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## **MUSC Health Florence Division receives 10 South Carolina Hospital Association Awards**

FLORENCE — MUSC Health Florence and Marion Medical Centers have earned a combined 10 South Carolina “Certified Zero Harm Awards” from the South Carolina Hospital Association (SCHA). These awards are in recognition of the outstanding performance for patient safety and prevention of hospital-acquired infections.

“These awards are a direct result of the hard work and dedication of each one of our care team members,” MUSC Health Florence Division Chief Executive Officer Jay Hinesley said. “This recognition further emphasizes our commitment to high reliability and is imperative to ensuring zero harm. I am incredibly proud of the resilience and continued focus we have to provide safe, high-quality care.”

The clinically focused Certified Zero Harm Awards remains a unique statewide program thanks to SCHA’s collaboration with the South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control (DHEC), who independently validates the hospital data. While the core focus of the awards remains—that hospitals must eliminate or avoid specific preventable hospital-acquired infections over a period of time—SCHA has modified the awards this year to focus on the prior 12-month period to better assess year-to-year progress. The program has also added a minimum procedure threshold and a new category, hospital-acquired pressure injuries.

“I am extremely proud of the 2021 Zero Harm Awards we received in the Florence Division. While our division has been heavily impacted by multiple surges of COVID-19, these awards make it clear how committed our providers are to providing high quality and safe care for our communities,” MUSC Health Florence Division Chief Medical Officer Rami Zebian said. “We work diligently to create a culture of high

reliability and safety. We owe it to our patients to provide exceptional care, and these awards demonstrate just how well we work together across all locations to do that.”

The Zero Harm program began in 2014 to recognize hospitals that are at the forefront of preventing medical errors, which is a leading cause of death in the United States. Thanks to support from BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina, the state’s hospitals and health systems have engaged in numerous statewide efforts to create a culture of high reliability and reduce harm in our facilities by implementing robust, evidence-based practices that are making a positive impact on patients and the safety and quality of care.

MUSC Health Florence Medical Center sustained two zero bloodstream infection awards in the Cardiovascular Intensive Critical Care Unit and the Medical Intensive Care Unit. Two other awards are for no Surgical Site Infections in Abdominal Hysterectomy and Knee Replacement.

MUSC Health Florence Rehabilitation Center sustained two hospital-onset awards for no Clostridium difficile (C.diff) and no Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) infections.

MUSC Health Marion Medical Center sustained one bloodstream infection award in the Intensive Care Unit, two hospital-onset awards for no Clostridium difficile (C.diff), and no Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) infections. In addition, it received a hospital-onset no pressure injury award, a new category for zero harm.

## **About MUSC Health**

Founded in 1824 in Charleston, MUSC is home to the oldest medical school in the South as well as the state’s only integrated academic health sciences center, with a unique charge to serve the state through education, research and patient care. Each year, MUSC educates and trains more than 3,000 students and nearly 800 residents in six colleges: Dental Medicine, Graduate Studies, Health Professions, Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy. MUSC brought in more than \$271 million in biomedical research funds in fiscal year 2020, continuing to lead the state in obtaining National Institutes of Health funding, with more than \$129.9 million. For information on academic programs, visit [musc.edu](http://musc.edu).

As the clinical health system of the Medical University of South Carolina, MUSC Health is dedicated to delivering the highest quality and safe patient care while training generations of compassionate, competent health care providers to serve the people of South Carolina and beyond. Close to 25,000 care team members provide care for patients at 14 hospitals with approximately 2,500 beds and 5 additional hospital locations in development, more than 300 telehealth sites and nearly 750 care locations situated in the Lowcountry, Midlands, Pee Dee and Upstate regions of South Carolina. In 2021, for the seventh consecutive year, U.S. News & World Report named MUSC Health the No. 1 hospital in South Carolina. To learn more about clinical patient services, visit [muschealth.org](http://muschealth.org).

MUSC and its affiliates have collective annual budgets of \$4.4 billion. The more than 25,000 MUSC team members include world-class faculty, physicians, specialty providers and scientists who deliver groundbreaking education, research, technology and patient care.

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