

CONTACT: Sunita Singh, Public Relations Manager  
Northeast Georgia Medical Center Barrow  
316 N Broad Street, Winder, GA 30680  
770-867-3400  
[sunita.singh@nghs.com](mailto:sunita.singh@nghs.com)

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**NORTHEAST GEORGIA MEDICAL CENTER BARROW  
ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP TRANSITION**

WINDER, GA – Northeast Georgia Medical Center (NGMC) Barrow has a new interim leader, after bidding farewell to its former president earlier this month. Chad Hatfield passed the reins to Sonja McLendon, the Chief of Operational Excellence for Northeast Georgia Health System (NGHS), while plans for future recruitment are developed.

Hatfield was named CEO of Barrow Regional Hospital in 2014, and he continued to serve as president after the hospital joined Northeast Georgia Health System and became NGMC Barrow. He recently accepted the position as the first Administrator for Northwest Medical Center Houghton in Tucson, Arizona – a new and developing 120-bed acute care hospital.

“I know this was a tough decision for Chad, but it’s an exciting new opportunity for him and his family to start a new hospital in another community he knows well,” said Carol Burrell, NGHS President & CEO. “We wish him the best and appreciate his leadership through many improvements at NGMC Barrow, including being named among the top five small hospitals in the state by Georgia Trend magazine two years in a row. The hospital is now in good hands with Sonja.”

McLendon joined NGHS in 2013 and has served as Chief of Operational Excellence since 2015, overseeing continuous improvement, safety, quality and patient experience across the Health System.

“The physicians, advanced practitioners and the entire team at NGMC Barrow are passionate about the people they serve and the care they provide – and I’m honored to spend more time with this community,” said McLendon. “In addition to focusing on hospital-based care, we’re also early in the planning stages for a new medical office building along highway 316 in Bethlehem. We look forward to sharing more details as that project comes together.”

Watch real patient stories and learn more about the services provided at NGMC Barrow at [nghs.com/barrow](https://nghs.com/barrow).

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#### **ABOUT NORTHEAST GEORGIA MEDICAL CENTER BARROW**

Northeast Georgia Medical Center (NGMC) Barrow has been serving Northeast Georgia since 1951 and joined Northeast Georgia Health System in 2017. With 56 beds and a medical staff of more than 200 physicians, NGMC Barrow has been named one of the Top 5 Small Hospitals in the state by *Georgia Trend* magazine two years in a row. NGMC Barrow provides emergency services, advanced surgical and medical care, leading diagnostic services and more.

NGMC Barrow is part of Northeast Georgia Health System, a non-profit that cares for more than 1 million people across more than 18 counties across the region with a mission of improving the health of our community in all we do. Learn more at [nghs.com/barrow](https://nghs.com/barrow).

