

MARCH 2025

MONTEFIORE NYACK HOSPITAL RECEIVES 2025 PATIENT SAFETY EXCELLENCE AWARD

Montefiore Nyack Hospital Receives 2025 Patient Safety Excellence Award

Healthgrades, the leading website for comprehensive information about physicians and hospitals, evaluated hospital safety for 4,500 hospitals nationwide.

Montefiore Nyack Hospital has been recognized with the 2025 Patient Safety Excellence Award™ by Healthgrades, the leading online resource Americans use when searching for a doctor or hospital. This achievement reflects **Montefiore Nyack Hospital's** clear commitment to safe, patient-centered care and places the organization in the top 10% of hospitals nationwide for patient safety.



To determine the top-performing hospitals for patient safety, Healthgrades evaluated risk-adjusted complication and mortality rates for approximately 4,500 hospitals nationwide. Healthgrades' analysis revealed significant performance gaps between the nation's highest- and lowest-achieving facilities, making it increasingly important for consumers to seek care at a hospital with top safety ratings.

From 2021-2023, **173,280 preventable safety events occurred among Medicare patients in U.S. hospitals**, with four patient safety indicators accounting for nearly 76% of these incidents.* The annual study found that patients treated in hospitals that received the 2025 Patient Safety Excellence Award have a significantly lower chance of experiencing one of the four leading safety indicators than patients treated at non-recipient hospitals:

- In-hospital falls resulting in fracture (54% less likely)
- Collapsed lung due to a procedure or surgery in or around the chest (approximately 55% less likely)
- Pressure sores or bed sores acquired in the hospital (approximately 69% less likely)
- Catheter-related bloodstream infections acquired in the hospital (72% less likely)

Montefiore Nyack Hospital's achievements are based solely on what matters most: patient outcomes. **Congratulations to everyone at Montefiore Nyack Hospital who contributed to this remarkable achievement!**

2	NEW HIRES / ANNIVERSARIES
3	STAFF AND UNIT ACCOMPLISHMENTS
4	2025 MARY SHINICK LEADERSHIP AWARD
5	NUTRITION MONTH
6	RECOGNITION DAYS
7	IN THE COMMUNITY
8	SAVE THE DATES
9	SLEEP DISORDERS AND TREATMENTS
10	VOICE OF OUR PATIENTS
11	BUNDLE OF BIG BUCKS

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to the following employees who celebrated a milestone work anniversary this month. We applaud their dedication and thank them for their care and service to the Hospital!

5 YEARS

Dori Barret
Anthony Brown
Eileen Doyle
Jeanine Duggan
Sean Guerin
Vladimir Jean
Mariola Knox
Nnamdi Maduekwe
India McCain
Alice Scimia

10 YEARS

Nina Almond
Felourdes Camay
Deirdre Fallon
Lenka Hunter
Derf Saint-Preux

15 YEARS

Viktoriya Gluck
Brenda Jones
Maria Villafana

20 YEARS

Nenita Salubre

25 YEARS

Donna-Marie Webster

45 YEARS

Sharon Dumas

50 YEARS

Stephanie Zanetti

STAFF RETIREMENTS

Congratulations to the following employees who recently retired. We thank them for their 10+ years of service and wish them well in their retirement!

Larna Brandt, RN, who retired after nearly 42 years as a Registered Nurse.

Maryann Tagliaferri, RN, who retired after nearly 28 years of service as a Registered Nurse.

WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest employees.

- **Patricia Carpenito-Alves**, Patient Access Coordinator, Patient Access
- **Nicole Curran**, Pre-Post Operative Ambulatory RN, West Nyack Ambulatory Surgery Center
- **Edward Diaz**, PET CT Manager, PET CT
- **Michael Espinal**, Patient Transporter
- **Chanice Fernandez**, Ultrasound Technologist
- **Angel Garcia**, Health & Safety Services Technician, West Nyack Ambulatory Surgery Center
- **Oscar Gonzalez**, Environmental Services Aide
- **Alexandra Greenfield**, RN, Recovery Center
- **Latoya Johnson**, Host/Hostess, Food & Nutrition
- **Marinella Justo**, RN, Emergency Department
- **Madeline Michella**, RN, Emergency Department
- **Anthony Mojica**, Environmental Services Aide
- **Demetrius Nathaniel**, Environmental Services Aide
- **Rose Origene**, PCA, 4 Doctors
- **Haydee Padilla**, EEG Technician, Electroencephalography
- **Jeana Piliere**, Psychiatric Assessment & Referral Specialist, Behavioral Health
- **Rachel Stark**, RN, 6 Doctors
- **Stephanie Torres**, Ambulatory Circulator, West Nyack Ambulatory Surgery Center
- **Harmina Valeris**, Patient Safety Attendant, Float
- **Gabriela Vargas**, Ultrasound Technologist
- **Maya Vanderlinden**, Pre/Post Operative RN, West Nyack Ambulatory Surgery Center

PRIMARY STROKE CERTIFICATION

Congratulations to our Stroke Team for achieving Primary Stroke certification through the Joint Commission Disease Specific Certification Process. In December, Montefiore Nyack Hospital underwent a rigorous, onsite review by the Joint Commission, spanning several areas, including program management, clinical performance and outcomes measures, and safe clinical care. We commend the entire Stroke Team for advancing patient safety and quality of care by fostering continuous improvement. The Stroke Team includes clinical staff from Critical Care, Emergency Medicine, Hospitalists, Laboratory Services, Nursing, Pharmacy, Quality, Radiology, Rehabilitation, and members of Patient Experience, Ancillary Services and Senior Administration.

The Stroke Team includes:

- **Andrew Erian, MD, MBA**, Stroke Program Director
- **Shelby Berrios, BSN, RN**, Stroke Outcomes Manager
- **Rachele Mattaliano, RN, MS, CSSGB**, Director of Quality Management
- **Carol Wynn, MSN, RN, CCRN**, Quality Management Coordinator
- **Anthony Matejicka, DO, MPH**, Vice President and Chief Medical Officer
- **Jamil Rizqalla, DO, FACEP, FAWM**, Medical Director, Department of Emergency Medicine
- **William Greenhut, DO, MPH, FACEP**, Associate Medical Director, Department of Emergency Medicine
- **Besher Kabak, MD, FCCP**, ICU Medical Director
- **Bramdeo Singh, MD**, Medical Director of Montefiore Nyack Hospitalist Program
- **Christine Genovesi, MSN, RN**, Administrative Nursing Director, Department of Emergency Medicine
- **Kathleen Kiernan, M.S. RT (R), (MR)**, Associate Vice President of Clinical Ancillary Services
- **Elizabeth Peralta, MS, RT (R) (CT)**, Director of Imaging Services
- **Seema Jaipal, B.S., PharmD.**, Clinical Staff Pharmacist
- **Farzeen Datta, MT ASCP**, Director of Laboratory Services
- **Jennifer Shannon, MSN, RN, NE-BC**, Senior Director of Nursing, Critical Care and Telemetry
- **Patricia Orlak, MSN, RN**, Senior Director of Nursing, Medical Surgical/Float
- **Patricia Shea, PT, DPT, MPA**, Director of Rehabilitation Services
- **Kristin DeLorenzo, MPA, CPXP**, Director of Patient Experience
- **Charles Tejada, MBA, BSN, RN**, Nurse Manager, Emergency Department
- **Blake Riedel, BSN, RN, CCRN**, Nurse Manager, MICU/SICU
- **Ibin Thomas, RN**, Nurse Manager, ECU
- **Vincent Casa, BSN, RN, MEDSURG-BC**, Nurse Manager, 4 Doctors/4 Maze
- **Alexandra Costanza, MSN, RN, MEDSURG-BC**, Nurse Manager, 2 Doctors/ RDU
- **Kristen Weeks, BSN, RN**, Emergency Department Educator
- **Feona Joy, BSN, RN, CCRN**, Critical Care Educator
- **Erica Larcombe, MSN, RN-BC**, Medical-Surgical Educator



2025 MARY SHINICK LEADERSHIP AWARD

Jennifer Rivera, Associate Vice President, Human Resources, received the 2025 Mary Shinick Leadership Award from her Montefiore HR colleagues.

The Award commemorates the legacy of Mary Shinick, a former Vice President at Montefiore Nyack Hospital. Renowned for her steadfast dedication to the organization, Mary epitomized compassion and commitment in all her pursuits. Her unwavering determination to elevate organizational culture left an enduring imprint on Montefiore Nyack Hospital, motivating those around her to pursue greatness.



The award given out each year honors HR associates who exhibit exceptional ethical standards, unwavering enthusiasm, and a profound dedication to promoting positive transformation within the organization, thereby upholding a legacy of compassion and excellence in HR.



DOCTORS DAY

Every year on March 30th, we recognize National Doctors' Day in honor of the medical experts and clinicians at Montefiore Nyack Hospital and Highland Medical for their dedication and invaluable contributions to community health and wellness.

Every day, doctors selflessly put their patients first, often at the expense of their well-being.

This year's theme, **"Behind the Mask: Who Heals the Healers?"** invites us to look beyond physicians' dedication and resilience to recognize their need for support and care.

Thank you for keeping our community healthy!

FOR THOSE WHO Never Stop Caring

At Montefiore Nyack Hospital, our physicians give their all every day.

This Doctors Day, we're turning our attention to their wellbeing. They stand ready at all hours, making split-second decisions that change lives. Now it's our turn to stand for them. Join us in honoring the extraordinary doctors who make our community healthier, because those who never stop caring deserve care themselves.

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NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH

In recognition of National Nutrition Month, the Nutrition & Dietetics Department hosted a table in the cafeteria to share helpful tips on making informed food choices and developing healthy habits. During March, staff was encouraged to submit a recipe with a brief description of what it means to them (culturally, historically, emotionally, etc.). One lucky winner will have their recipe showcased in our Action Station in the cafeteria on March 26th and win a National Nutrition Month Promo Kit!

Please join us in recognizing the outstanding Registered Dietitian Nutritionists at Montefiore Nyack Hospital who play an integral role in helping people understand the connection between the foods people eat and how these foods impact health throughout life.

Nutrition and Dietetics Department

- **Erika C. Avalos, MS, RDN, CDN**
- **Jaclyn Soter, RDN**
- **Sydney Saya, MS, CDN, RDN**
- **Victoria Ochs, RDN**
- **Andrea Kuenzler, MS, RDN**
- **Doreen Fernandez, RDN**

Community Health & Wellness

- **Sandra J. Arévalo, MPH, RDN, CDN, CDCES, CLC, FAND** (Director of Community Health & Wellness)
- **Elizabeth Staum, MS, RDN, CDN, CDCES**
- **Melissa Keeney, MS, RDN, CDN, CDCES**



Thank you to our hospital's food and nutrition experts who are committed to improving the health of our patients and community!

This year for National Nutrition Month, we invited all staff to submit a homemade recipe to share how food impacts your everyday life. We received a variety of recipes, from Indian curries, Colombian empanadas, Asian teriyaki bowls, risotto bowls, and so much more. Our Executive Chef considered every one of your recipes and inventoried them for future use in our Café.

The winner of our Recipe Submission Contest is **Maria Buccellato of Food and Nutrition Services!** Maria shared a recipe for Chilaquiles. The word chilaquiles, derived from an ancient word in the Aztec Nahuatl language meaning "chilis and greens," is traditionally a Mexican dish made with crispy corn tortillas topped with salsa, cotija cheese, and sour cream. Our chef provided a gourmet twist to this recipe and included numerous other toppings and protein additions to make this dish the exclusive star of the Café's Action Station on March 26th! Congratulations to Maria on her winning recipe and a round of applause to everyone who contributed their own recipes!

RECOGNITION DAYS

International Board-Certified Lactation Consultants (IBCLC Day) - March 5

Our dedicated team of lactation consultants is essential to a patient's successful breastfeeding journey. Special thanks to **Nicole Pantierer, IBCLC, Patricia Soriano Guzmán, BSBA, IBCLC, ICCE, PMH-C, PRaM, Paula Loeb, BS, IBCLC,** and **Yeva Posner, RN, BSN, IBCLC** for the work they do in encouraging and supporting mothers and their babies.



From l to r: Nicole Pantierer, Patricia Soriano Guzmán, and Paula Loeb



From l to r: Yeva Posner, Manager of The Prenatal Center and Patricia Soriano Guzmán

National Hospitalist Day – March 6

Our team of physicians provides outstanding care to patients from the moment they enter the hospital until their discharge. We are grateful for their dedication to delivering the highest quality and most compassionate care.



Human Resources Professionals Week (March 10-14)

Our Healthcare Human Resources team plays a crucial role in Montefiore Nyack's workplace by welcoming new team members, providing onboarding support, and educating them about benefits.



IN THE COMMUNITY

Special thanks to the Community Health & Wellness Department for its submission!

The Community Health & Wellness Department hosted a series of health screening events this month, including a weekend event at the Youth & Family Services Center in Haverstraw, NY. These events offered information on breast cancer and nutrition, weight and BMI screenings, blood pressure and EKG screenings, and glucose screenings.

Thank you to Miriam Elias, Outreach Coordinator at United Way of Rockland County, for her outstanding recruitment efforts. A big thanks to our team members—**Eneas Soares, RN, Elizabeth Staum, RDN, Maria Laura Sampaio, Sandra Arevalo, and Zulma Alayon of The Breast Center at Montefiore Nyack Hospital**, who generously volunteered their time to help the community over the weekend.

On March 7, **Melissa Keeney, MS, RDN, CDN, CDCES**, met library patrons at the Finkelstein Memorial Library in Spring Valley. She engaged visitors by playing a sodium content game, picking up a snack guide, and discussing ways to improve their health through nutrition. On March 11, Melissa spoke to the **Cardiac Rehab's Mended Hearts support group about "Spring Superfoods"** and heart-healthy meals. **A big thank you to the Cardiac Rehab team for hosting!** On March 13, Melissa gave a presentation titled **"How Educators Can Help Students Have a Healthier Relationship with Food"** to teachers from pre-K to high school. Melissa received excellent feedback about the content and her engaging delivery. She provided information, resources and ideas for use in the classroom, with plenty of adaptations for teachers to implement. On March 14, **Elizabeth Staum, MS, RDN, CDN, CDCES** and **Sandra Arévalo, MPH, RDN, CDN, CDCES, CLC, FAND, Director of Community Health & Wellness**, spoke at Head Start of Rockland's In-Service Professional Development Training. Their well-received presentation was titled **"Eat Healthy: Meal and Snack Planning & Transform Your Life: Mastering Lifestyle Changes."**



Elizabeth Staum, RDN, CDN, CDCES

130 WAYS TO WELLNESS

This year, Montefiore Nyack Hospital will celebrate its 130th Anniversary. Built by the community in 1895, Montefiore Nyack Hospital has made community health and wellness its mission. To celebrate the Hospital's 130th Anniversary in June, we are kicking off the new year with "130 Ways to Wellness."

Good health involves more than just the absence of illness—it involves a nutritious diet, adequate rest, stress management and healthy lifestyle choices. Every Thursday, from noon to 1:00 p.m., the Community Health and Wellness Department hosts a live, interactive community chat with physicians, healthcare providers and local community resource professionals on topics related to health, wellness and social services. To view the library of past conversations and topics, subscribe to [Montefiore Nyack Community Chats on YouTube](#).

For more health tips and information, we encourage you to read the Hospital's health blog and community magazine. Follow Montefiore Nyack and Highland Medical on Instagram and Facebook for brief tidbits of expert medical advice and practical health tips.

SAVE THE DATES

Transamerica Retirement Education

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Transamerica is currently handling retirement education via phone appointments only. To schedule a one-on-one virtual consultation, please call 319-355-3534. You can also click on [MAKE AN APPOINTMENT](#) to register for an appointment. As a reminder, you can access your Transamerica retirement plan account online at www.transamerica.com.

Wear Blue or Green Day

Friday, April 11, 2025

On April 11th, employees are invited to wear blue and green, Donate Life's colors, to raise awareness about the importance of signing up to be an organ donor and show their support of Donate Life Month and our partners at Live On NY. Send your photos by noon on April 11th to publicrelations@montefiorenyack.org for inclusion in the Hospital's newsletter and social media pages.



National Donate Life Blue & Green Day

Friday, April 11, 2025

Staff are encouraged to wear blue and/or green, Donate Life's colors, to show their support of Donate Life Month and our partners at LiveOn NY.

Submit your green and blue attire photos to publicrelations@montefiorenyack.org for inclusion in the Hospital's newsletter and social media sites.



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Earth Day

Community Clean up

Tuesday, April 22, 2025

In partnership with Keep Rockland Beautiful, we host a community cleanup event focusing on hospital grounds and the surrounding area. Cleaning equipment, a map and water will be provided.

[Click here to access the sign-up sheet.](#)

Please meet at the gazebo at your designated time and wear comfortable shoes.

Clean-Up Shift Times

11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.

12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Golf Classic

Monday, May 5, 2025

10 AM to 5 PM

Mark your calendars and join us for the 39th Annual



Northeastern Anesthesia & Montefiore Nyack Hospital Medical Staff Golf Classic at Rockland Country Club in Sparkill, NY. All net proceeds benefit the Transformation Project. Visit <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/39thgolfclassic/> to register and learn more information.



SLEEP DISORDERS

Special thanks to the Employee Assistance Program for its submission!

A sleep disorder is a significant disturbance of normal sleep patterns that leads to distress and disrupts functioning. If you consistently experience trouble sleeping, the pattern may indicate an undiagnosed sleep disorder that requires medical attention. Continuous sleep disturbances can affect cognition, coordination, heart and brain function, and our emotional coping abilities. Adults should aim for 7 to 9 hours of uninterrupted sleep each night.

Common sleep disorders include:

- **Chronic Insomnia:** the inability to fall asleep and/or difficulty remaining asleep throughout the night at least three times per week for three months or more, significantly impacting daily life.
- **Narcolepsy:** a neurological disorder that affects the brain's ability to regulate sleep-wake cycles, resulting in daytime sleepiness even when well-rested.
- **Sleep Apnea:** brief interruptions in breathing during sleep that cause gasping for air and/or loud snoring.
- **Restless Leg Syndrome:** the intense urge to move your legs, often accompanied by sensations such as throbbing, aching, crawling, or tingling in your legs or feet.
- **Parasomnias:** more common in children, characterized by unsafe or unusual behaviors during sleep, including sleepwalking, talking, nightmares, night terrors, bedwetting, and teeth grinding.

Sleep challenges can be treated with a combination of medication, therapy, herbal supplements, melatonin, acupuncture, relaxation exercises, hypnosis, massage, yoga, and other forms of exercise. Additionally, sleep-hygiene routine activities that promote quality sleep can make a significant difference. This includes using blackout curtains, maintaining a regular sleep schedule, ensuring a cool, dark bedroom, using dim lighting, and avoiding electronics, excessive fluids, caffeine, or heavy snacks before bedtime.

If your sleep patterns resemble any of the above descriptions, consider contacting a healthcare provider for a sleep evaluation. For confidential support, contact the EAP at **(845) 638-8880** or MNH-EAP@montefiorenyack.org.

THE VOICE OF OUR PATIENTS

The Patient Experience is about being a caregiver and ensuring patients and families feel safe and confident in the care provided. Everyone here at Montefiore Nyack Hospital contributes to patient experience in a meaningful way. Below are a few acknowledgments of gratitude received.

Congratulations to the units and departments they represent and the caregivers they work beside.

- “It was a pleasure to have each and every one care for me, especially **Amanda Jacob (RN)**, **Carrie Farrelly (RN)**, **Arnetta Morris-Payne (HHA)**, **Maria Dawli (PT)** and **Graciela Londono, MSW.**”
- “**Lauren Waldron, RN**, Same-Day Surgery, assisted me pre-procedure. I felt genuinely cared for. The compassion displayed by the entire staff was outstanding.”
- “We have had three experiences with **Nyack Home Care** and all were excellent. The nurses, PT and OT are kind and patient. They helped my elderly parent very much. Thank you for the great experience!”
- “Thank you all for your help! You all are amazing, especially **Jennifer Cassidy, RN**, **Doreen Cocca, RN**, **Andrew Pappalardo, PT** and **Marie Jean, HHA!**”
- “Everyone, from registration to discharge, was amazing! My worries were all gone once I was there, since all staff was so friendly and calming. The facility is beautiful and very high tech too!”
- “Thank you so very much to the professional courteous, dedicated and caring staff, including **Mary Murray, RN**, **Tara Conklin, RN**, and **Helen Hispano, PT**, whose love for their craft is very evident as they worked with me during my visits and therapy sessions. They were all excellent! An extra special thanks goes out to **Christine Connelly (OT)** for her compassionate attitude. Her encouraging words was what I desperately needed on one of my worst days post-discharge



from inpatient rehab. This helped to lift my spirits, giving me the boost to make the most of my in-home therapy. Sincere thanks and appreciation!”

- “I always have a great visit with **Dr. Sung Ho Lee**, The Hematology Oncology Center. He is genuinely interested and caring. The staff there is great, too!!”
- “The nicest hospital I’ve ever been in with the nicest staff. Thank you for taking care of me and my torn meniscus!”
- “I have been receiving wonderful care at The Wound Care Center! I had sustained a serious gash on my leg and was recommended to The Wound Care Center where I have been receiving treatment now for six weeks. Your staff at The Wound Care Center is truly remarkable! Aside from their medical knowledge, they are warm, caring professionals, especially **Donna Palazzo** at reception and nurses **Nuala Ridge, RN**, **Rowena Wilson, RN**, **Nenita Salubre, RN**, **Linda Lenahan, RN**, and nurse manager **Donna Boerke, RN**.
- As a society, we are quick to complain and slow to compliment! These people deserve a great compliment! They were, and continue to be, a truly compassionate and knowledgeable group of women! I sincerely thank them all for the wonderful care they have given me!”
- “Our mom was cared for in the ER, and we were so fortunate to have so many kind, professional medical staff to treat her. Professionals who especially come to mind, **Sayd, Farrah, Nicole**, and **Dr. Nasan**. Mom was later admitted to comfort care, where the beautiful team of **Ana** and **Marta** gently and with so much compassion assisted Mom and us through her process of death with dignity. Thank you to everyone that day; we are very grateful.”

\$ BUNDLE OF *BIG* BUCKS! \$

BUY A 1-IN-250 CHANCE TO WIN ...

\$10,000!

Enter to Win

\$100

PER TICKET



Purchase a chance to win **\$10,000**
and support Montefiore Nyack Foundation!
Hurry, tickets are **LIMITED** and selling **fast**!
Only **250** will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

To purchase, scan QR Code or
visit montefiorenyackfoundation.org



Northeastern Anesthesia &
Montefiore Nyack Hospital Medical Staff
GOLF CLASSIC



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FOUNDATION

For more info, contact the Foundation Office at
(845)348-2770 or mnh-foundation@montefiorenyack.org

*Drawing will be held at the 39th Annual Northeastern Anesthesia & Montefiore Nyack Hospital Medical Staff Golf Classic on Monday, May 5th at Rockland Country Club. Winner need not be present to win!
If all tickets are not sold, the winner will receive 20% of the raffle proceeds.*