



Vitruvian Health

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INFORMATION

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Hamilton Medical Center designated Level I Emergency Cardiac Care Center

DALTON, Ga. (January 19, 2026) – Hamilton Medical Center (HMC), part of Vitruvian Health, has been designated a Level I Emergency Cardiac Care Center by the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH).

The designation was awarded on Dec. 16, 2025, recognizing HMC as having the state’s highest level of emergency cardiac care.

“This achievement reflects the dedication of our cardiac and emergency care teams — and our ongoing commitment to providing the highest level of care for our community,” said Ateet Patel, MD, chief of the Heart & Vascular program for Vitruvian Health. “When it comes to heart care, time and expertise matter.”

HMC earned the designation through its ability to deliver rapid, advanced and lifesaving care for patients experiencing heart attacks or other cardiac emergencies. The designation is part of a system established in 2017 to reduce the number of people who die from cardiac disease — more than 800,000 annually in the United States alone.

DPH’s Office of Cardiac Care emphasizes improved survival rates from cardiac events that occur outside the hospital by setting standards for quality improvement, benchmarking and evidence-based guidelines.

The Office also assigns designated levels to Emergency Cardiac Care Centers — Level I, II or III, based on a rigorous evaluation process that includes an on-site inspection and a thorough assessment. Level I designation means the hospital provides the highest and most comprehensive level of care around the clock, including open heart surgery, interventional cardiac catheterizations and other cardiac procedures.

“Our emergency and cardiac care teams have received advanced training to deliver proven protocols for diagnoses and treatments that save lives,” said Patel. “Hamilton Medical Center

has been a leader in cardiac care for decades. This designation is one more way we're demonstrating our commitment to providing the high-quality heart care that patients need."

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Photo: Ateet Patel, MD, chief of the Heart & Vascular program for Vitruvian Health

About Hamilton Medical Center

The flagship affiliate for Vitruvian Health's Northwest Georgia region, Hamilton Medical Center (HMC) is a 255-bed regional acute-care hospital that offers major medical, surgical and diagnostic services, including accredited stroke and chest pain centers. Advanced technology and wellness are two significant areas of focus for HMC. Services include the freestanding Hamilton Ambulatory Surgery Center, Hamilton Diagnostics Center, and Bradley Wellness Center, as well as a Level II trauma center, Peeples Cancer Institute, Heart & Vascular program (including open heart surgery), Hamilton Spine Health and Sport, Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and more.

About Vitruvian Health

Vitruvian Health, formerly Hamilton Health Care System, is a not-for-profit, fully integrated health system serving the Northwest Georgia and Southeast Tennessee regions. Vitruvian includes Hamilton Medical Center in Dalton, Ga., and Bradley Medical Center in Cleveland, Tenn., affiliated physician practices, walk-in care centers, retirement and skilled nursing centers, a diagnostic center, a cancer institute, an institute for children with developmental delays, and more. Known for its advanced care and personalized service, Vitruvian Health offers innovative treatment options in state-of-the-art facilities while maintaining a compassionate, friendly and tranquil healing environment.

The Vitruvian name draws from the organization's recognizable da Vinci-inspired Vitruvian Man icon, which has been a prominent part of Hamilton's logo since 1976. Da Vinci's Vitruvian Man represents harmony, balance, and the interconnectedness of all aspects of health, perfectly aligning with Hamilton's integrated system of care.