



GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY

ATURIDÁT ESPETÁT MIMURIÁT GUÅHÅN

850 Governor Carlos Camacho Road, Tamuning, Guam 96913
Operator: (671) 647-2330 or 2552 | Fax: (671) 649-5508



For Immediate Release

Public Information Office

E: communications@gmha.org

GMHA Shares Progress, Requests Funding to Maintain Services

(Tuesday, October 8, 2024; Tamuning, Guam) At yesterday’s oversight hearing, the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA) focused on sharing its progress in enhancing and expanding services, increasing the recruitment and retention of nurses and medical staff, and how its budget shortfall impacts its ability to address its challenges. GMHA management requested additional funding for the hospital to maintain its full slate of services. GMHA staff care for everyone who walks through its door despite a budget shortfall.

Recruitment

GMHA recruitment efforts continue to attract critically needed specialists, physicians, and nurses. In August 2023, the hospital recruited Guam’s first and only Gastroenterologist Specialist. Dr. Paul Muña Aguon is a son of Guam who is making historic procedures for GMHA. While at GMHA, he performed the hospital’s first Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) and Endoscopic Ultrasound (EUS). Before hiring Dr. Muña Aguon, Guam residents requiring medical care for gastroenterology issues were forced to travel off-island at great personal costs.

Despite local and global demand for nurses, GMHA recruited 44 new nurses and successfully recruited 12 nurses—nearly half of the 2024 graduating nurses—from the University of Guam (UOG). Through aggressive recruitment efforts, the hospital has reduced its dependence on costly traveling nurses from 100 to 29, ultimately saving money for the people of Guam.

GE HealthCare Allia™ IGS 7 Angiosuite

In September 2024, GMHA expanded its Radiology department’s capabilities with the addition of Guam’s first GE HealthCare Allia™ IGS 7 Angiosuite. The state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment capabilities of the new Angiosuite allow the hospital to address critical conditions such as strokes, heart attacks, internal bleeds, and certain cancers with efficiency and precision.





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Award Winning Hospital

GMHA faces and conquers challenges daily and continues to provide excellent care to our people, as evidenced by national awards:

- In July 2024, GMHA was recognized by the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines® - Stroke Gold quality achievement award and an Honor Roll recognition for its treatment of Type 2 Diabetes.
- In July 2024, GMHA's Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) received an Achievement in Quality Award from the Quality Improvement Organizations (QIO), a program of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), for its success in promoting quality healthcare by decreasing adverse drug events, preventing infections, decreasing re-admissions, and promoting resident and staff vaccination.
- In August 2024, GMHA received a High Performing Hospital from the well-respected U.S. News & World Report. An overall high-performing rating means that GMHA performed better than the national average in specific procedures or medical conditions.
- In August 2024, GMHA received the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines® - Resuscitation Bronze quality achievement award for meeting specific measures in treating Neonates/Infants who suffer cardiac arrest in the hospital.
- In September 2024, GMHA received the Bronze Medal Award from the Health Quality Innovators (HQI) through the Health Quality Improvement Contractors (HQIC) Recognition Program. The criteria for recognition were based on performance in over 30 focus areas. The Health Quality Innovators (HQI) through the Health Quality Improvement Contractors (HQIC) is funded by a grant from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

While GMHA appreciates the recognition and awards, particularly on behalf of our employees whose dedication to patients deserves acknowledgment, the true testament to our achievements is the positive patient outcomes and the continuing faith of our community that GMHA can provide excellent healthcare to our people.

GMHA hopes senators will appropriate additional funding for the hospital in the proposed supplemental budget Bill 355 to maintain the same level of care in all of its current services.

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