



Vitruvian Health

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INFORMATION

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Hamilton Medical Center Environmental Services employees gain advanced certification

DALTON, Ga. (November 19, 2025) – A group of Hamilton Medical Center (HMC) Environmental Services employees recently received advanced training and certification in cleaning and disinfecting. Two groups of Environmental Services employees have already graduated with their certification.

Certified employees include: Mohammed Belhaj, Merlin Hernandez, Gloria Paniagua, Pricilla Pluff, Samantha Sixto-Cortez and Rita Staten.

The Certified Health Care Environmental Services Technician (CHEST) certification reflects HMC's ongoing commitment to the highest level of service, quality and care for its patients and equips technicians by providing advanced training in proper cleaning, disinfecting and preventing infection in health care environments.

"Achieving this certification is another way Hamilton shows commitment to safety and excellence," said Amy Carroll, Infection Prevention specialist. "The Environmental Services technicians play a critical role in infection prevention, and this training supports them in delivering a safe and clean environment for patients and staff."

The training covers infection prevention and control, effective communication and decision-making, best practices for selecting the right equipment and disinfectants, how to disinfect patient rooms, extra steps to take in isolation rooms or waste streams, the patient experience impact of the cleaning and disinfecting process, team problem-solving, and special considerations.

The training goes beyond standard cleaning procedures and delves into advanced disinfecting in different situations, specialty areas and isolation rooms, all while guiding participants toward industry best practices and exceeding standard cleaning.

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Photo: With Hamilton Medical Center leaders, Environmental Services (EVS) associates who recently received advanced certification are pictured. From left are Larry Lear, EVS director; Rita Staten, EVS associate; Samantha Sixto-Cortez, EVS associate; Judean Guinn, CNO and vice president; Gloria Paniagua, EVS associate; Pricilla Pluff, EVS associate; Mohammed Belhaj, EVS associate; Merlin Hernandez, EVS associate; Danny Wright, vice president; and Amy Carroll, Infection Prevention specialist.

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, Peebles 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.