



For Release: October 8, 2020

Date: October 8, 2020

Advanced Care Hospital of Southern New Mexico Awarded Honor in Hospital Quality

During Covid crisis and beyond, hospital's teams improve outcomes for respiratory patients

Albuquerque, N.M. – October 8, 2020 – Advanced Care Hospital of Southern New Mexico in Las Cruces, N.M., has earned the Quest for Excellence Award, the New Mexico Hospital Association's (NMHA's) premier specialty hospital honor for hospital quality and performance improvement. The hospital was honored for its project to improve the health outcomes for respiratory patients and reduce the frequency of acute care patient transfers. The award was presented in a ceremony at the 75th NMH*All Together* Annual Meeting of the NMHA, this year brought to healthcare stakeholders through a virtual event platform.

Claudia Saiz, Advanced Care Hospital of Southern New Mexico CEO, accepted the award from John Harris, CEO of Memorial Medical Center and NMHA board of directors' chair. At all times, commitment to quality and patient safety is central to the mission of NMHA member hospitals, shared Harris.

“We would like to thank the NMHA for honoring us with the 2020 NMHA Quest for Excellence Award. The Advanced Care Hospital of Southern New Mexico is very proud to receive this recognition that was accomplished through vision, dedication and determination. Our team members are humbled to be acknowledged for the hard work they provide and are grateful to be a part of an amazing healthcare community,” said Saiz.

Advanced Care Hospital is one of just three New Mexico hospitals to earn the competitive award for work conducted between August 2019-August 2020. The hospital implemented strategies to reduce the need for respiratory failure patients, where possible, to have to be transferred back to the acute care hospital. These strategies, incredibly timely given the respiratory nature of Covid-19, included onboarding standardized patient processes for all employees, improving patient and family satisfaction regarding their hospital stay, and directly connecting patients and families to education, support groups and other community resources.

“Our Respiratory Failure Team strives to improve our patient outcomes through careful review of data and implementation of process improvement measures. We are proud to serve our local community as the only Joint Commission Certified Respiratory Failure Program in the region,” said Jennifer Risley, Director of Therapy.

It takes a team, representing multiple disciplines to make patient quality and safety gains a reality. The Advanced Care Hospital team includes members of the hospital's Vent Team and Leadership Team.

“As our guiding principles read, 'We are only as good as our last patient outcome' and the Respiratory Failure Team, Leadership, as well as all of our phenomenal staff, work very hard to assure that each patient in the Respiratory Failure Program has a positive outcome. It is our passion that drives us to do better every day,” said Meghan VanNatta, Director of Compliance

“The hospital’s comprehensive plan put into action has made Advanced Care Hospital of Southern New Mexico a leader in the state and nation in fostering patient quality and access to services,” said Troy Clark, NMHA president and CEO.

For more on the strides New Mexico hospitals have made in advancing patient safety and quality in their communities, listen to the [NMHA Advancing Quality & Patient Safety Podcast](https://anchor.fm/nmha) at <https://anchor.fm/nmha>. Podcast guests include healthcare and clinical experts across our state.

###

New Mexico Hospital Association (NMHA) represents 46 New Mexico acute care hospitals, on state and federal legislative and regulatory public policy issues. NMHA partners with its members and others to improve the health status of New Mexicans through innovation and best practices. It is an authoritative source for hospital data used in public policy initiatives. NMHA advocates for the common good and collective interests of its members and patients, in an ever-changing health care environment.

For more information, please contact:

Pamela K. Blackwell
NMHA Director, Policy and Communications
202.258.0727 C
pblackwell@nmhsc.com
<https://www.nmhanet.org/>

More about NMHA: <https://www.nmhanet.org/>

Follow us on Twitter [@NMHospitals](https://twitter.com/NMHospitals) | Like us on facebook [@NMHospitals](https://www.facebook.com/NMHospitals) | Follow us on LinkedIn [New Mexico Hospital Association](https://www.linkedin.com/company/new-mexico-hospital-association)