

# Gratitude for good outstanding care and timely referrals

*Maynard resident finds that Dr. Hanjura has a “real calming effect”*



During the course of a lifetime, chronic conditions need to be managed, new health problems appear, and the bond with one’s primary care physician becomes even more important. Jeanne Gay has seen this happen. The Maynard resident is glad to have Sunita Hanjura, MD, nearby.

“She’s helped me over the years,” says Mrs. Gay, who is 89. “Dr. Hanjura listens to you and helps you get through the hard knocks in life.” Dr. Hanjura also cares for Mrs. Gay’s husband, Roger.

A case of shingles had Mrs. Gay searching for relief; Dr. Hanjura managed her pain. Gastrointestinal symptoms turned out to be diverticulitis. “At one point, I was really suffering,” Mrs. Gay recalls. “Dr. Hanjura referred me to a surgeon at Emerson. It’s not easy surgery, but the care I received from the doctor and nurses was wonderful. Now I’m very careful about what I eat!”

A serious car accident decades ago resulted in numerous broken bones, left her with arthritis and, over time, affected her back. “My discs collapsed, so I need to use a rollator [walker with wheels] if we’re going to be walking somewhere,” she explains.

“I’m helping Jeanne and Roger navigate the loss of independence that can come with aging,” says Dr. Hanjura. “My goal is to help keep them as vital as possible so that they can live the way they want to.” Mrs. Gay, who has lived in Maynard for 58 years, is used to functioning at a high level. She was a facility manager at Digital Equipment and, more recently, runs a real estate business.

Dr. Hanjura decided that Lewis Chilumuna, a member of the care management staff who makes home visits, could be helpful in setting up Mr. Gay’s medications. “Lewis was

fantastic,” says Mrs. Gay. “He got Roger’s medications into a bubble pack for us. He’s been here a couple of times.”

Dr. Hanjura keeps a close watch on the couple. When Mrs. Gay developed shortness of breath, a pulmonary function test was quickly performed. “I referred Jeanne to Dr. Barkin, who is taking care of her respiratory condition,” notes Dr. Hanjura in reference to Peter Barkin, MD, an Emerson pulmonologist.

Mrs. Gay expresses her gratitude by bringing coffee cake or flowers when she has an appointment at Emerson Primary Care Associates of Bedford. “Everyone there has always been so nice to Roger and me,” she says. “Sometimes it’s just nice to say thank you.”

She is effusive about Dr. Hanjura. “We think the world of her,” Mrs. Gay adds. “Dr. Hanjura helps you get through this aging thing. She has a real calming effect.”