

PRESS RELEASE



March 12, 2020
8:11AM ChST

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road, Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950



CHCC-PR-20-062

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“CHCC Celebrates Patient Safety Awareness Week”

At the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC), it is one of our core goals to promote patient safety each day all year round. Globally, Patient Safety Awareness Week is celebrated from March 8-14 to raise awareness of important patient safety issues, and the CHCC would like to offer some tips and advice to help patients stay safe and take an active role in their care.

“Patient safety is at the core of the care we provide and engrained within our healthcare culture,” said Esther Muna, CHCC Chief Executive Officer. “We welcome this opportunity to celebrate Patient Safety Awareness Week in collaboration with CHCC patients, staff, and the CNMI community.”

Take a look at the following tips to help patients stay safe and feel comfortable during their hospital stay:

- **Speak up.** You must trust your healthcare provider, but remember communication is a two-way street. If you have a question or concern about your care, ask your doctor. The CHCC encourages patients and families to ask three specific questions in order to better understand their health conditions and what they need to do to stay healthy.
 - What is my main problem?
 - What do I need to do?
 - Why is it important for me to do this?
- **Keep your hands clean.** Hand hygiene is the most effective way to prevent the spread of infection. Keep your hands clean and never be shy to ask providers if they have cleaned their hands before touching you.
- **Educate yourself.** Unfortunately, it’s possible to get an infection in the hospital while being treated for something else. Know the signs and symptoms of infection and let your health care provider know if you start to experience them.
- **Participate in treatment decisions.** Your healthcare provider has your best interests in mind, but you must be an active participant in your own care. Discuss all treatment options so you can make an informed decision together with your doctor.

“Patient safety is everyone’s responsibility, from physicians and nurses to patients and visitors,” Muna said. “We must all work together to ensure patients receive the best, safest care.”

For more information about Patient Safety Awareness Week, go to www.unitedforpatientsafety.org.

For more information about CHCC programs, please follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

This press release may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html>

CHCC Point of Contact:

Zoe Travis, *Communications and Public Relations Specialist*
(670) 234-8950 Ext. 3359, communications@chcc.gov.mp