



GMHA LIFELINE NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2024 ISSUE



MESSAGE FROM THE HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR



Håfa adai Team GMHA,

We were thrilled by the opportunity in October to celebrate our ER nurses during National ER Nurses Week. For the sixth consecutive year, our friends at Hit Radio 100 and Cook FM generously brought lunch for our dedicated ER nurses, showing their appreciation for the hard work and dedication our nurses put forth every day. ER staff members are often the first line of care in critical and trauma situations, and it's encouraging to see their commitment celebrated by the community.

In other exciting news, we want to acknowledge a monumental step forward in healthcare for Guam. Governor Lou Leon Guerrero announced the purchase of land in Barrigada for the site for Guam's new hospital. The accomplishment of this critical step towards a new hospital for our people will bring expanded facilities, modernized equipment, and an improved overall experience for patients and healthcare professionals alike. We are hopeful and inspired by this major step that will bring a new hospital to our people. We look forward to a brighter, optimistic, and successful future for our island's healthcare.

We want to welcome the two health professionals who were confirmed by the legislature to serve as Trustees of GMHA's Governor Body, Dr. Theresa Damian Borja and Suzanne Lobaton, representing the Guam Nursing Association.

The holidays are officially upon us and a huge thank you goes out to the GMHA Spirit Committee and everyone who participated in the GovGuam Annual Halloween Trick or Treat event. Despite a slight delay due to rainy weather, the event was a fantastic success, filled with laughter, smiles, and candy. Seeing our community come together to create a memorable and safe experience for our children is always the highlight of October.

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, we're reminded of the importance of unity and gratitude. Let's carry the spirit of the season into November and beyond, as we continue to serve and support each other and our community.

Si Yu'os ma'ase'

Lillian

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WHAT HAPPENED IN OCTOBER?

AmeriCorps volunteers visited GMHA in early October to bring a donation of handmade cards for Team GMHA in recognition of the important role frontline healthcare workers play during emergencies, like the COVID pandemic. This year, the AmeriCorps volunteers selected to honor 9/11 in recognition of the importance of healthcare professionals who are always ready to care for people, whether it be an illness like COVID or a disaster, like 9/11.



On October 8th, GMHA welcomed Dr. Shane Speights, Dean of New York Institute of Technology, College of Osteopathic Medicine – Arkansas. Dr. Speight visited GMHA to explore opportunities for NYIT medical students to gain valuable real life experience working in a hospital. The discussion included details of how this partnership would benefit both GMHA and NYIT.



The following day, radio stations Hit Radio 100 and Cool FM brought lunch for our ER nurses. This is the 6th year in a row that the radio stations have brought lunch for our ER nurses in honor of ER Nurses Day and ER Nurses Week. They always bring enough food for the entire ER department and we appreciate the recognition for our dedicated ER nurses.



We are pleased to congratulate Therese "Paula" Palayo who was selected as GMHA's Employee of the 2nd Quarter. If you feel your coworker should be recognized for their contributions to GMHA and our patients, keep an eye out for the next announcement to submit nominations for the EOTQ for the 3rd Quarter. October was full of

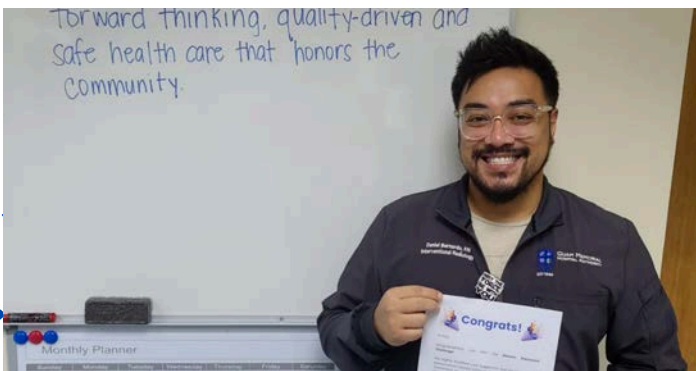
opportunities to recognize Team GMHA. We recognized our Cafeteria team, Materials Maintenance, Pediatric nurses, Healthcare Security & Safety, Facilities Maintenance, and more.

We want to send a special thank you to our Infection Control team who put together a fun and educational fair for International Infection Prevention Week. Team GMHA enjoyed updating their Infection Control knowledge through fun activities and an educational video, followed by a short quiz. Thank you to everyone who participated in the Infection Prevention Fair and congratulations to those who won a prize playing Spooky Jeopardy. If you have not taken the mandatory Infection Control training and quiz, please contact Infection Control to arrange for your annual training.



The Infection Prevention Fair had a Halloween theme which fit perfectly with the hospital's week-long theme of Tricks and Treats. There were ghosts, ghouls, vampires, and other spooky monsters, including Beetlejuice, roaming the halls of GMHA making everyone smile and laugh out loud! There are lots of photos in this month's newsletter. See what Team GMHA served up along with the sweets and treats. We also participated in the Government of Guam Halloween Trick or Treating event at the Paseo on Wednesday, October 30th. A special thank you to the GMHA Spirit Committee for making us look great under our festive and spooky Halloween canopy! It was a blast to see all the smiling faces on the children in their Halloween costumes.

We want to congratulate our Radiology and Interventional Radiology department for bringing another well-deserved accolade to our hospital. GMHA was designated as Lung Cancer Screening Center by the American College of Radiology (ACR), granted by the ACR's Committee on Computed Tomography Accreditation of the Commission on Quality and Safety. We are very proud of our Radiology/Interventional Radiology team for shining a bright light on the work we do at GMHA to consistently improve and advance the level of healthcare we provide to patients and our people.



The biggest news in October came from Governor Lourdes Leon Guerrero, who announced the purchase of land in Barrigada for Guam's new hospital! After the frustration of fighting for a location that would serve the majority of our people, the governor took the initiative to be proactive towards the goal of building a new hospital for our people. According to the governor, she expects to be breaking ground by 2025.

WHAT'S COMING UP IN NOVEMBER?

The holiday season is officially upon us! November hosts several special holidays and events. Team GMHA will be participating in the annual Relay for Life event to support those fighting cancer and our survivors. We also recognize those who have passed and we look forward to the beautiful display of brightly lit Luminarias in their honor. Relay for Life is a special event and GMHA is proud to participate. We hope you will join us at the UOG Fieldhouse on Saturday, November 9th from 3 PM to 9 PM.

On Veterans Day, November 11th, we join our island and our country to recognize all members of our community who have served in the military, especially the men and women from GMHA. We thank you for your service and dedication to our people, our island, and our nation. It takes a special person to serve and we are proud to work alongside so many courageous and inspirational veterans. Happy Veterans Day and thank you for protecting our island and our country. Your selfless service is an inspiration.



The 6th Annual Guam International Dragon Boat Festival will take place at Matapang Beach. The exact dates have not been announced but it is anticipated to be sometime between Nov. 15 - 17. We will keep you posted as the dates draw closer and share them via email. Guam Animals in Need (GAIN) will host The Fur Ball on November 22nd to raise money for the non-profit organization that cares for animals in need of a good home and people to love them. Money raised will be used to operate the GAIN facility and provide food and shelter for their furry guests waiting for a forever home.



The 43rd Annual Akimatsuri Japanese Autumn Festival will be held in November at Ypao Beach Park. We will share the dates and times as it gets closer. We will also celebrate the annual lighting of the Christmas display at Skinner Park. Last year was wonderful! The annual parade featured some of the most amazing floats we have ever seen! The dates and times will be coming soon. We hope you will join us at our canopy as we enjoy each other's company giving out sweets to the good boys and girls.

November closes with one of the best holidays of the year: Thanksgiving! We look forward to all the wonderful smells as Team GMHA celebrates Thanksgiving, sharing a good meal and the camaraderie with our other family, Team GMHA!



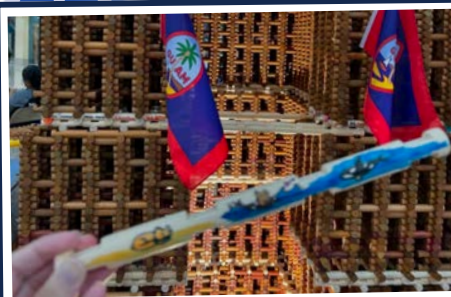


AMERICORPS HONORS GMHA FRONTLINE WITH HANDMADE CARDS

In October, AmeriCorps volunteers visited GMHA to deliver handmade cards, honoring frontline healthcare workers for their essential role in crises like COVID and 9/11.

TOWER OF HUMANITY

GMHA participated in the Tower for Humanity fundraiser event to collect donations of canned foods for the Be Heartfelt, a non-profit organization that feeds children in need. The cans were used as part of an Aydtlett Bros super tall Lincoln log building. GMHA raised a lot of food and donators received two Lincoln logs per can to decorate. The personalized Lincoln logs were incorporated into the Tower which was on display in the Agana Shopping Center's center court for two weeks. Thank you to Team GMHA for your support of this worthy event!





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EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER



Congratulations
Therese "Paula" Pelayo

HOSPITAL PLANNING SUPERVISOR
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

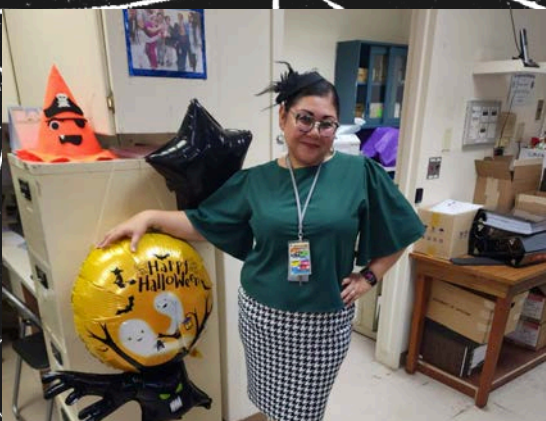
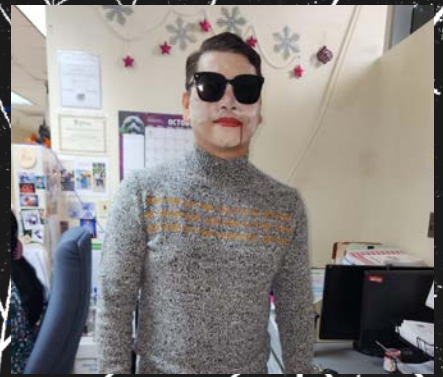


CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SECURITY TEAM ON COMPLETING THE TACMED RECERTIFICATION!

Congratulations to our Security Team who recently completed the Basic Tactical Medic Course, or TacMed. The TacMed course curriculum is based on the core concepts of Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC). TECC is the civilian version of the military's Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) and was developed to bring combat level of care to civilian first responders.

THANK YOU TO ALL THE BOSSES ON BOSS'S DAY





HAPPY BIRTHDAY

#TEAMGMHA
NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Isabel Adams
Donabel Anderson
Nicole Anicas
Erwin Aquino
Marissa Asuncion
Greta Atenta
Joannah Aylor
Therese Babauta
Ma. Dolores Barangan
Sheryll Blas
Janelle Borja
Leonardo Busa
Maria Melissa Cabinta
Elizabeth Camacho
Kenneth Casares
Eppie Celeste
Natasha Cepeda
Wai-Man Chan
Nobert Charfauros
Emily Cid
Nelita Claytor
Rebecca Cortado
Leah Cruz
Marcin Czerniakow
Angilie De Alba

Temple Decena
Frances Dela Cruz
Rico Diaz
Danielle Dolor
Elijel Dorion
Angelio Ebeo
Matthew Ebueng
Rosania Edward
Christopher Enriquez
Jerrah Escueta
Margarita Gay
Philamer Gomez
Cindy Hanson
Zoraida Hitosis
Maria Linlyn Ilog
Marino John Jr.
Amy John
Ricaj Joslin
Veverly Lacdoo
Marjorie Leon Guerrero
Steven Leon Guerrero
Justin Leonen
Edna Leonor
Pauline Lizama,
Edgar Magsombol

Donovan Manglona
Pacita Manibusan
Faye Martinez
Tiffany Martinez
Paul Muña-Aguon
Y.J.Nakayama
Rosalie Navasca
Alexis Olivares
Joshua Onedera
Sheenah Pacia
Johanna Palma
Raphael Patacsil
Audrey Paulino
Erdolfo Paulo Jr.
Ana Belen Rada
Richelle Rada
Jayson Ramirez
Russell Randall
Marizza Reotutar
Yuri Resuma
Alvin Resurreccion
Paul Rivera Jr.
Jenna Rivera
Kiana Roduk
Ricardo Salem

Ray San Nicolas
Alexander Santos
Walfredo Santos
Joanna Sarmiento
Mariah Sesma
Kevin Shimizu
Teiye Sigrah
Noreen Silva
Cristopher Simsiman
Ann Sizemore
Jeric Tabunar
Erica Taijeron
Ethan Taitano
Tina Topasna
Joseph Torres
Leticia Torres
Maria Torres
Cassandra Towai
Christen Tuazon
Jon Jon Unsay
Kristie Anne Unsay
Jasmin Valencia
Nancy Velasco
Grace Zorris



HOSPITAL ACCREDITATION

TIPS FOR COMPLIANT RESPIRATORY ORDERS

Many respiratory therapists (RT) are highly skilled at patient assessment, developing respiratory treatment plans, and managing ventilators. Despite those skills, it is important to know CMS prohibits an RT from rendering services without obtaining an order from a licensed provider who must be privileged to prescribe respiratory services. Survey findings related to respiratory services have been on the rise over the last few years; however, there is a way to have compliant orders that meet regulations and allow respiratory therapists the ability to utilize their skills while remaining within the bounds of order requirements. Here's some tips to help you avoid top findings centered around respiratory orders.

Implement SpO2 goal orders

A 2 lpm nasal cannula is clearly ordered; however, the surveyor observes or reviews the medical record to find the patient is on 3 lpm. It may seem like a nickel and dime finding, but it still lands you a survey deficiency for not following the provider's orders. This type of order binds the RT by requiring an order for even a slight adjustment to the flow of oxygen. Instead, consider an order for oxygen therapy to maintain a targeted SpO2 goal so the RT (and nurse) can adjust the flow of oxygen.

Ventilator Protocols / Pathways

Another top survey finding stems from implementing ventilator settings, both initial and adjusting settings, without obtaining documented orders from a provider. As a suggestion, organizations should consider range parameters for initial ventilator settings. Be sure to include clear guidance for when to obtain arterial blood gases (ABG) and parameter changes because of the ABG, e.g., PaO2, CO2 goals, etc. Parameters for adjusting settings could also include airway pressures and tidal volumes. Just be clear when providing guidance based on clinical criteria and action to be taken (i.e., if this, do that). To reduce the risks of a survey finding (and RTs practicing outside their scope of practice) consider developing and implementing order sets (sometimes, called protocols or pathways) that meet the following conditions:

- Be algorithmic with clear instructions for interventions (sometimes referred to as a decision tree) to empower the RT with the ability to initiate, discontinue, and restart therapy as warranted by the patient's medical condition.
- Align orders with evidence-based guidelines established by nationally recognized professional organizations such as the American Medical Association, American Association for Respiratory Care, and American Thoracic Association.
- Have the Director of Respiratory Services approve the order set and collaborate with other key physicians for specific situations, e.g., emergency medicine physicians, surgeons, and anesthesiologists.
- Assure an order set is initiated for each specific patient and documented in the medical record. If the physician orders, "RT ventilator protocol," the protocol must be included in the medical record. If you choose to have a standing protocol for initial ventilator settings or managing the ventilator, remember the RT may initiate the order, but a provider (privileged to order respiratory services) must acknowledge and authenticate the order.

Be careful with "RT Consult & Treat" orders

Anytime a hospital uses these words, they should be prepared to discuss implementation of respiratory treatment with a surveyor. Instead, consider ordering, "RT Consult," to request the RT to assess and make a recommendation. The word treat will open a door for discussion. Providers and RTs must clearly understand, the RT cannot independently make decisions and "treat" without clear orders from a provider. Some hospitals are in the habit of using the term, "RT consult and treat," as a provider's order to initiate an RT protocol. To avoid a discussion and perhaps an undesirable interpretation by a surveyor, consider using, "RT protocol." Even better, you may want to consider specific RT treatment-based protocols, e.g., oxygen, aerosol therapy, ventilator, etc. On a final and important note - Scope of practice laws for respiratory therapists are defined by state licensing boards. Most states are consistent regarding order requirements but be sure to reach out to the respiratory therapy licensing board in your state. Through communication with your hospitals providers and building order sets that guide decisions, respiratory therapists can be empowered to apply their skills and meet regulatory requirements

.....continued on [CIHQ Journal](#)



COMPLIANCE TIP OF THE MONTH

November's compliance tip of the month is around use of unsafe/unapproved abbreviations in the medical record. Surveyors will cite organizations for the use of unsafe/unapproved abbreviations when they are found in the medical record. The most common use is found in either orders for care and services or on the medication administration record.

Organizations are required to develop a list of unsafe/unapproved abbreviations. It aids organizations if they also implement mechanisms to monitor and identify their use and take appropriate actions to ensure that compliance is achieved and maintained.

The Institute for Safe Medication Practices published the list of error-prone abbreviations, symbols and dose designations for 2024.

The list can be downloaded at
<https://home.ecri.org/blogs/ismpr-resources>

This list should be considered as an organization develops or revises their list. It is also recommended that organizations determine specific requirements as defined by State agencies or their chosen accrediting organization

....continued on [CIHQ Journal](#)



HEALTHCARE REGULATORY ALERTS

There were no Regulatory Alerts issued this month.



ONGOING COMPLIANCE OFFICE TRAINING

The Compliance Office trainings will be through our Learning Management System (LMS) provided by MCN Healthcare. Below is a list of on-going training(s) required through the Compliance Office:

Staff required to take trainings will be emailed directly through MCN eLearning. You may follow-up with the Education Department if you have any questions.



CIHQ-ARS WEBINARS

UPCOMING CHIQ-ARS WEBINARS (CEUS PROVIDED):

November 15, 2024 - Waterborne Pathogen Program

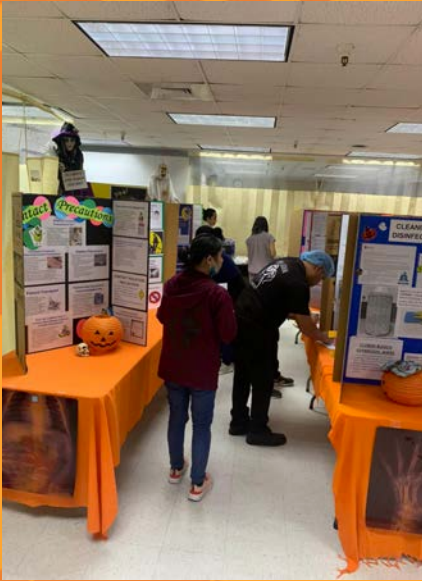
In this webinar we will be discussing the components of a waterborne pathogen program. Learn about the requirements from ASHRAE 188 and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Make sure that your waterborne pathogen program is in compliance with the CMS regulations.

Future Webinars

November 21, 2024 - Protocols and Standing Orders

January 17, 2025 - TBD

For those who are interested in attending the free webinars provided by CIHQ-ARS, contact the [Compliance Office](#) for more information. (registration with a GMHA email is required)





THIS IS YOUR **GMHA LIFELINE** NEWSLETTER! THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF **#TEAMGMHA!**

Your dedication and contributions make a real difference.

Until next time, be well!

[HAVE ANY IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS?](#)

EMAIL US AT COMMUNICATIONS@GMHA.ORG

WHAT'S COMING UP IN DECEMBER

On December 8th, we honor Guam's patron saint, Santa Marian Kamalen and join the island at Skinner Plaza for the 3rd annual Parade of Lights. We celebrate Christmas and welcome in the New Year! December is a busy and beautiful month!



Follow us On

