# Beth Israel Hospital in Manhattan Faces Closure Amid Financial Struggles and Patient Care Concerns



**Beth Israel Hospital Faces Closure Amid Controversy and Patient Care Issues**

Beth Israel Hospital on Manhattan’s East Side, once a bustling facility known for heart surgeries and comprehensive stroke care, has significantly reduced its services and workforce over the past year. The number of employees has dropped from 1,800 to approximately 1,300, leaving some hospital floors nearly empty. The hospital is facing potential closure due to financial losses, despite a prolonged battle involving community members, a judge, and the New York State Health Department.

Owned by the Mount Sinai Health System since 2013, Beth Israel has been under pressure to close after accumulating over $1 billion in losses. Mount Sinai officials argue that maintaining Beth Israel is unsustainable due to insufficient patient numbers and high dependency on Medicaid. In contrast, community groups and legal opponents contend that more hospitals are essential, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Patients entering Beth Israel have encountered delays and limitations in care attributed to staff shortages and the reduction of services. Reports by state hospital inspectors and hospital staff interviews highlight incidents where patients faced critical delays or were transferred due to inadequate resources. One notable case involved 76-year-old George Faust, who suffered fatal complications after being transferred because of Beth Israel's inability to adequately treat his injuries.

Beth Israel has stopped conducting MRI scans during the night and has ceased treating severe strokes, further impacting patient care. Community activists continue to resist the closure, emphasizing the hospital's importance in a region where other facilities have shut down in recent decades.

The state Health Department has stalled Mount Sinai's closure plan by demanding more comprehensive data and has issued directives to halt bed and service reductions temporarily. Mount Sinai maintains that keeping Beth Israel operational costs $15 million monthly and insists that forcing the hospital to remain open is unconstitutional. The ongoing dispute leaves the hospital's future uncertain, with potential ramifications for healthcare access in downtown Manhattan.