



## THE QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **THE QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER-PUNCHBOWL NAMED LEVEL 1 GERIATRIC EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT BY THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS *The Queen's Medical Center - West O'ahu, Molokai General Hospital and North Hawaii Community Hospital Also Receive National Accreditations***

HONOLULU - The Queen's Medical Center-Punchbowl is the first hospital in Hawaii and only the fifth in the nation to be accredited as providing the highest level of care to the geriatric population as a Level 1 Geriatric Emergency Department by the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP).

The program is part of an effort to improve and standardize emergency care for the nation's older patients and builds on the financial support and foundational work of the Gary and Mary West Health Institute and The John A. Hartford Foundation.

"This is an honor for our Queen's ohana," said Daniel Cheng M.D., MPH, Assistant Chief and Medical Director of The Queen's Medical Center Emergency Department. "This recognition by ACEP affirms The Queen's Health Systems Emergency Department's commitment to the mission and vision of providing superior patient care to all people of Hawaii and, specifically, our kupuna."

"Older adults visit emergency departments at a higher rate, and they often present with multiple chronic conditions and face more social and physical challenges than the general population," said Paul Kivela, M.D., MBA, FACEP, president of ACEP. "Seniors who visit ACEP accredited emergency departments can be assured that the facilities have the necessary expertise, equipment and personnel in place to provide optimal care. This initiative will greatly enhance geriatric emergency care, especially in rural areas, and help ease older patients back into their daily lives after an emergency occurs."

The Geriatric Emergency Department Accreditation (GEDA) program promotes the goals of providing quality care for older adult patients. These include enhanced staffing and education, geriatric-focused policies and protocols, including transitions of care, quality improvement and outcomes and more efficient preparation of the treatment area.

The voluntary accreditation includes three levels (similar to trauma designations) with specific criteria and goals for clinicians and administrators. Requirements begin with demonstrating that the participating emergency department (1) includes both a physician



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and nurse with specialized geriatric training on staff, (2) meets environmental criteria such as easy patient access to water and mobility aids and (3) has a geriatric quality improvement program.

The Queen's Medical Center - West O'ahu received a Level 2 designation and both Molokai General Hospital and North Hawaii Community Hospital received Level 3 accreditations.

Visit [www.acep.org/GEDA/Home](http://www.acep.org/GEDA/Home) for more information.

### **About ACEP**

ACEP is the national medical specialty society representing emergency medicine. ACEP is committed to advancing emergency care through continuing education, research and public education. Headquartered in Dallas, Texas, ACEP has 53 chapters representing each state, as well as Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. A Government Services Chapter represents emergency physicians employed by military branches and other government agencies.

### **About the Gary and Mary West Health Institute**

Solely funded by philanthropists Gary and Mary West, West Health includes the nonprofit and nonpartisan Gary and Mary West Health Institute and Gary and Mary West Foundation in San Diego and the Gary and Mary West Health Policy Center in Washington, DC. These organizations are working together toward a shared mission dedicated to enabling seniors to successfully age in place with access to high-quality, affordable health and support services that preserve and protect their dignity, quality of life and independence.

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The Queen's Medical Center (Queen's), a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation established in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, is an acute care medical facility accredited by The Joint Commission. The facility is licensed for 575 acute beds and serves as the major tertiary and quaternary referral center for cancer, cardiovascular disease, neuroscience, orthopaedics, surgery, emergency medicine and behavioral health medicine. It is the state's designated trauma center verified as Level I by the American College of Surgeons. It has the only organ transplantation program in Hawaii. Queen's is a major teaching hospital, serving as a clinical training site for the residency programs sponsored by the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii. Queen's is the only hospital in Hawaii to achieve Magnet® status – the highest institutional honor for hospital excellence – from the American Nurses Credentialing Center.