



# GMHA LIFELINE NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024 ISSUE



## MESSAGE FROM THE HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR



### Hāfa adai Team GMHA,

Thank you to everyone who wore red last Friday. It was really great to see everyone wearing red to celebrate National Wear Red Day. It is a wonderful experience for all when Team GMHA comes together to support an important cause like bringing more attention to the rising number of women diagnosed with heart disease.

We are also recognizing our Cardiology team this month. February is both National Heart Month and American Heart Month. There are a lot of other heart-related recognition dates this month.

Governor Lou Leon Guerrero will proclaim February as National Heart Month on Friday, February 16th.

We cherish these moments where we can celebrate as a team. It is important for Team GMHA's morale. We know it has been tough. The hospital has been in the news a lot lately but in our true GMHA spirit, we remain focused on our mission which is to provide an exceptional patient experience centered on quality-driven, safe, and cost-effective healthcare.

On another note, regarding many GMHA employees getting sick with respiratory symptoms, according to Employee Health, there are three different cold and/or flu strains running through our community. If you are not feeling well, please be sure to follow hospital protocols regarding illness. Notify your supervisor and do not report to work if you are sick. Also, be sure to report your illness to the Employee Health office. All employees who have been out sick are required to be cleared by the Employee Health Nurse before they can return to work. The health and well-being of our employees is paramount, as is providing a safe environment for our patients.

We are grateful to Team GMHA for your continued commitment, support, strength, and steadfastness in all you do to care, help and serve each other and our patients. We believe in you and count on all of you to continue our mission to provide We can always count on Team GMHA to continue our mission to provide our community excellent care.

With Gratitude and Care,

*Lillian*

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## WHAT HAPPENED IN JANUARY?

### Mask Mandate at GMHA

In January, GMHA reinstated our mandatory mask use in the hospital's clinical patient care areas. Fortunately, we were able to discontinue the mandate on January 23rd, which was the proposed date. However, while the numbers in the community have subsided, the same cannot be said for our staff. As of Monday, February 5th, we have a very large number of employees who have tested positive for Covid. Please protect yourself. The mandate is over, but we encourage you to continue wearing a mask in the patient care areas for your protection.



### Covid Booster & Flu Shots

As of January, the new Covid booster shot is available. If you are due for your booster, please visit the Employee Health Office. Flu shots are also available, if you are due for one. According to our Employee Health Nurse, there are three flu and cold strains in the community which are responsible for the number of staff who are getting sick. Please note that to date, there is no proof that these illnesses are caused by anything other than virulent strains of flu and cold.



### Addressing the Mold Issues

We want to reassure Team GMHA that we are addressing the increased incident of mold since Typhoon Mawar. Despite erroneous stories in the media, we have been addressing the mold situation since the storm was over. We were supplied with guidelines by Industrial Hygienist Professionals to create a mitigation plan so we were able to begin eradicating the mold immediately. As you know, we were already fighting a battle with mold before the storm, which exasperated the situation. We are sure you have seen the FM team working fervently throughout the hospital to combat the mold using the plan of corrective action to remove it from the hospital.




**WHAT'S COMING UP IN FEBRUARY?**

### Commemorating Heart Health Awareness

We started the month wearing red in honor of **National Wear Red Day**, a day to bring attention to the increasing number of women with heart issues. The entire month of February is dedicated to heart health. It is both National Heart Month and American Heart Month. Like Wear Red Day, there are a number of other cardiology related recognition dates like Women's Heart Week, Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week, Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day, Cardiac Rehabilitation Week, and Cardiovascular Professionals Week. The Governor will be signing a Proclamation recognizing our Cardiology team and the Speaker will be presenting a Resolution, too.



### LOX Project Update

Under the Capital Improvement Projects, work is ongoing with the Liquid Oxygen (LOX) tanks and will be completed soon. Both the existing and the new structures have had a fresh coat of paint and the roofs are done. We are still in the process of securing a contractor to upgrade the power system to operate the new split air units in L&D. It will be a blessing for our patients when this work is completed.



### Butorphanol Shortage

As you may be aware, GMHA has experienced a shortage of Butorphanol, a pain medication used for surgical procedures, cardiac issues, and as a pain reliever for women in labor. There is currently a nationwide outage of Butorphanol, due to manufacturing issues with Pzifer. The company expects the medication to be available again in August 2024. In the interim, GMHA can provide epidurals for women in labor, which is the pain management option used by over 65-70% of women. GMHA also has 2nd-line medications available.



### Newsletter Content

GMHA wants to maintain open lines of communication. If you have questions about anything at GMHA or something you may have read online or in the news, you can always ask us for clarification. We pride ourselves on being transparent. Send any questions you have to [communications@gmha.org](mailto:communications@gmha.org)



FOR MORE PHOTOS

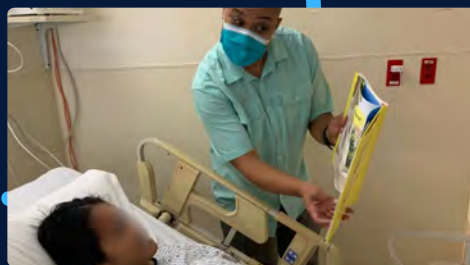
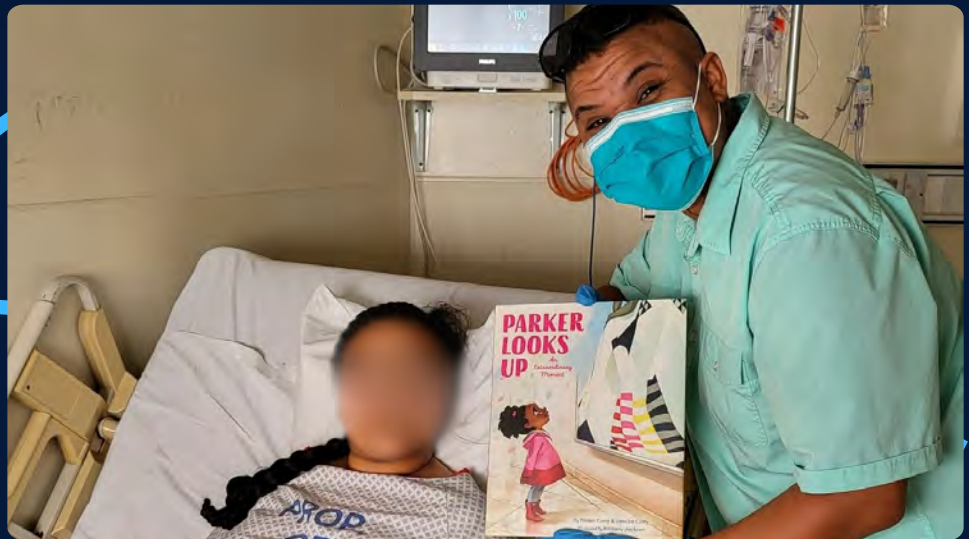
Follow us on   



# THANK YOU!

## POWER 98'S DICE VISITS GMHA'S PEDIATRIC WARD TO READ TO OUR YOUNG PATIENTS.

Dice was amazing and the children were captivated! "Power 98 Reads to Peds" is a new program and Dice plans to visit our youngsters regularly. Thank you for thinking of our peds patients, Dice! We're proud to partner with you on behalf of our Pediatric ward.



"To the nurses and doctors of the NICU Team, thank you so much for taking such great care of our sweet boy RJ during his stay with you. It was a trying time for our family, especially as first time parents, but all your warmth and kindness really helped us find comfort in the situation. Although it was an emotional experience for us to leave him in the hospital, it was comforting to know he'd be looked after by loving, expert hands. He was able to grow well in the NICU thanks to all your effort and attention. Words and actions cannot fully express our gratitude and appreciation!"

- GMHA Patient



## PATIENT TESTIMONIALS



"Eleanor San Nicolas and Therese Borja were very kind and courteous during my visit to make payments on my account. They were very helpful and explained thoroughly."

- GMHA Patient



# WELL DONE!



Jason Boyd, our Chief of Pharmacy, received a Good Catch Award for reporting a near miss sentinel event.

Based on Jason's report, we also recognized Alyosius Dela Rojo, Operating Room Staff Nurse I, with a Good Catch Award. RN Dela Rojo called the Pharmacy to inquire about an unlabeled syringe that had been dispensed.

An investigation revealed the syringe was intended for waste and not for administration to a patient. As a result, the processes were reviewed and staff educated to prevent a recurrence.

Through RN Dela Rojo's keen observation and willingness to speak up, the error did not reach the patient and a sentinel event was avoided.

Our Chief of Pharmacy accompanied GMHA Executives to meet and personally thank RN Dela Rojo for his efforts and what the Chief described as the "Good Catch of the Year!"

[PICTURED CENTER]

JASON BOYD (CHIEF OF PHARMACY)

ALYOSIUS DELA ROJO (OPERATING ROOM STAFF NURSE I)



"The service I received at the Patient Affairs Business Office was impeccable. Outstanding personnel that are very knowledgeable and courteous, especially Eleanor San Nicolas and Emy Ortega."

- GMHA Patient



## PATIENT TESTIMONIALS



"I was helped in a great way by Ms. Eleanor. My concerns were addressed and good services. Great smile and Ms. Eleanor was very friendly."

"The staff are easy to communicate and friendly, specifically Ms. Eleanor San Nicolas. It was a walk in the park experience."

"Ms. Eleanor San Nicolas was extremely kind and helpful with my clearance. We need employees such as herself throughout GovGuam."

- GMHA Patients



Deadline to order  
Feb. 08

The Spirit Committee presents

# Valentine's Day

## CANDY GRAMS

Spread love to  
your family &  
friends this  
Valentines Day  
with a sweet treat;  
in as easy as...



Grams are detailed in the order form.

For any questions, you can  
contact Chelsea at (671)922-0076  
or Claire at (671)648-6709.



### ORDER

Scan the QR code



### PAY

See Chelsea or  
Claire at the Admin  
Office. Candy Grams  
are \$3 ea.



### PICK UP

Feb. 13, 2024

Proceeds to benefit GMH employee morale/engagement



FEBRUARY 12-23, 2024  
**YOUR HEART NEEDS LOVE TOO**



SPONSORED BY



With Valentine's Day smack dab in the middle of the month, February is known as a time of love.

But how much love do you give to your own heart — an organ that beats 100,000 times a day and fuels your every move?

**FEBRUARY '24**  
**HEALTHY NURSE  
HEALTHY NATION,  
YOUR HEART  
NEEDS LOVE TOO,  
CHALLENGE**

The fact that February — the month of love — aligns so perfectly with American Heart Month is no coincidence. This incredible muscle is vital for your physical well-being, but it's also intertwined with the emotions of love and affection. During this 10 day Your Heart Needs Love Too challenge, sponsored by Humana, we're going to give it a boost in all these essential areas.

Get ready for a daily dose of heart wisdom tailored for nurses like you who are in the trenches. We won't suggest drastic changes; it's doable tweaks to your routine, easy-to-embrace habits, and nuggets of heart-friendly knowledge.

Curious to see how a 10-minute walk or a moment of gratitude can make a world of difference? Eager to witness how cutting down on salt and ditching the habit of drinking your calories can make you feel?

Join this challenge and give your heart the love it deserves.

**Category Physical Activity Challenge**

Register to join HNNH at:

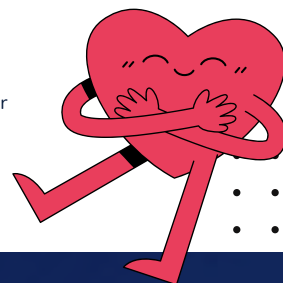
<https://www.healthynurseshealthynation.org>



GMHA is an organizational partner with HNNH. All staff may join as a member and participate in the competitions.

Questions: please call 647-2351 for Renee in the Education Department.

Support for the Patient Experience program is sponsored by the GEDA QC3 Series 6 Grant.



"Julie is very helpful to all the patients and she has heart. Edgar Magsomod, GMHA patient courier) provides excellent service!"  
- GMHA Patient



**PATIENT TESTIMONIALS**



"Therese Borja was a huge help. I've been calling GMH Business Office for several weeks and in the 10 minutes I've been here, she's helped me understand my accounts and fixed it."  
- GMHA Patient





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

#TEAMGMHA  
FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Mary Grace Abanilla  
Jeric Acena  
Maricel Aguilar  
Janine Almonte  
Helen Alvarez  
Bernadette Angeles  
Chelsea Aquai  
David Asombrado  
Michelle Balajadia  
Michelle Barasi  
John Barcinas II  
Noelle Bautista  
Elizabeth Blas  
Clarence Brooks  
Aubrey Buentipo  
Janica Bulatao  
Nirali Butala  
Mark Calalo  
Edward Camacho  
Shanydee Castro  
Nestor Catangay  
Sharmine Celeste  
Galen Cepeda  
Kenneth Cruz  
Lourdes Cruz  
Sharon De Leon  
Alvin Dela Cruz  
Mona Lisa Delfin  
Arturo Dulla  
Angelo Elomina  
Val Enate  
Gerald Enriquez

Ryan Ganon  
Eduardo Garcia  
Jerry Garcia  
Kayse Gatus  
Seung Huh  
Sangwook Kang  
Johnny Kim  
Amer Larimer  
Oliver Laxamana  
Nicole Legaspi  
Kamille Leon Guerrero  
Bobbie Jean Lujan  
Alfredo Mafnas  
Evelyn Martinez  
Jeanette Martinez  
Eunice Mendiola  
Peter Meno  
Eileen Mercado  
Joaquin Mesa  
Jessica Necheles  
Bilyas Otiwii  
Aubrey Pablo  
Mary Ann Palomo  
Berthalou Pangelinan  
Eugene Papa  
Shirley Pili  
Ivana Pinaula  
Maricel Purigay  
Cheryll Quiaoit  
Mitchell Quinata  
Dionita "Dee" Quintanilla  
Geneffer Raigelig

George Reyes  
Phoebie Rivero  
Annie Salas  
Athea Salas  
Emma Salcedo  
Jazmin Samonte  
Monica Samson  
Angelia San Agustin  
Eleanor San Nicolas  
Garren San Nicolas  
Melisa San Nicolas  
Fe Sanchez  
Brandon Savella  
Taichina Simi  
Jefford Smau  
Jolybii Song  
Crystal Soriano  
Gladys Tesei  
Jasmine Tiglao  
Rodela Tomagan  
Andrew Velasco  
Nixan Velasquez  
Cherrie Visperas  
Evelyn Vistro  
Mechelle Whiting  
Ma. Gwen Yanesa  
Nicole Yim



# HOSPITAL ACCREDITATION

## LEADING AN ANTIBIOTIC STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

In 2019, CDC advocated more action be taken to protect people from antibiotic resistance threats, reporting at least 2.8 million infections and 35,000 deaths were caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria in the United States each year. In 2020, CMS acted by overhauling Conditions of Participation §482.42 for acute care hospitals and §485.640 for critical care hospitals. In this article we explore CMS requirements and CDC recommendations for leading a successful antibiotic stewardship program (ASP) to improve antibiotic use

...continued on [CIHQ's Accreditation Resource Services Blog](#).



### COMPLIANCE TIP OF THE MONTH

February's compliance tip of the month is focused on Governance and Leadership. If a facility is surveyed and cited at one or more condition-level findings, then it will also cause a condition level finding for the governing body or responsible persons. The question may arise as to why this occurs and what is expected in the corrective action plan.

The governing body or responsible persons are ultimately responsible for the care treatment and services provided to the patient it cares for; therefore, when there are single egregious or aggregate findings that result in condition-level deficiencies then it is felt that the governing body or legally responsible persons are not providing sufficient oversight

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



### ARS REGULATORY ALERTS

- [FDA Issues Class I Recall of Phillips MRI Systems](#)
- [FDA Issues Class I Recall of ResMed Ltd. CPAP Masks](#)



### ONGOING COMPLIANCE OFFICE TRAINING

This year, the Compliance Office training will be using our new Learning Management System (LMS) provided by MCN Healthcare. Information and details on accessing MCN for training is forthcoming.



### CIHQ-ARS WEBINARS

UPCOMING CHIQ-ARS WEBINARS (CEUS PROVIDED):

**The Condition of Participation for Radiology Services**  
February 22, 2024 Webinar

It's a mistake to think of imaging services as an after-thought when it comes to preparing your hospital for a survey. CMS has robust expectations for radiology services - and your accreditors do as well. Join us for this informative webinar as we review...

**What You Need to Know About Business Occupancies**  
March 15, 2024 Webinar

Most of the attention during any type of a survey is spent in the hospital/healthcare occupancies. But what about the other locations...

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 OUR #TEAMGMHA!**

Your dedication and contributions make a real difference.

Together, we'll continue to improve.

Until next time, take care!

[HAVE ANY IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS?](#)

**EMAIL US AT [COMMUNICATIONS@GMHA.ORG](mailto:COMMUNICATIONS@GMHA.ORG)**



**WHAT'S COMING UP IN MARCH?**

**BIBA MES CHAMORU!**

**March is CHamoru Month!** We celebrate Guam History and Chamorro Heritage Day on Friday, March 1st and can head to Umatac or celebrate with a family BBQ because it is a GovGuam holiday!.



If you're still feeling festive, wear your best green outfit on

**MARCH 17TH FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY**



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