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## ELBERT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL WINS STATEWIDE PATIENT SAFETY AWARDS FOR ENHANCING PATIENT CARE

**ATLANTA** – The Georgia Hospital Association Partnership for Health and Accountability (PHA) presented two of its prestigious Patient Safety and Quality Awards to Elbert Memorial Hospital in Elberton. These annual awards recognize Georgia health care organizations for achievement in reducing the risk of medical errors and improving patient safety and medical outcomes.

Elbert Memorial Hospital won first place in the Critical Access Hospitals category for its project “Timely Reporting of Critical Lab Values for Inpatients and ER Patients.” This project improved accurate and timely communication of critical lab results. Critical lab value communication is imperative in providing the best outcomes for patients. Leaders and staff members evaluated existing processes and data. Improvements and process updates were implemented as data evaluation continued. The project was a success and resulted in improvements that will be maintained through continued monitoring and reporting of data.

The hospital won third place in the same category for its project “Reducing Patient Falls,” that worked to reduce patient falls with and without injury. This project was initiated to update fall prevention practices and develop a more comprehensive plan. A task force was created to evaluate trends and identify opportunities for improvements. Multiple strategies were implemented that included updates to clinical practices as well as equipment purchases.

“Hospitals are diligently working each day to ensure the safety of their patients, especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Georgia Hospital Association President and CEO Earl Rogers. “We applaud Elbert Memorial Hospital for making critical progress in patient safety while ensuring the best and safest care possible for patients.”

Kerry Trapnell, CEO of Elbert Memorial Hospital stated, “I want to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to our Nursing Leadership and our Quality Team for working on these two projects to ensure our patients are getting the best possible care while at EMH. I have said it many times in the past and will say it again. We are building something very special here at EMH. Our facility and our staff are finally being recognized for their hard work! It’s time to get a trophy case!”

**About Elbert Memorial Hospital:** Elbert Memorial Hospital is a 25-Bed Critical Access Hospital that has been providing care to Elbert and surrounding counties for 70 years. Services include acute care, swing bed, emergency, inpatient and outpatient surgery, state of the art radiology, outpatient rehabilitation, infusion, wound and hyperbaric care and many more. Our Mission is to continuously seek ways to improve our delivery of healthcare and related services that exceed the expectations of our patients, their families, and all other customers. To learn more about Elbert Memorial Hospital visit [www.emhcare.net](http://www.emhcare.net)

**About PHA**

The Partnership for Health and Accountability (PHA), an affiliate of GHA, was established in January 2000 to improve patient care and patient safety in hospitals and other health care facilities and create healthy communities.

**About GHA**

Founded in 1929, GHA serves more than 150 hospitals in Georgia and promotes the health and welfare of the public through the development of better hospital care for all Georgia's citizens. The mission of GHA is to advance the health of individuals and communities by serving as the leading advocate for all Georgia hospitals and health care systems. GHA represents its members before the General Assembly and Congress, as well as state and federal regulatory agencies, and is an allied member of the American Hospital Association. For more information, please call 770-249-4500 or visit [gha.org](http://gha.org).

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