



# GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY

## ATURIDÁT ESPETÁT MIMURIÁT GUÅHAN

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## **GMHA Performs First Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator Procedure** Expanding Life-Saving Cardiac Care On-Island

Tamuning, Guam — Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA) performed its first-ever Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (ICD) procedure on May 5, 2026.

“This marks a major advancement in cardiac care available on Guam,” said Joleen Aguon, M.D., GMHA Interim Administrator and CEO. “Our hospital is the first facility on island capable of offering this technology, and we are determined to continue modernizing and expanding our services.”

An ICD is a small device implanted in the chest that continuously monitors the heart’s electrical activity and helps correct dangerous heart rhythms by pacing or delivering a life-saving shock when needed. The inaugural procedure was led by Dr. Bishoy ElBebawy, a GMHA cardiologist specializing in internal medicine and cardiovascular care.

The ICD system, which includes the device and two lead wires connected to the heart, is critical for patients with heart failure and those at risk of sudden cardiac arrest. The device typically lasts 10 to 12 years and requires specialized programming tailored to each patient.

“This is the kind of progress we’ve been working toward: building a healthcare system that can meet the needs of our people here at home,” said Governor Lou Leon Guerrero. “Expanding access to specialized, life-saving services like this strengthens our island’s ability to care for our community right now and into the future.”

“Now, more residents can receive the high-quality cardiac care they need, close to their families and support systems, without the added financial and logistical burden of leaving Guam,” said Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio. “This reflects our continued investment in healthcare and the collaboration it takes to make it happen.”

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