

A message from Frank V. Sacco, FACHE, President and Chief Executive Officer

Good day,

In a busy Emergency Department surrounded by many people in need of help, Memorial caregivers have to be ready to evaluate rapidly and respond appropriately. Lives literally depend upon it.

In this LifeSaver award-winning scenario, attention to detail, quick actions and focus on Patient First care saved another life, kept a family from losing its father, and earned two of our employees districtwide recognition.

Thank you,



It was nearly 7 o'clock on another hectic night in the Memorial Hospital Miramar Emergency Department when Nekita Saunders, PCA, noticed a gentleman in his mid-60s slumped over in a wheelchair.

"The ER was packed and I was hoping it was nothing serious, but I could hear him moaning and speaking only Spanish," Nekita says. Although her Spanish language skills are limited, she was able to converse with the man and learned he was in excruciating abdominal pain.

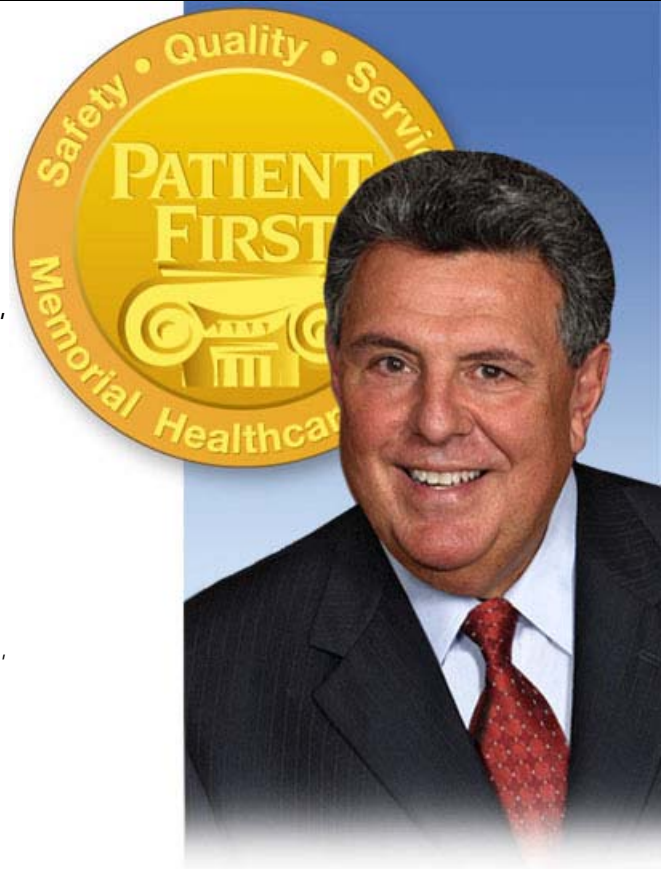
Nekita sought help from triage nurse Jim Jammel, RN, who put in an IV and drew blood. Realizing the situation was serious, the two rushed the patient in to see the Emergency Department physician. Upon checking the patient's abdomen, the physician recognized the possibility that the patient had a ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm. Bedside ultrasound tests quickly confirmed the physician's suspicions: There was a 12-centimeter aneurysm and a large amount of blood in the patient's stomach.

With the man's life in danger and time of the essence, his family was apprised of the situation, the vascular team at Memorial Regional Hospital was alerted and emergency transport was arranged. While on the way, the man's blood pressure dropped, the bleeding increased and his heart rate went up. Members of the vascular surgical team were waiting in the ambulance bay and the patient was swiftly taken to surgery for lifesaving treatment.

Nekita, Jim and the rest of the Emergency Department team at Memorial Hospital Miramar were relieved and delighted to learn their efforts helped the man receive the critical care he needed.

"I know that many people who have a ruptured aortic aneurysm don't survive," says Jim. "When I came in the next morning and found out we'd saved a life, that felt the best."

"We were all so happy," Nekita adds. "It makes you feel great to be there to help give people a second chance at life."



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