



Atrium Health advances nursing excellence, strengthening care for patients across Georgia

Every Atrium Health hospital in Georgia now recognized by the American Nursing Credentialing Center

MACON and ROME, Ga., Aug. 5, 2026 — Atrium Health nurses across Georgia have recently been recognized for demonstrating excellence in nursing that enhances the care provided to patients and communities, as reflected by a strong showing in the state’s inaugural list of Great 100 Nurses and by Atrium Health Floyd Medical Center’s designation as a Pathway to Excellence® hospital.

The [American Nurses Credentialing Center](#) (ANCC) announced earlier this summer that Atrium Health Floyd Medical Center including Atrium Health Polk Medical Center, Atrium Health Cherokee Medical Center, Atrium Health Floyd Medical Center Behavioral Health, Atrium Health Floyd Chattooga Emergency Department, Atrium Health Floyd Heyman Hospice Care, facilities of Atrium Health Floyd Medical Center have met credentialing criteria for its Pathway to Excellence® Program with distinction. The program recognizes a healthcare organization’s commitment to creating a positive practice environment that empowers and engages staff.

Pathway to Excellence credentialed organizations demonstrate a sustained culture of excellence that promotes job satisfaction, improves staff retention and boosts recruitment. Surveys of frontline nurses and teammate narratives confirm attainment across six overarching standards: shared decision-making, leadership, safety, quality, well-being and professional development.

“Designation as an ANCC Pathway to Excellence reflects the environment we create for our nurses so they can deliver the highest quality care to our patients every day,” said Sheila Bennett, senior vice president and chief of patient services at Atrium Health Floyd. “When nurses are supported, engaged and empowered by leadership and their peers across the care team, it directly benefits our patients through safer care, stronger outcomes and a better overall experience. We are committed to maintaining an environment that allows our teams to provide that level of care for every patient we serve.”

With the Atrium Health Floyd designation, all Atrium Health facilities in Georgia and Alabama now meet the credentials for either Magnet or Pathway designation.

ANCC also administers the Magnet Recognition Program®, a more comprehensive, empirical model that requires extensive documentation and four-day site visits. Research has shown that Magnet-recognized health organizations benefit their communities through higher patient satisfaction scores, as well as lower risk of 30-day mortality following discharge. Magnet and Pathway organizations seek reaccreditation every four years.

Additionally, the [Great 100 Nurses Foundation](#) announced its inaugural list for the state of Georgia, and Atrium Health has 18 of the 100 nurses on this prestigious roster. Atrium Health Navicent boasts 14 recognized nurses, while Atrium Health Floyd garners four. Invited recipients will be honored at a celebration Thursday, Sept. 3 in Atlanta.

To compile the list, the foundation selects exemplary nurses nominated for their concern for humanity, contributions to the profession and mentoring of others. The Great 100 Nurses Foundation was founded by P.K. Scheerle, RN, in New Orleans, La., nearly four decades ago. Since its founding, the Great 100 Celebrations have honored thousands of extraordinary nurses across Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, North Carolina and now Georgia. Funds raised through the recognition celebrations help support nursing advocacy, scholarships and research.

“This Great 100 Nurses list makes a strong statement about our nurses, as they represent only 3% of nurses in the state of Georgia but have an outsized presence on this list,” said Tracey Blalock, Georgia area chief nursing executive and chief nursing officer, Atrium Health Navicent. “Our organization works hard to attract, retain and support the most qualified and compassionate nurses to care for our patients. We are thrilled to see so many of them recognized for their dedication, hard work and professionalism.”

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About Atrium Health Floyd and Atrium Health Navicent

With a more than 150-year history of serving the needs of patients and communities, the [Atrium Health Floyd](#) and Harbin Clinic family of health care services are a leading medical provider and economic force in northwest Georgia and northeast Alabama. More than 5,200 teammates at Atrium Health Floyd and Harbin Clinic provide care throughout the region, offering more than 40 medical specialties at its hospitals in Rome and Cedartown, Georgia, and Centre, Alabama. Building on a 130-year history of service to the community, [Atrium Health Navicent](#) is the leading provider of health care in central and south Georgia and is committed to its mission of elevating health and well-being through compassionate, personalized care. Atrium Health Navicent provides high-quality, personalized care in 53 specialties at more than 50 facilities throughout the region. Its patients have access to the resources of a preeminent academic health system at the forefront of clinical excellence, innovation and research. Both are part of Charlotte, North Carolina-based [Advocate Health](#), the nation’s third-largest nonprofit integrated health system with [Wake Forest University](#)

[School of Medicine](#) as its academic core. Patients have access to the resources of a preeminent academic health system at the forefront of clinical excellence, innovation and research. Nationally recognized for expertise in heart and vascular, neurosciences, oncology, pediatrics and rehabilitation, Advocate Health is also a pioneer in the delivery of virtual health care. It's accelerating discovery by making research participation part of the standard-of-care through its one-of-a-kind [National Center for Clinical Trials](#), plus two affiliated life-sciences-focused innovation districts and is home to one of the nation's largest graduate medical education programs, with an experiential learning focus and specialized residencies to help protect the long-term sustainability of rural health care in America.

About Advocate Health

Headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina, [Advocate Health](#) is the third-largest nonprofit, integrated health system in the United States. A preeminent academic health system at the forefront of clinical excellence, innovation and research, it delivers care under the names [Advocate Health Care](#) in Illinois; [Atrium Health](#) in the Carolinas, Georgia and Alabama; and [Aurora Health Care](#) in Wisconsin and Michigan, and [Wake Forest University School of Medicine](#) is its academic core. Nationally recognized for expertise in heart and vascular, neurosciences, oncology, pediatrics and rehabilitation, Advocate Health is also a pioneer in the delivery of virtual health care. It is accelerating discovery by making research participation part of the standard-of-care through its one-of-a-kind [National Center for Clinical Trials](#), plus two affiliated life-sciences-focused innovation districts and one of the nation's largest graduate medical education programs. With more than 165,000 teammates serving patients at 69 hospitals and over 1,000 care locations across eight states, Advocate Health reinvests over \$6 billion each year to improve community health, making it one of the nation's largest providers of community benefit.

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