

PRESS RELEASE
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Morgan Memorial Hospital Wins Statewide Patient Safety Award for Improved Patient Care

ATLANTA – The Partnership for Health and Accountability (PHA) recently presented its prestigious Quality and Patient Safety Award to Morgan Memorial Hospital for its project that reduced the incidence of blood clots, or venous thromboembolism (VTE), in patients. The project, titled “Blocking Blood Clots and Tackling VTE,” won first place in the Critical Access Hospitals category.

Morgan Memorial was also presented with a Circle of Excellence Award, an honor given to hospitals and health systems that have demonstrated a sustained commitment to quality and patient safety as evidenced by not only winning a patient safety award in 2016, but by earning three or more PHA Patient Safety Awards within the previous five years. Morgan Memorial was the only Critical Access Hospital to be honored with the Circle of Excellence award this year.

These annual awards recognize Georgia health care organizations for achievement in reducing the risk of medical errors and improving patient safety and medical outcomes.

Through collaboration amongst employees in pharmacy, nursing, and quality assurance Morgan Memorial developed protocol and established a workflow to ensure that every admitted patient is monitored and treated to prevent VTE’s, the diagnosis of blood clots. Following the established protocol, the hospital acquired VTE rate dropped from 36 percent in 2014 to zero in 2016.

Blood clots can cause decline in condition, slow healing, and in some cases lead to death. Prevention is essential for patient safety.

“The prevention of blood clots ensures patients will have a quicker and safer road to recovery,” said Georgia Hospital Association Chief Medical Officer Doug Patten, M.D. “We applaud Morgan Memorial Hospital, not only for its success in this area, but also for sharing best practices with other hospitals across the state so each has the opportunity to make critical progress in patient safety and ensure the best and safest care possible for patients.”

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Morgan Memorial employee, Juanita Wren, RN, presented the project to attendees at GHA's annual Patient Safety Summit. Also during the event, MMH employee, Kimberly Miller, was recognized for having designed the winning logo, "Patient Safety Hero," that will be used by GHA and other hospitals across the state throughout the coming year.

In an email to hospital staff announcing the awards on Thursday, January 19th, MMH CEO, Ralph Castillo, shared his high regards. "Quality and Patient Safety awards are an honor to receive, but more importantly these awards demonstrate the commitment and hard work this organization does every day. Your ability to overcome obstacles and be a Team reduces the risk of medical errors and allows us to continually improve patient safety and medical outcomes. You and your colleagues have proven beyond any reasonable doubt that we all are committed to creating and perpetrating a Patient Focused Center of Excellence. I am very proud of you and the way you touch the lives of our patients, and how you take care of each other."

About Morgan Memorial Hospital

Morgan Memorial Hospital is 25-bed non-profit Critical Access Hospital located in Madison, Georgia. Certified as a Level IV Trauma Center and a Remote Treatment Stroke Center, the facility hosts a 24-hour emergency room, wide array of diagnostic outpatient services, and serves patients through acute care and swing bed programs. Morgan Memorial Hospital was established in 1960 and is accredited by The Joint Commission.

About PHA

The Partnership for Health and Accountability (PHA), an affiliate of GHA, was established in January 2000 to improve patient care and patient safety in hospitals and other health care facilities and create healthy communities.

About GHA

Founded in 1929, GHA serves more than 170 hospitals in Georgia and promotes the health and welfare of the public through the development of better hospital care for all Georgia's citizens. The mission of GHA is to advance the health of individuals and communities by serving as the leading advocate for all Georgia hospitals and health care systems. GHA represents its members before the General Assembly and Congress, as well as state and federal regulatory agencies, and is an allied member of the American Hospital Association. For more information, please call 770-249-4500 or visit gha.org.

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