

FINAL APPROVED BY CLIENT

Texas Health Specialty Hospital Pathway to Excellence® Case Study

Located on the campus of Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Fort Worth, Texas Health Specialty Hospital (THSH) is a 15-bed facility serving patients with medically complex needs, such as renal failure, respiratory conditions, and non-healing wounds.

THSH is part of Texas Health Resources (THR), a faith-based, nonprofit health system that cares for patients in North Texas. More than 15 years ago, THR launched a system-wide initiative to credential all of its hospitals. The health system wanted to promote a healthy work environment, increase nurse satisfaction and retention, and attract the highest caliber nurses to its hospitals.

As part of that initiative, THSH earned its first Pathway to Excellence designation in 2008. It has since gone on to achieve four more designations – in 2011, 2014, 2017, and 2021 – and is one of just a handful of hospitals in the country to be designated five times.

Living the Pathway standards day in and day out has created an environment that helps nurses advance their practice, improve patient outcomes, and feel a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction in their daily work.

Recent notable results include:

- The **highest nurse satisfaction scores** in the hospital's history, due in part to health and well-being initiatives to improve nurses' mental, physical, and spiritual health
- **Zero cases of CAUTI, C.diff or MRSA bloodstream infections** for more than two years
- The **lowest rate of patient falls** in four years
- **No serious safety events** for more than two years
- **Patient satisfaction scores above the 90th percentile** for more than two years, with many patients saying nursing care is "the best they've ever had"

The hospital achieved its 2021 redesignation in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. THSH served as a non-COVID ICU surge site to help free beds in other hospital ICUs, and nurses routinely cared for large numbers of critically ill patients for extended lengths of time. Nursing leaders focused on ways to help "lighten the load" with initiatives to relieve stress and prevent burnout. As a result, the hospital achieved extremely high Pathway Survey results, including a 91% response rate and a 75% favorable response on all 28 items.

"While this isn't our first Pathway designation, it definitely feels like more of an accomplishment," says Sarah Choate, BSN, RN, Nurse Manager. "To see my staff push through and persevere in such trying times makes me so proud to be their leader. I am in awe of their strength and resilience."

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About Texas Health Specialty Hospital

[Texas Health Specialty Hospital](#) is part of [Texas Health Resources](#) (THR), a faith-based, nonprofit health system that cares for patients in North Texas. THR includes Texas Health Physicians Group, hospitals, outpatient facilities, Neighborhood Care & Wellness Centers, home health, and preventive and fitness services.

About the Pathway to Excellence® Program

[The Pathway to Excellence® Program](#) recognizes a health care organization's commitment to creating a positive nursing practice environment. The Pathway to Excellence in Long Term Care® program is the first to recognize this type of supportive work setting specifically in long-term care facilities. Pathway organizations focus on collaboration, career development, and accountable leadership to empower staff.

About ANCC

The mission of the [American Nurses Credentialing Center](#) (ANCC), a subsidiary of the American Nurses Association, is to promote excellence in nursing and health care globally through credentialing programs. ANCC's internationally renowned credentialing programs certify and recognize individual nurses in specialty practice areas. ANCC recognizes health care organizations that promote nursing excellence and quality patient outcomes while providing safe, positive work environments. In addition, ANCC accredits health care organizations that provide and approve continuing nursing education, accredits transition-to-practice programs, and prepares nurses for new practice roles. For more information about ANCC, visit us at nursingworld.org/ancc and follow us on [Twitter](#). ANCC is the only nurse credentialing organization to successfully achieve ISO 9001:2015 certification.