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Presbyterian Rust Medical Center Awarded Top Honor in Hospital Quality

During Covid crisis and beyond, hospital's teams make patient quality care a reliable reality

Albuquerque, N.M. – October 8, 2020 – Presbyterian Rust Medical Center in Rio Rancho, N.M., has earned the Quest for Excellence Award, New Mexico Hospital Association's (NMHA's) premier honor. The hospital was honored for a project that enlisted multiple teams and approaches to sustain and fully integrate important quality improvement programs. 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.

Angela Ward, MBA, MSN, RN, Presbyterian Rust Chief Executive, 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.

Presbyterian Rust Medical Center observed that many improvement projects, while well-intentioned, failed to last beyond the initial phase. In response, the hospital set in place systems that empower staff at all levels to sustain projects and promote continuous, rapid improvement that is integrated into daily staff activities. For example, the hospital's Tiered Huddle system accelerated response to Covid-19 issues including tracking Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and ventilators, and allocation of scarce Covid-19 testing supplies to the most at-risk or symptomatic patients

"The hospital's comprehensive plan put into action has made Presbyterian Rust Medical Center a leader in the state and nation in fostering patient quality and access to services," said Troy Clark, NMHA president and CEO.

It takes a team representing multiple disciplines to make patient quality and safety gains a reality. The Presbyterian Rust team includes the following hospital staff: Angela Ward, Jay Sundheimer, Rick Kennedy, Garrett Bean and Ben Casarez.

For more on strides New Mexico hospitals have made in advancing quality and patient safety 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.

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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.

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