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**NORTHEAST GEORGIA HEALTH SYSTEM IS FIRST IN GEORGIA TO HAVE FIVE  
HOSPITALS RECEIVE NATIONAL AWARD FOR EMERGENCY CARE**

GAINESVILLE, Ga. – A national nursing group now says people can trust they’re receiving the highest quality emergency care at any Northeast Georgia Health System hospital.

Northeast Georgia Medical Center (NGMC) Habersham recently received the Emergency Nurses Association’s Lantern Award, which recognizes emergency departments that demonstrate exceptional and innovative performance in leadership, practice, education, advocacy and research. With this recognition, NGMC Habersham joins NGMC Barrow, Braselton, Gainesville, and Lumpkin as Lantern Award recipients – making NGHS the first healthcare system in Georgia to have five hospitals honored with this distinction.

“This award means people across our region can rest easy knowing their local hospital provides outstanding emergency care,” said Walt Wiley, NGHS executive director for Emergency, Trauma, Observation and EMS Services. “It also reflects the outstanding dedication of our physicians, nurses, and staff who work tirelessly every day to provide life-saving care in all the communities we serve.”

People can also now see actual wait times for each hospital’s emergency room on the health system’s website.

“No one wants to be in an emergency, but if it happens, our goal is to make the experience as smooth and efficient as possible,” said Wiley. “By providing wait times online, we’re giving patients the information they need to make the best decision for their care.”

Just visit [nghs.com/emergency](https://nghs.com/emergency) to view how long it will take from arriving at NGMC Gainesville, Braselton, Barrow, Habersham or Lumpkin emergency departments to when your care begins with a qualified medical professional. The wait times are estimations, as patients with life-threatening conditions are prioritized over those with less urgent needs. Actual wait times may vary depending on patient needs and emergency severity.

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### **ABOUT NORTHEAST GEORGIA HEALTH SYSTEM**

Northeast Georgia Health System (NGHS) is a non-profit on a mission of improving the health of our community in all we do. Our team cares for more than 1 million people across the region through five hospitals and a variety of outpatient locations. Northeast Georgia Medical Center (NGMC) has campuses in Gainesville, Braselton, Winder, Dahlonega and Demorest – with a total of more than 1,000 beds and more than 1,500 medical staff members representing more than 60 specialties. Learn more at [www.nghs.com](https://www.nghs.com).