



# GMHA LIFELINE NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2024 ISSUE



## MESSAGE FROM THE HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR



**Håfa adai Team GMHA,**

With my sincerest joy, I express my deep appreciation to Team GMHA for extending amazing cooperation and support to the CMS surveyors while conducting their in-depth inspections and observations over the last two weeks. It takes all our effort, professionalism, and dedication when CMS surveyors visit to ensure we comply with the CMS Conditions and Standards of CMS Certification, are transparent,

and give the surveyors our full support and cooperation. I am grateful to all of you for going the extra mile to accommodate CMS surveyors and assist them with their needs while here.

Perhaps one of the most exciting events in August was participating in a Full Scale Exercise (FSE) with the military, government agencies, and the private sector. The exercise was a simulation of a traffic accident involving civilians and a military transport vehicle carrying low-level radioactive material. The exercise was treated as an actual event, with volunteers portraying victims from the crash arriving at GMHA with different levels of exposure. It was an excellent exercise that allowed us to identify our strengths and areas we need to work on. It was a valuable experience and there will be more FSE's in the future both within GMHA and in conjunction with our military, government, and civic partners.

I hope to see everyone at the annual GovGuam Labor Day Picnic this Sunday at Ypao Beach Park. I want to extend a special thank you to the GMHA Spirit Committee for coordinating a great day for us, full of Team GMHA camaraderie, fun, food, and laughter! Don't forget you can park at JFK and take the shuttle to Ypao Beach. I know the heat may dissuade you from attending this wonderful event to celebrate you because you all work so zealously. Let's not let the hot weather rob us of this joy and victory. Let's celebrate Team GMHA together this Sunday and have a great day at the GovGuam Labor Day Picnic.

*Lillian*

Si Yu'os ma'ase'

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"Dr. Muña-Aguon and staff were very good and very helpful. Everyone treated us with respect."

- GMHA Patient



GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY  
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**WHAT HAPPENED IN AUGUST?**



August was a month of training, national recognition, and making new friends in the healthcare industry in Guam and more. On Friday, August 2nd, GMHA joined our military, Government of Guam, and healthcare partners DPHSS, GRMC, and the US Naval Hospital (USNH) in a Full Scale Exercise (FSE). The exercise featured a live simulation of a mass casualty event involving exposure to radiation after a traffic crash between a military transport vehicle and two tour buses. During the simulation, GMHA received a total of 33 patient actors requiring different levels of care. The exercise showcased our strengths, our ability to respond effectively to an emergency, and identified areas where we need to do more training. Overall, GMHA performed with excellence.



Another extraordinary event that occurred in early August at the 2024 Olympic Games where a female sprinter became the first woman from Guam to advance from a preliminary round and into the next heat. The 26-year-old former U.S. Navy officer's name is Regine Tugade-Watson and if her name sounds familiar, it is because

Regine is the daughter of Zaldy Tugade, our Associate Administrator of Operations. Guam is very proud of Regine, but her father's pride shines the brightest. Congratulations Regine and to your family including your Dad, Zaldy, who also makes GMHA proud every day.

On Friday, August 9th, we welcomed Dice from Power 98 who came to celebrate National Book Lovers Day with our pediatric patients. Dice read books in the new Pediatric Library and Toy room, where she and our PIO discovered their inner children. The two ended up playing with a peds patient for a few hours and it was hard to tell who was having the most fun. If you haven't seen the new Pediatric Library, it is adorable!



GMHA was recognized with two accolades this month from reputable organizations! We were recognized by the US News & World Report as a High Performing Hospital in the areas of Pulmonology, Diabetes, and Cardiology. US News & World Report has been a trusted source for independent reporting, rankings, journalism and advice that has earned people's trust for over 90 years.



GMHA's second recognition was from the American Heart Association who awarded GMHA with its Get With The Guidelines® - Resuscitation Bronze quality achievement award for its commitment to treating in-hospital cardiac arrest. This is the second time this year that the American Heart Association recognized GMHA. In July, GMHA received the Get With The Guidelines® - Stroke Gold award and an honorable mention for our treatment of Type 2 Diabetes. GMHA is not informed when we are under consideration for these awards. They are a welcome surprise and a wonderful recognition for our hard working Team GMHA!







Our local public schools have been facing issues preparing for the coming school year. Members of the community have stepped up and pitched in to help get the schools open as quickly as possible so our children can get back to their education. Team members from our Facilities Maintenance department pitched in to help get Machananao Elementary School ready for inspection. With the combined efforts of other agencies and our FM team, Machananao Elementary passed its inspection and was able to open on time. Way to go, Team FM!



On Monday, August 26th, GMHA welcomed the new Commanding Officer of US Naval Hospital, Captain Joel Schofer. Capt. Schofer visited GMHA to meet with our Executive team to discuss ways for the two hospitals to support each other. Building relationships with our healthcare partners is an excellent way to ensure the health needs of our community are met.

## WHAT'S COMING UP IN SEPTEMBER?

The biggest event in September is the 2024 GovGuam Labor Day Picnic this Sunday at Ypao Beach Park. We have the same spot as in previous picnics, Tent #32. The picnic is from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Parking is limited but there will be satellite parking at JFK and the shuttle will go back and forth between GVB and JFK from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. The GMHA Spirit Committee has worked hard to make this year's GovGuam Labor Day Picnic a huge success. There will be snack bags delivered to Team GMHA members who are working and cannot join us at the picnic.

For more information, please see the flyer in this issue. The picnic is on Sunday, Sept. 1st making Monday, Sept. 2nd a holiday. See you at the picnic!



This month marks the 23rd year since the United States was attacked on September 11, 2001. Thousands of lives were lost in the collapse of the World Trade Center, the attack on the Pentagon, and the brave souls on United Airlines Flight 93 who fought their hijackers, resulting in the plane crashing in Pennsylvania and saving the intended target, a federal building in Washington DC, which many believe was the White House. September 11th is now known as Patriot Day to recognize the tragic loss of lives and the resilience of the American people. You can pay homage to them with a moment of silence in their honor.



A friendly reminder if you have not yet completed the mandatory Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) training, the deadline for completion is October 1, 2024. Please follow up with your supervisor if you have not received an email with instructions to access MCN to take the training.

On the subject of employee email, currently 37% of our staff do not check their email and many are blocked due to reaching the maximum number of emails allowed. Please clear your inbox and contact [communications@gmha.org](mailto:communications@gmha.org) to be re-added to Marketing & Communication's email list.





# PHOTO GALLERY







### FISCAL DIVISION TEAM ATTENDS ANNUAL HFMA CONFERENCE IN LAS VEGAS

Our Fiscal Division, Revenue Cycle Management attended the Annual Conference for the Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA) in Las Vegas on June 24th. This year's theme was "A New Frontier in Health." GMHA attendees included Yuka Hechanova, CFO; Sydie Taisacan, General Accounting Supervisor - Revenue Cycle Management; Luis Miclat Jr., Utilization Review Manager; and Patty Camacho, Revenue Integrity Department Lead.



WELL DONE

### GMHA STAFF JOIN LT. GOVERNOR JOSHUA TENORIO AT SINAJANA HEALTH FAIR

Representatives from GMHA's Rehabilitation, Nutrition, and Social Work departments, nurses, and doctors pose with Lt. Governor Joshua Tenorio at the Sinajana Health Fair on Saturday, August 18, 2024. GMHA was happy to extend our services to the community.



### EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION



## MARIA ROSE VONGJALORN

SOCIAL WORKER III

GMHA proudly recognizes Maria Rose Vongjalorn who celebrates her 27th year this month as a Social Worker III. Maria Rose has served the residents at the Skilled Nursing Facility for most of her career with GMHA. We are very lucky to have such a compassionate and dedicated employee like Maria Rose who has devoted herself to caring for our people. Thank you, Maria Rose, you are an example of everything we want all want to be.



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## #TEAMGMHA SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Leeann Acfalle  
Richard Acosta  
Raven Agpaa  
Solmaz Akhtarpour  
Julie Alcantara  
Ellenee Alhambra  
Rozell Almoguera  
Ruvhie-Ann Alunday  
Madonna Amande  
Matthew Aquino  
Rosielyn Babauta  
Elizabeth Balagot  
Daisy Baul  
Harlyn Belga  
Rose Ann Bolton  
Jason Boyd  
Kayla Cajigal  
France Catolos  
Maria Patricia Cayetano  
Doris Chlupsa  
Hye Won Choi  
Elsa Christian  
Neil Concepcion  
Yvonne Cruz  
Stephanie Cruz-Debibar  
Lorena Dalisay  
Yvonne Damian  
Jocelyn De Leon

Glenah De Veas  
Jacqueline Delos Reyes  
Rizza Derez  
Rulieta Develles  
Emmelyn Dino  
Paciencia Dionisio  
Reggie Mae Dionisio  
Helen Grace Donato  
Jun Escobar  
Romalie Estoy  
Lariesah Evaristo  
Lorgie Rose Evaristo  
Gabriel Fejeran  
Zachary Fernandez  
Elvira Garcia  
Kathleen Garcia  
Ericka Gatus  
Melanie German  
Brandon Glaser  
Danny Gonzaga  
Jayson Gozum  
Angelita Guingao  
Wilma Hermosura  
Deborah Hufana  
Neri Bles Jingco  
Epifania Laxamana

Jefferson Leceta  
Christin Lee  
Daleina Lizama  
Richard Lizama  
Alyssa Macan  
Kiara Malvas  
Janet Mandapat  
Caridad Mantanona  
Dianne Martinez  
Kristy Joy Mary  
Job Marconi Mascardo  
Caroline Meno  
Lulu Mercado  
Benny Nauta  
Catherine Ortaleza  
Adam Pangelinan  
Paula Pelayo  
Cody Perez  
Antonio Porte Jr.  
Vicente Quenga  
Jim Quichocho  
Anicia Quidachay  
Herman Quidachay  
Benedict Quinto  
Jasmine Quinto  
Marlyn Ramos

Richie Recomono  
Kimberly Resurreccion  
Mikyla Reyes  
Erlyn Rivera  
Cirilo Robite  
Eva Roque  
Marissa Sablan  
Pamela Sablan  
Cianna Salonga  
John San Nicolas Jr.  
Rebecka Sanders  
Joyce Shimizu  
Mortizha Soto  
Layla Story  
Roselyn Taman  
Maria Tigulo  
Rowena Timothy  
Jeanine Topasna  
Gasmyn Toves  
Amber-Lynn Tudela  
John Tuquero  
Mekeruul Ueki  
Renee Veksler  
Regine Vida  
Peggy Villagomez  
Jennifer Villaverde  
Aida Yap  
Escolastica Zapanta







# LABOR DAY PICNIC



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2024  
10 A.M. TO 5 P.M., YPAO BEACH PARK



**FOOD, MUSIC,  
& FUN**

**Rock climbing, train, trampoline  
and more for the kids**

**Volleyball, Tug-of-War,  
Over/Under**

### RAFFLES:

One complimentary ticket for coming & one for wearing the 2024 Labor Day tee



Satellite Parking at JFK, from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

ADA & public parking are first come-first served

Life guard & emergency services on-duty









## HOSPITAL ACCREDITATION STERILIZATION AND INFECTION PREVENTION

Infection Preventionists (IPs) play a vital role in the healthcare system, especially in the Sterile Processing Department (SPD), where preventing infection and cross-contamination is paramount. As infection prevention advocates, SPDs are responsible for ensuring that surgical instruments and other medical devices are properly sterilized and free of harmful microorganisms before they are used on patients. Together, they are responsible for creating and implementing infection control programs tailored to the needs of sterilization practices

### IPs and SPDs: A Collaborative Approach

TAdvantage Support Services has had the privilege of auditing SPDs and Operating Rooms, revealing a common issue: the scarce presence of infection preventionists in these departments. Many hospitals have one preventionist overseeing multiple campuses, which, while providing a high level of oversight, often lacks the hands-on approach needed in SPDs. As an expert in sterile processing, advocating for a closer, more involved approach to the care and handling of instrumentation is essential. Establishing a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) program should include IPs contributing to the oversight of cleaning and sterilization practices, ensuring compliance with established infection control protocols, and conducting regular inspections. This insight into processes allows IPs to better participate in a multidisciplinary team (MDT) and collaborate effectively with SP.

By working closely with other healthcare professionals as part of an MDT, IPs can help identify potential risk areas and develop effective strategies to prevent the spread of infections. The Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI) ANSI/AAMI ST79, Comprehensive guide to steam sterilization and sterility assurance in health care facilities recommend involving a multidisciplinary team comprised of designated personnel, such as facility engineers, infection preventionists, risk managers, and SP managers, in conducting a risk assessment. When contributing to a multidisciplinary team specifically for sterilization practices, IPs should partner with SP leaders and staff to establish their policies and procedures. Together, they can evaluate current policies and compare them to best practices recommended by organizations such as AAMI, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) .....continued on [CIHQ Journal](#)



## COMPLIANCE TIP OF THE MONTH

The compliance tip of the month for September is focused on an organization's Emergency Preparedness. Specifically, organizations must develop and implement policies including but not limited to a system to track the location of on-duty staff during an emergency.

Hospitals are often cited when, based on a review of documents or staff/leadership interviews, a surveyor is not able to see that a policy has been developed and implemented.

The CMS regulations and the interpretive guidance are below for reference.

§482.15 Condition of Participation: Emergency Preparedness §482.15 (b): Standard: Policies & Procedures §482.15(b)(2) [(b) Policies and procedures. The hospital must develop and implement emergency preparedness policies and procedures, based on the emergency plan set forth in paragraph (a) of this section, risk assessment at paragraph (a)(1) of this section, and the communication plan at paragraph (c) of this section. The policies and procedures must be reviewed and updated at least every two years. At a minimum, the policies and procedures must address the following:]

[(2) A system to track the location of on-duty staff and sheltered patients in the [hospital's] care during an emergency. If on-duty staff and sheltered patients are relocated during the emergency, the [hospital] must document the specific name and location of the receiving facility or other location.]

....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:

- Medicare Beneficiary Discharge Appeal Rights
- Condition of Participation - Radiology Services
- Preparing for a Life Safety Inspection

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):

### September 10, 2024 Webinar - Capital Planning Made Easy: A Stress-Free Approach to Budget Preparation

Say goodbye to the annual scramble of capital planning with our stress-free approach. This webinar will equip you with the tools and techniques to efficiently gather and analyze data, identify essential needs, and prepare a...

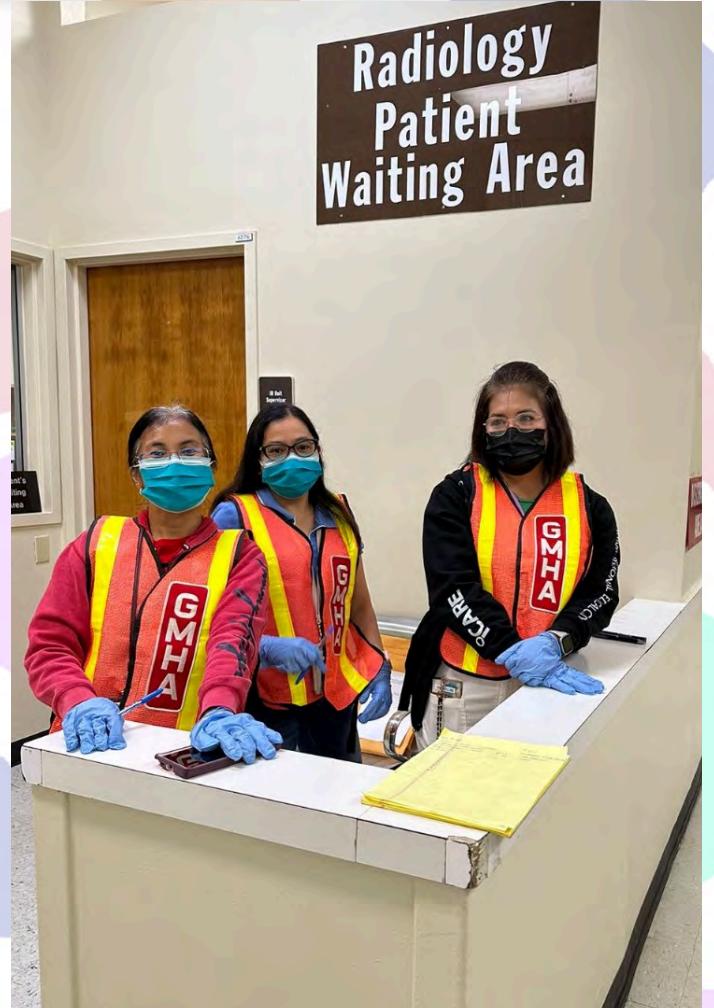
Your Webinar Host: CIHQ in partnership with Soleran with a special guest from Carson Tahoe Regional Medical Center

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)





# PHOTO GALLERY







**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](mailto:COMMUNICATIONS@GMHA.ORG)**

**WHAT'S COMING UP IN OCTOBER**

Witches, ghouls, and ghosts – oh my!!!  
Halloween is coming up next month!



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