



# GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY

ATURIDÅT ESPETÅT MIMURIÅT GUÅHAN

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## For Immediate Release

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## GMHA Recognizes Maternal Health Awareness Day and CRNA Week

**(Tamuning, Guam; January 26, 2026)** — The Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA) is recognizing two important healthcare observances this month: Maternal Health Awareness Day, observed on January 23, and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) Week, observed January 18 through January 24. While distinct in focus, both observances highlight the essential roles healthcare professionals play in supporting safe outcomes for patients, families, and the island community.

“These observances remind us that healthcare is built on trust, teamwork, and responsibility,” said Dr. Joleen M. Aguon, GMHA Interim Chief Executive Officer and Administrator. “Whether caring for mothers and babies or ensuring patient safety during procedures, our teams carry an enormous responsibility. We are grateful for the compassion, skill, and commitment they bring to our hospital and to our island every day.”

### Maternal Health Awareness Day

Maternal Health Awareness Day highlights the importance of comprehensive care before, during, and after pregnancy, with a focus on healthy outcomes for both parent and baby. At GMHA, maternal care teams provide prenatal services, labor and delivery support, and postpartum care to families across Guam.

“As we raise awareness of Maternal Health Month, it is imperative that we recognize all mothers to be and their babies. Prenatal care and delivery are critically important, with the goal of safely delivering healthy mothers and healthy babies. Let us all advocate for them. Furthermore, based on research and clinical perspectives from Maternal Fetal Medicine specialists, including Dr. Vincenzo Berghella of Thomas Jefferson University, the primary goal of obstetric care should not simply be achieving a low cesarean section rate, but rather ensuring the safest possible outcome for both parent and baby. In other words, cesarean section rates should not be the primary focus, but rather the reduction of maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality,” said Dr. Thomas Shieh, MD, FACOG, Chair of the GMHA Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

### Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist Week





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Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist Week recognizes CRNAs who provide anesthesia care and pain management before, during, and after medical procedures. At GMHA, CRNAs work closely with multidisciplinary teams to support patient safety during surgical, obstetric, and emergency care.



Guam Memorial Hospital Authority extends its appreciation to all maternal health providers and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists whose dedication supports patient safety, dignity, and quality care across the island.

For more updates on GMHA observances and initiatives, follow the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority on Facebook and Instagram at [@gmha\\_guam](https://www.instagram.com/gmha_guam).

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