



GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY

ATURIDĀT ESPETĀT MIMURIĀT GUĀHAN

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For Immediate Release

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GMHA Earns 2026 CNOR Strong Designation, Recognizing Commitment to Safe Surgical Care

(Tamuning, Guam; February 9, 2026) — The Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA) has earned the 2026 CNOR Strong designation, a national recognition awarded by the Competency and Credentialing Institute (CCI) to healthcare facilities that demonstrate a strong commitment to perioperative nursing excellence and patient safety.

Perioperative nurses are registered nurses who care for patients before, during, and after surgery. At GMHA, they work in the operating room and recovery areas, preparing patients for procedures, assisting surgical teams during operations, and closely monitoring patients as they recover from anesthesia.

The CNOR Strong designation is granted to facilities where at least 50 percent of eligible operating room nursing staff hold CNOR certification, reflecting a hospital's commitment to specialized training, national standards, and safe surgical practices.

"This recognition is a reflection of the people who stand beside patients in some of their most vulnerable moments," said GMHA Interim Chief Executive Officer and Administrator Dr. Joleen M. Aguon. "Our perioperative nurses carry tremendous responsibility, often behind the scenes, ensuring that every procedure is supported with calm, precision, and compassion. This designation honors the care they provide and the trust our community places in them."

At GMHA, perioperative nursing is a specialized role that requires advanced clinical skills, national certification, and close coordination with surgeons, anesthesiologists, and recovery teams to ensure patient safety throughout the surgical process.

"Being recognized as a CNOR Strong facility reflects the dedication, skill, and professionalism of our OR and Post Anesthesia Care Unit team," said Genevieve Austria, Hospital Unit Supervisor. "This achievement represents our shared commitment to excellence, patient safety, and continuous growth in perioperative nursing."

The CNOR Strong designation is awarded annually and recognizes healthcare organizations that prioritize professional certification and ongoing development among their surgical nursing staff.





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Governor Lou Leon Guerrero recognized the achievement as a reflection of the hospital's continued commitment to safe care for the people of Guam.

"This designation is reassuring for every patient and family who turns to Guam Memorial Hospital in a moment of need," she said. "It reflects the strength of the nurses and teams working every day to uphold safety and quality in our operating rooms."

Lieutenant Governor Josh Tenorio highlighted the broader importance of investing in healthcare professionals.

"When nurses pursue certification and continued growth, it strengthens the care our island receives," he said. "This recognition highlights the dedication of GMHA's perioperative teams and the importance of investing in the people who serve Guam."

The Competency and Credentialing Institute is a national leader in perioperative nursing certification and professional recognition. The CNOR Strong designation reflects a facility's commitment to safe surgical care and high professional standards.

GMHA congratulates its perioperative nursing teams on this achievement and reaffirms its commitment to advancing patient safety and surgical excellence for Guam.

For more updates on GMHA initiatives and recognitions, follow the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority on Facebook and Instagram at @gmha_guam.

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