes to complete. Usually known as "band-aid" surgery, it is simple involving only two small incisions in the abdominal wall.

Albany also considers each request for sterilization on an individual basis. Although age, health, marital status, emotional makeup, and child-bearing history must be considered in the decision making process, Albany believes final responsibility rests with the woman involved and required her consent alone.

Albany also does pregnancy testing and will be starting cosmetic surgeries for the face and the breast (breast enlargements).



Tubal ligation is a relatively easy, 20-minute operation at Albany Women's Medical Center. As a 100 percent effective means of birth control, this has become an increasingly popular and safe surgery.

The speaker's bureau can visit schools and give free lectures on particular health topics such as venereal disease, birth control and abortion.

The attractive Medical Center always follows up on any of their surgical patients. Within a few days, patients are called at home to find out how they are feeling. If they wish, they may ask the coordinator any questions that they have thought of since their surgery.

"The physical and emotional well-being of the woman is met at Albany Women's Medical Center," said Elaine Levy. "We believe the two are equally important."

For further information concerning Albany's surgical services or to make an appointment for free counseling phone: 312-725-0200.