



Elbert Memorial Hospital Wins Statewide Patient Safety Award for Infection Prevention

ATLANTA – The Georgia Hospital Association Partnership for Health and Accountability (PHA) presented its prestigious Patient Safety and Quality Award to Elbert Memorial Hospital in Elberton for its project that reduced and prevented the most common type of infections in hospital patients, including urinary tract infections, bloodstream infections, and surgical site infections. The project “Reducing Healthcare-Acquired Infections (HAIs),” won second place in the Critical Access Hospitals category. These annual awards recognize Georgia health care organizations for achievement in reducing the risk of medical errors and improving patient safety and medical outcomes.

Healthcare Associated Infections (HAIs) are a serious patient safety issue that affects hundreds-of-thousands of patients across the country every year. HAIs are caused by pathogens within the healthcare environment and most likely their host, our patient, through direct contact with a contaminated environment or person. The most important infection prevention tool we have is proper handwashing and teaching universal standards to all who encounter our patients and their environment. Through education and performance improvement methods, we were able to increase the safety and care of our patients while enhancing our knowledge and teamwork. The performance improvement process was truly a whole team project. Every member of our EMH team contributed to the effort and success of this project. Tammy Harlow, Interim CEO and Chief Operations Officer, states, “We are very proud of the staff at EMH. An award for patient safety demonstrates the staff’s commitment to taking excellent care of our community. HAIs are preventable and with our whole team working toward a common goal for our patients, we will continue to improve the processes that will reflect a better health outcome for our patients and our community.”

“Infection prevention is a priority of hospitals statewide,” said Georgia Hospital Association President and CEO Earl Rogers. “We applaud Elbert Memorial Hospital on their success in this area and thank them for their efforts to ensure the safest and best possible care for their patients.”

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 nearly 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.

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