



Vitruvian Health

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FOR MEDIA

INFORMATION

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Hamilton EMS nationally recognized for commitment to quality care for heart attacks, strokes

DALTON, Ga. (July 7, 2026) – Hamilton Emergency Medical Services (HEMS) recently received the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline EMS® Gold achievement award for its commitment to offering rapid and research-based care to people experiencing the most severe form of heart attacks and strokes, ultimately saving lives.

Emergency medical services staff can begin treatment when they arrive – much sooner than if someone goes to the hospital by car. HEMS staff are also trained to provide resuscitation efforts to someone whose heart has stopped.

Mission: Lifeline EMS® is the American Heart Association's national initiative to advance the system of care for patients with high-risk, time-sensitive disease states, such as severe heart attacks and strokes. The program helps reduce barriers to prompt treatment – starting from when 911 is called, to EMS transport and continuing through hospital treatment and discharge. Optimal care for heart attack and stroke patients takes coordination between the individual prehospital providers and health care systems.

“Arguably the most important link in the chains of survival for acute stroke and cardiovascular emergencies is emergency medical services and pre-hospital professionals,” said Kacey Kronenfeld, MD, FAEMS, chair of the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline EMS Taskforce. “Early condition identification, stabilization and prehospital interventions and initiation of actions within the regional systems of care provide patients with the best chance for receiving expedient definitive therapies leading to optimal outcomes and maximized quality of life. The American Heart Association Mission: Lifeline EMS awards are an important way to recognize the crucial roles and performances of EMS personnel in stroke and cardiac patients' care.”

The Mission: Lifeline EMS achievement award focuses on agencies' on-scene care, bringing to the forefront the collaboration and contributions to patient care for pre-hospital healthcare providers.

HEMS was also recognized on the American Heart Association's Target: Heart Attack Honor Roll, focused on the system of care for patients. This award highlights the collaboration and contributions of both pre-hospital and hospital providers. To qualify for this recognition, agencies must meet specific criteria that reduce the time between an eligible patient's first EMS medical contact to hospital arrival and treatment with primary percutaneous coronary intervention or thrombolytic therapy.

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Photo: Some of Hamilton EMS associates are pictured.

About Hamilton Emergency Medical Services

Hamilton EMS (HEMS) is the sole Emergency Medical Transport service in Whitfield County. HEMS is designated by the state of Georgia as an Advanced Life Support service which serves an approximate 104,000 residents in Whitfield County, and the many others who commute through 291 square miles. HEMS responds to more than 19,000 9-1-1 calls and approximately 2,500 non-emergency transport (NET) calls per year. HEMS is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS), which helps help EMS agencies increase organizational performance and efficiency, and clinical quality.

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 III trauma center, Peeples Cancer Institute, Heart & Vascular program (including open heart surgery), Bandy Endoscopy Center, 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.