

CareMount Medical  
As seen on Crain's NY Business  
May 8, 2020  
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**CRAIN'S** NEW YORK BUSINESS



May 08, 2020 05:30 AM | 4 HOURS AGO

## Lack of preventive care now will lead to 'a lot of undiagnosed cancer': Crain's exclusive

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People putting off general medical appointments and procedures during the pandemic could lead to another health crisis later, leaders at CareMount Medical said [during a Facebook Live session](#) with *Crain's*.

"We see it as really critical that patients reach out to their doctors because people have been in hiding, and they're missing a lot of critical testing," said Dr. Lewis Kohl, chief medical information officer and senior medical director at CareMount. "We have diabetics not testing their blood sugar. We have people with high blood pressure not knowing what their pressure is, people who run out of medications."

Dr. Scott Hayworth, president and CEO, reiterated the importance of staying up to date on necessary preventive health screenings and procedures during the crisis.

"Cancer screening is very, very important," Hayworth said. "I'm an OB-GYN by training, and right now I'm scared that we're going to miss ovarian cancers and endometrial cancers."

Hayworth said colonoscopies, laparoscopies and other procedures should be available in settings that can be less costly and lower-risk than at hospitals.

"We should be taking care of our patients," Hayworth said. "Six months to a year to two years from now, we're going to have a lot of undiagnosed cancer, and we're going to have people dying from that unnecessarily."

Safety measures for in-person visits have included spending about \$125,000 a week on personal protective equipment, Hayworth said. Suspected Covid-19 patients are brought in late in the day and via separate entrances. The company also has done between 1,400 and 1,500 telemedicine visits per day to keep people out of the office who don't need to come in, Kohl said.

The team is hopeful that the state will soon lift a ban on certain procedures implemented as a result of the crisis and patients will come back. Currently, CareMount's ambulatory surgery centers and outpatient procedure suites can be used only for people who are having symptoms.

"I think it's sort of like flying after 9/11," Hayworth said. "The first time people flew, they felt a little uneasy. And after the first time, they go, 'I can do that.'" — Jennifer Henderson