

St. Joseph Hospital Earns Prestigious “Magnet® with Distinction” Honors

Providence St. Joseph Hospital has reached the highest level of nursing excellence by earning the prestigious Magnet® with Distinction recognition, an honor bestowed by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. This newly established recognition

highlights organizations that surpass stringent standards for nursing excellence.

St. Joseph Hospital is among just four hospitals in California, 30 hospitals nationwide and the first within Providence to achieve this designation with distinction.

St. Joseph Hospital's fifth Magnet® redesignation was announced on May 22. Elevation to the honor of Magnet with Distinction validates the outstanding quality of work performed across every department, every shift, every day.

“This award is a celebration not just for our Nursing staff, but for all our caregivers, Medical Staff and volunteers,” stated Chief Executive Brian Helleland (at left). “Congratulations to our entire team for this exceptional achievement!”



Chief Executive Brian Helleland, Magnet Program Director Kim Rossillo, MSN, RN, Interim Chief Nursing Officer Jacqueline Herd, DNP, RN, and Troy Gideon, Chief Administrative Officer.



Nursing leadership celebrates its fifth Magnet designation.

CA Senate Passes CMA-sponsored SB306, Defending Physicians Decisions Act

In a unanimous vote, the California State Senate has passed SB 306—the Defending Physicians Decisions Act, a California Medical Association (CMA)-sponsored bill aimed at eliminating unnecessary delays to patient care caused by routine prior authorization requirements. Authored by Senator Josh Becker (D-Menlo Park), SB 306 tackles one of the most persistent administrative barriers in health care by removing prior authorization for services that health plans approved at least 90% of the time over the previous year. The bill would streamline access to care by suspending prior authorization requirements for those services in the following year, cutting red tape for physicians and allowing patients to receive timely treatment.

A Data-Driven Fix to a Widespread Problem

Prior authorization has become a major bottleneck in care delivery. A 2023 American Medical Association (AMA) survey found that physicians spend an average of 12 hours per week dealing with prior authorizations, with nearly all reporting delays in necessary care. The survey also revealed serious patient harm resulting from the delays:

- 19% of physicians reported a patient was hospitalized due to

prior authorization delays.

- 13% reported a life-threatening event or urgent intervention caused by care being delayed.

By targeting services that insurers are already approving nearly all the time, SB 306 preserves cost oversight for complex or high-risk treatments while eliminating redundant administrative hurdles for routine care. It's a smart, evidence-based reform that benefits both physicians and patients.

CMA Applauds Senate Action

CMA applauds the Senate for taking decisive action to reduce delays, improve efficiency and restore clinical decision-making to physicians. This bill reflects a clear understanding of the burden prior authorization places on California physicians and the risks it poses to patients. We thank Senator Becker for championing this important reform and urge the Assembly to move quickly to pass it.

SB 306 now heads to the California State Assembly for further consideration. For more CMA news on legislation affecting physicians in California, [click here: cmadocs.org/newsroom](https://www.cmadocs.org/newsroom).

MEDICAL STAFF BRIEFS

A Publication from the Chief of Staff and Chief Medical Officer

May/June 2025



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Celebrating an Extraordinary Legacy

Hospital Week festivities May 12-18 expressed gratitude to the Providence St. Joseph Hospital of Orange family for contributions ensuring that our ministry delivers the highest standard of care to our community. Also that week, the rich legacy of our campus, shared for more than 95 years with the Sisters of St. Joseph (above), was celebrated with a special blessing and opening of their access gate near the Spirituality Center.

The Sisters' grounds and garden are now available to all caregivers, physicians and volunteers with badge access. Please take some time to visit the beautiful and tranquil gardens—they are open from 8 a.m. to dusk. We ask that everyone honor the gardens and the natural beauty of this serene space by refraining from picking flowers or fruit.

We are grateful to the Sisters, who inspire our mission and vision, for sharing this haven of tranquility, where physicians can immerse themselves in nature's beauty and rejuvenate their spirits.



EMSOC golfers

Physicians Chip in for a Great Cause – The St. Joseph Hospital Foundation's "Raise Your Clubs for Cancer" Golf Tournament on May 12 at the Coto de Caza Golf & Racquet Club raised over \$500,000 and counting thanks to participants and sponsors. Special thanks to all the underwriters and lead sponsor Centaurus Financial, Inc. Congratulations to the tournament's inaugural "Physician's Flight" winners—Team EMSOC 1, including Matthew Mullarkey, MD, Brian Lee, MD, Daniel Gromis, MD, and Chris Yao, MD. Ten physician groups and 35 physicians participated.



At left: Medical Honorees Tanuja Bhandari, MD, Venita Williams, MD and (not shown) Robert Ash, MD. At right: Golfers Nikita Bezrukov, MD, and Ayaz Biviji, MD.