

Community Health Needs Assessment 2017-2019

MOVE THE NEEDLE

5 HEALTH PRIORITIES, 10 OUTCOME MEASURES

“improving the health of our community in all we do”

2018 PROGRESS REPORT

2017


2018

2019



Based on a comprehensive community health needs assessment conducted in 2016, Northeast Georgia Health

System identified five important health priorities and ten outcome measures to assess the health system's progress in reaching ambitious goals for addressing specific health concerns for our community.

If you want to learn more about each priority, click on the "Move The Needle" icon 

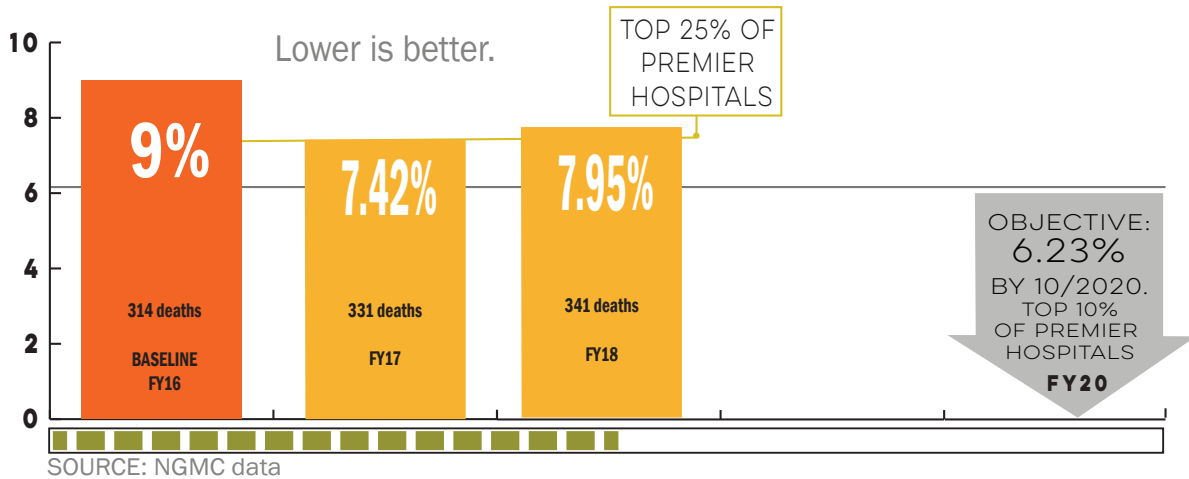
in this 2018 update report.



SEPSIS

REDUCE OVERALL MORTALITY RATE FOR SEPSIS

PERCENT OF PATIENTS WITH SEVERE SEPSIS/SEPTIC SHOCK WHO LOST THEIR LIVES AT NGHS



2018 ACTIONS:



Standard work was developed for the NGMC emergency departments with EPIC electronic medical record support. Screenings are now conducted as part of standard workflow at admission, as part of each shift assessment of inpatients and at discharge.

One hundred forty Georgia healthcare providers attended the 2019 Northeast Georgia Regional Infection Prevention Symposium. This free conference, offered by NGMC's Infection Prevention & Control department, educated providers in the region about methods to improve patient outcomes related to infections and antibiotic resistant organisms.



Sepsis education classes were provided to five Intro to Healthcare classes and one Advanced Healthcare class at Johnson High School to increase sepsis awareness among the next generation of healthcare workers. Of the 131 high school students in these classes, only five students knew the word sepsis before the class.

Two sepsis videos were developed and began running on social media September 2018.

CDC patient education materials are being provided to discharged sepsis patients, pneumonia patients, and UTI patients through the EPIC medical record.

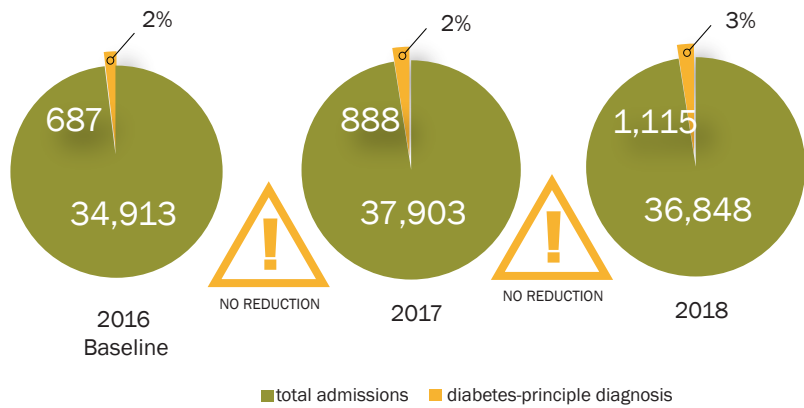
A Signs and Symptoms Handout is being developed to be given to patients in the ambulatory setting to ensure they have actionable activities based on their signs and symptoms related to healthcare associated infections and antibiotic resistant organisms.

The Sepsis Coordinator led one-to-one sepsis education at the Barrow Community Fall Festival.

DIABETES

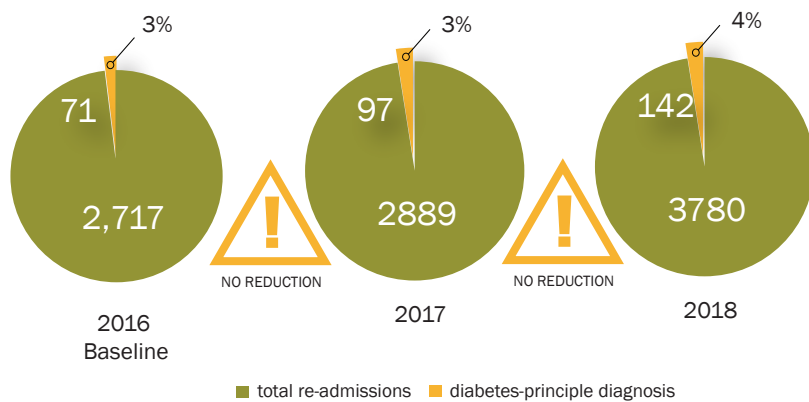
REDUCE HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS
& READMISSIONS FOR DIABETES AND ITS
RELATED COMPLICATIONS

ADMISSIONS WITH DIABETES AS PRINCIPLE DIAGNOSIS



Source: NGMC Data

RE-ADMISSIONS WITH DIABETES AS PRINCIPLE DIAGNOSIS



Source: NGMC Data

2018 ACTIONS:

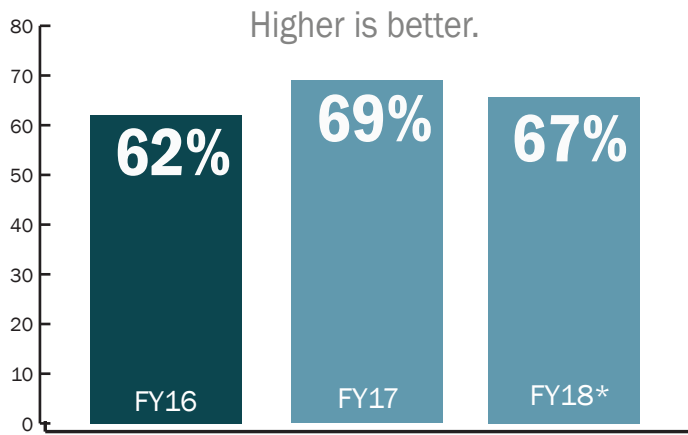
Though no significant improvements in admissions or readmissions have yet been realized, in 2018, NGHS continued work to standardize diabetic care across the system. Using Epic optimizations, insulin infusion order set auditing and optimizations, glucometric baseline data, standardization for meal delivery/glucose/insulin administration and other enhancements, NGHS has strengthened the foundations for improving diabetic care.



DIABETES

IMPROVE OUTPATIENT DIABETES CONTROL RATE

PERCENT OF OUTPATIENTS WITH DIABETES WITH AN A1-C OF LESS THAN 8 AT PARTICIPATING MEDICAL PRACTICES:



Source: Phytel



Northeast Georgia
PHYSICIANS GROUP



LONGSTREET CLINIC
Your Health. Our Specialty.

*data from before 2018 included
Northeast Georgia Diagnostic Clinic
which is not included in 2018 totals

2018 ACTIONS:



The Diabetes Education Program was expanded to offer individual and group classes at **NGMC Barrow.**



NGMC achieved **“full recognition status” for the Prevent T2 Program**, which offers group support and encouragement to prevent diabetes in at-risk populations. The program was offered in FY18 through partnerships with YMCA Gainesville, YMCA in Winder and Good News Clinics.



With 26 total participants in FY18, the **average weight loss of T2 participants was 9.3 pounds.** According to the CDC, losing 5%-7% of weight by reducing calories and increasing physical activity will reduce the risk of developing type 2 diabetes by 58%.



CANCER

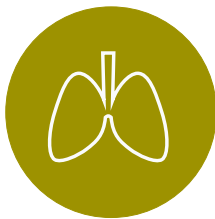
IMPROVE THE STAGE OF DIAGNOSIS OF LUNG CANCER IN HIGH RISK COUNTIES

NGMC improved the stage of diagnosis of lung cancer in five of the eight high-risk counties when compared to baseline data. When it comes to cancer, the earlier you can diagnose it, the greater your chance of survival. The goal is to reduce percentage of newly diagnosed late stage (stage 3 & 4) lung cancers, thereby raising newly diagnosed early stage diagnosis (stage 1 & 2). See page 6.

REDUCE INITIATION OF TOBACCO USE AMONG MIDDLE SCHOOLERS IN BARROW COUNTY

According to NGMC's Community Health Needs Assessment, Barrow County had a lung cancer indicator value of 87.9, compared to 54.1 in neighboring Gwinnett County.

2018 ACTIONS:



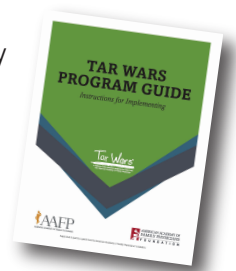
A **Multidisciplinary Cancer Team** approach has been implemented, including a Lung Cancer Conference in Braselton. The NGMC Nurse Navigator for lung cancer ensures patient follow-ups are conducted with the team's recommendations with further imaging studies.

NGMC received a grant from the Georgia Healthy Family Alliance to **promote awareness and access to low dose CT scans for lung cancer screening for indigent patients in Barrow County**. This program will increase access and assist those without insurance coverage so they can receive proactive screening.

Oncology Services also provided education to the community in Barrow County at local health fairs, as well as, **three lung cancer support groups** that will continue into FY19.

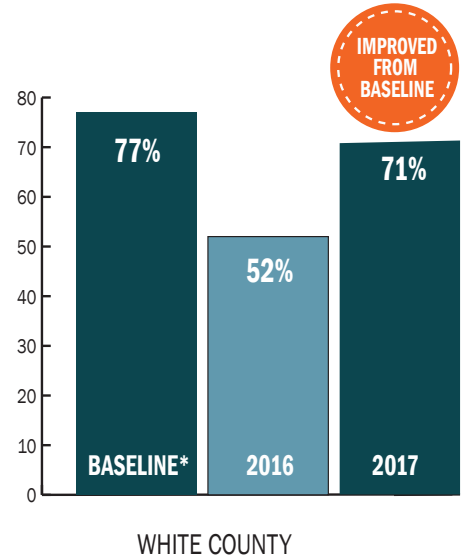
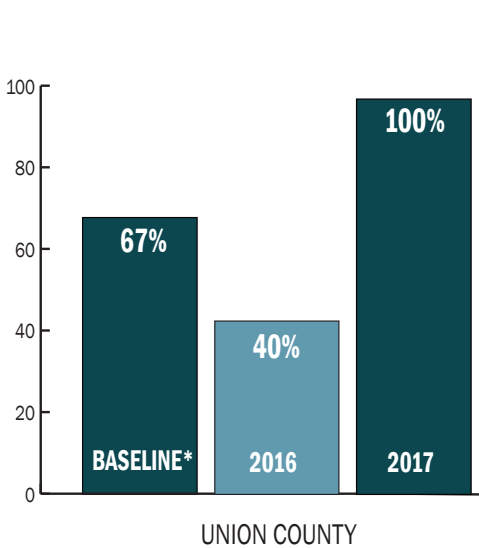
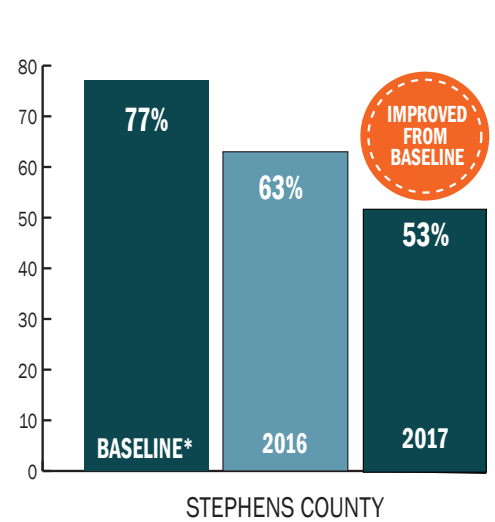
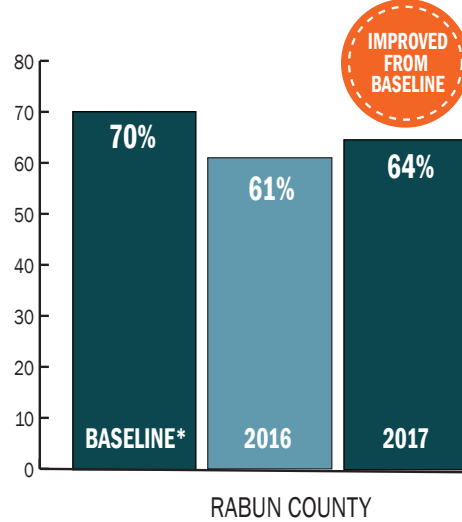
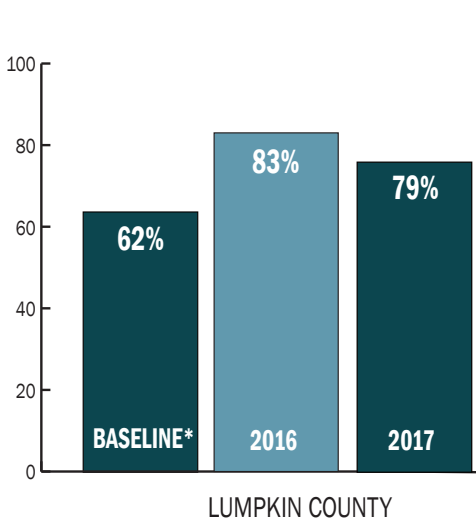
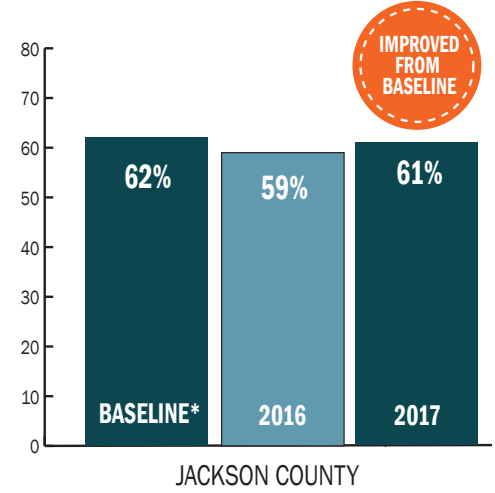
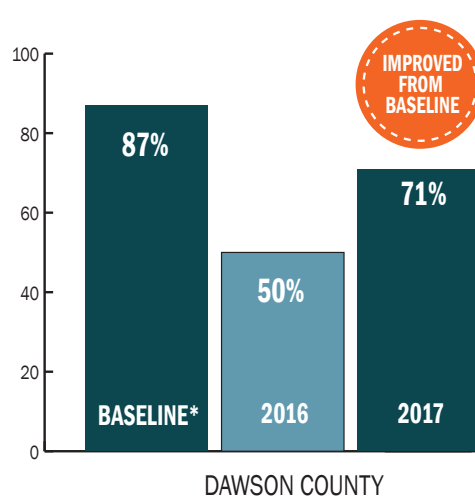
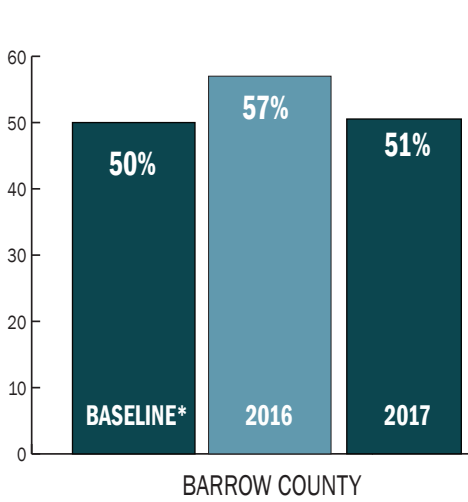


NGMC partnered with Barrow County Schools to implement "Tar Wars" to 2,258 elementary school students. Total average learning gain for students was 21%. The greatest misconception among students was that "vapes are safer than regular cigarettes". When asked, "do you plan to use tobacco when you are an adult," 98.8% of students reported "no" in the pre-test and also in the post-test. "Tar Wars" is a tobacco-free education program for fourth and fifth grade students developed by the American Academy of Family Physicians to teach kids about the dangers of tobacco use, the cost associated with using tobacco products, and the advertising techniques used by the tobacco industry to market their products to youth.



Diagnosis at Stage 3 or 4 (late stage)

Lower is better.

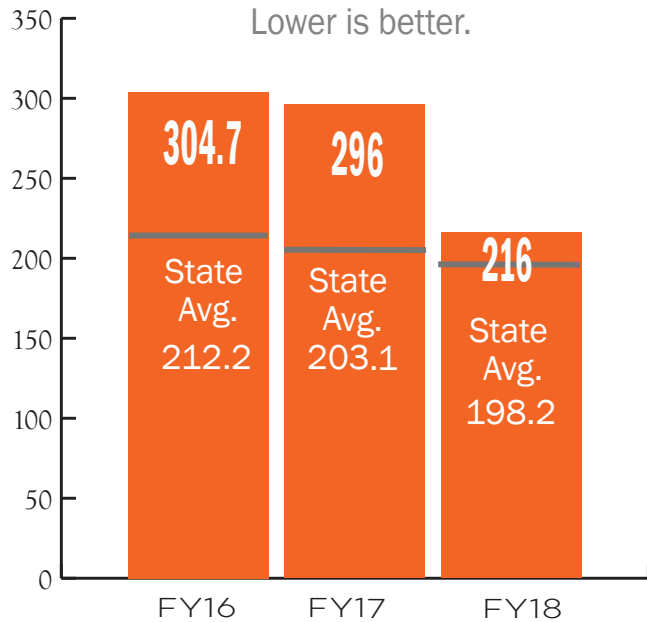


*Baseline = NGMC Cancer Registry 2012-2014 average

INJURY

REDUCE FALL RATES IN STEPHENS COUNTY

FALLS PER 100,000 STEPHENS COUNTY



Source: Georgia Department of Public Health

According to the CDC, more than 95% of hip fractures are caused by falling, and falls are the most common cause of traumatic brain injuries.

In FY16, Stephens County had the highest indicator value for falls within our service area at 304.7 with 92 more falls per 100,000 people than the state average. In FY18, the falls rate declined to 216, a decrease of 29% from FY16.



2018 ACTIONS:

While no single intervention is responsible for the decrease in falls in Stephens County for FY18, NGMC contributed to improvement through education, awareness, and enhanced care planning.

Fall Prevention displays using the CDC's STEADI (*Stopping Elderly Accidents, Deaths & Injuries*) self-awareness tools were placed for use at Stephens County pharmacies and other public locations.

NGMC partnered with organizations such as Legacy Link Area Agency on Aging and the Stephens County Senior Center to provide **fall prevention education** classes.

NGMC Trauma Outreach Coordinator traveled with Meals on Wheels to provide falls prevention education and resources to individuals around Stephens County.

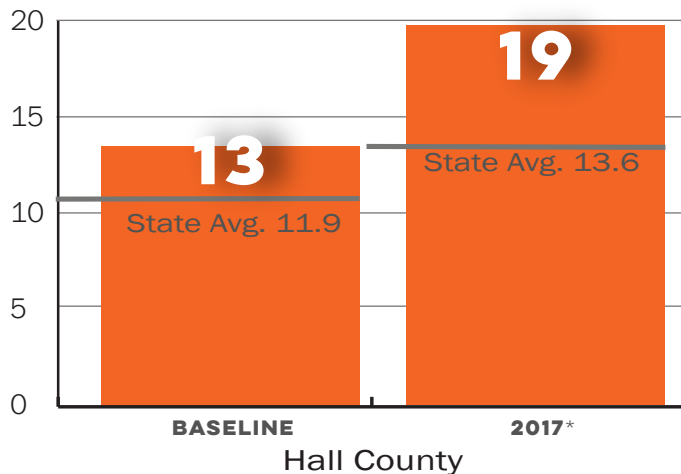
NGMC and Northeast Georgia Physicians Group Toccoa Clinic providers began to develop a **shared decision making process** whereby patients screened at high risk for falls decide jointly with their provider on the best path for improvement, such as home exercise, physical therapy, local exercise programs, or other appropriate options.



INJURY

REDUCE SUICIDE RATE TO ZERO IN HALL COUNTY

SUICIDE DEATH RATE PER 100,000



The zero suicide rate outcome measure for Hall County is meant to be an audacious goal: a rallying cry around which the community will come together to intervene upstream on the issues and conditions which after lead to suicide.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/ National Center for Health Statistics
*2014-2017

2018 ACTIONS:



NGMC conducted listening sessions with over 60 stakeholder participants to identify top priorities for community-based solutions for mental health concerns. Stakeholders ranged from representatives from AVITA Community Partners to school systems and local businesses. Out of those sessions, a steering committee emerged that is being housed under **United Way's One Hall**. Within the One Hall framework, the steering committee is working to better **coordinate mental health services** in northeast Georgia via various new forms of connectivity including a to-be-developed shared data platform and navigation system, providing Mental Health First Aid training to targeted audiences, and collaboration.



Proceeds from the 2019 Medical Center Open will go toward a Student Success Center located on the campus of Gainesville High School and will be available to students and families throughout Hall County. Components of the center include addressing academic and workforce development while also increasing access, collaboration and education regarding mental and behavioral health supports that are in great demand.



NGMC and the Georgia Council on Substance Abuse provide the state’s first program to connect people surviving overdoses to **Certified Addiction Recovery Empowerment Specialists (CARES) in its EDs**. In 2018, the Peer Support Program was **expanded to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)**. This program connects mothers who deliver babies with symptoms of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) to people in recovery who have been in similar circumstances. This attention on how opioids impact babies born to addicted moms in the NICU helped introduce best practices which have reduced the length of NICU stays from an average 31 days to 16 days.



NGHS is an active leader in the **Partnership for a Drug Free Hall**, which is a partnership of agencies and community members dedicated to providing Hall County with information, resources and actions to address the drug problems of Hall County. The group holds regular community forums, workshops and training sessions and workwith Center Point to conduct prevention programs in local middle schools, high schools and colleges. NGHS recently helped the organization apply for and receive a \$250,000 grant to open *J’s Place: The Jeffrey Dallas Gay, Jr. Recovery Center* which will provide resources and connections of support to people in recovery in our community. The need for this service became evident through the Peer Program in the ED and NICU.



Northeast Georgia Physicians Group (NGPG) has embedded **behavioral health specialists** who are Licensed Clinical Social Workers who provide counseling and guidance to patients who are dealing with challenges like addiction and mental illness.



Northeast Georgia Medical Center had early successes beginning in 2012 when new Emergency Department prescribing policies took effect limiting the number of opioids prescribed for Emergency Department patients. **NGMC physicians also participate in the state’s drug monitoring programs to reduce overprescribing.**



NGHS supported the effort to pass Senate Bill 121, the Jeffrey Dallas Gay, Jr. Act, in 2017 which allows pharmacists to dispense Naloxone/Narcan without an individual prescription. Legislation was also passed which provides amnesty to prosecution for people who report a drug overdose.



ACCESS TO CARE

DEVELOP PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIGENT CLINICS BASED ON BEST PRACTICE TARGETING POPULATIONS ALONG THE 400 CORRIDOR

PARTNER WITH AREA CLINICS DEDICATED TO SERVING INDIGENT AND UNDER- SERVED POPULATION TO MONITOR AND IMPROVE CLINICAL EXCELLENCE IN CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION: FILL ALL GME SLOTS IN 2019

2018 ACTIONS:



NGMC continues to partner with **Good Shepherd Clinic in Dawsonville** and provides the clinic with office space. Jo Brewer, Administrator of Medical Plaza 400, serves on the clinic's board.



NGMC continued its **partnership with Good News Clinics** (GNC) in Hall County, providing \$560,000 in FY18 to support free medical and dental care to uninsured residents of Hall County who cannot afford health care services. The Medical Center Foundation will fund a **\$1 million investment in Epic** – NGMC's electronic medical records system – at the clinic, projected to be implemented in 2019.



Northeast Georgia Medical Center's **Graduate Medical Education (GME)** program continues to progress. The System will train specialists in the fields of internal medicine, family medicine, general surgery, OB/GYN, psychiatry and emergency medicine to grow our physician workforce in Georgia. Inaugural residents for General Surgery and Internal Medicine start in July 2019.



NGMC continues to partner with the Longstreet Clinic and Hall County Health Department to serve low income mothers and by helping them to receive much-needed **prenatal care**. Over 200 patients are seen per month. The clinic serves uninsured and underinsured expectant moms living in the 13-county Public Health District 2 for the entire nine months of pregnancy through delivery.

Dr. **Antonio Rios**, Chief Physician Executive for NGPG, continues as **Chairman of The Georgia Board for Physician Workforce** to identify the physician workforce needs of Georgia communities and to meet those needs through the support and development of medical education programs. He was also awarded the 2018 Sam Poole Volunteer of the Year Award from Good News Clinics where he is a longtime volunteer and member of the Board of Directors.



Northeast Georgia Medical Center

Questions?

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