



FOR FEBRUARY 20, 2020

Memorial Healthcare Recognized as a Center for Comprehensive MS Care by the National MS Society

Hospital becomes just the fifth healthcare provider in Michigan to earn prestigious title

OWOSSO, Mich. – Memorial Healthcare, a patient-centric healthcare destination in mid-Michigan that combines world-class specialty care with small town values, has been distinguished as a Center for Comprehensive MS Care through the [National Multiple Sclerosis Society's](#) Partners in MS Care program. Memorial Healthcare is the first Michigan hospital in approximately 10 years to receive this recognition and just the fifth facility in the state to become a partner with the National MS Society.

The distinction comes after a decade-long effort to advance the hospital's neurological practice area, and particularly its work in MS. In 2019, Memorial Healthcare gained international recognition as the first healthcare provider in the U.S. to use Neurofilament Light Chain technology testing for MS patients, which is used to investigate biomarkers and predictors of MS to forecast the progression of the disease and effectiveness of treatments.

"Over the last decade, Memorial Healthcare leadership and our Chief of Neurology, Dr. Rany Aburashed, have worked tirelessly to expand our neurological practice area and, specifically, our ability to provide cutting-edge, life-altering treatment to patients with MS," said Brian Long, FACHE, president and CEO of Memorial Healthcare. "We're honored to have the team's hard work and dedication recognized by the National MS Society as a Center for Comprehensive MS Care, and we look forward to continuing to serve as pioneers in how MS and other neurological conditions are treated to ensure patients have the best quality of life possible."

Memorial Healthcare recently announced several expansions of its neurology practice, with the openings of new locations in St. Johns and Auburn, Michigan, and the addition of several doctors specializing in the treatment of neurological diseases. The hospital also recently broke ground on its brand new, \$40 million Neurology, Orthopedics, Rehabilitation and Community Wellness Center in Owosso.

MS is an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system that interrupts the flow of information within the brain, and between the brain and body. Symptoms range from numbness and tingling to blindness and paralysis, and no two individuals will experience the disease in the same way. Due to the complexity of the disease, patients with MS are often a medically underserved community and finding a doctor able to treat their disease can be difficult. To help combat this, the National MS Society created its Partners in MS Care program to call attention to committed providers, like Memorial Healthcare, that continually offer services in alignment with the Society's initiative of affordable access to high quality MS healthcare for everyone living with the disease – regardless of geography, disease progression, and other disparities. A Comprehensive MS Care Center distinction is appointed by a local and national committee, and the organization must demonstrate a coordinated, multi-disciplinary care for MS.

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“We are proud to partner with Memorial Healthcare to enhance coordinated, comprehensive care for the people who live with MS in Mid-Michigan,” said Liz Trapp, MSW, MSSMC, Director of Healthcare Provider Engagement for the National MS Society. “In earning this recognition, Memorial Healthcare has demonstrated extraordinary leadership in MS care, making a tremendous impact on the nearly 1 million people living with MS in our country,” Trapp continued.

To learn more about Memorial Healthcare’s Institute for Neuroscience, [click here](#).

About Memorial Healthcare

Memorial Healthcare is a 161-bed non-profit facility located in Shiawassee County, Michigan. Each year, Memorial cares for nearly 30,000 emergency patients, provides more than 200,000 outpatient service visits and delivers hospital-based medical services to more than 3,500 inpatients. Our mission is to promote health and wellness through quality, compassionate health care with a commitment to service excellence, teamwork and innovation. For more information visit <https://www.memorialhealthcare.org>

About the National Multiple Sclerosis Society

The Society mobilizes people and resources so that everyone affected by multiple sclerosis can live their best lives as we stop MS in its tracks, restore what has been lost and end MS forever. Last year, the Society invested \$35 million in MS research with more than 340 active projects around the world. Through its comprehensive nationwide network of services, the Society is focused on helping those affected by MS connect to the people, information and resources needed to live their best lives. We are united in our collective power to do something about MS now and end this disease forever. Learn more at <https://www.nationalmssociety.org/>.

Early and ongoing treatment with an FDA-approved therapy can make a difference for people with multiple sclerosis. Learn about your options by talking to your health care professional and contacting the National MS Society at <https://www.nationalmssociety.org/> or 800-344-4867.

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