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Baptist Health South Florida adopts digital resuscitation education systemwide to improve cardiac arrest survival

*Receives RQI Lighthouse designation for commitment to
elevating high-quality CPR delivery*

MIAMI, FL. – December 20, 2022 – Baptist Health South Florida celebrated systemwide adoption of an innovative, digital resuscitation education solution to help improve cardiac

arrest survival. The system is leveraging the [Resuscitation Quality Improvement® Program \(RQI®\)](#), co-developed by the American Heart Association® and Laerdal Medical, to verify CPR competence and elevate the delivery of high-quality CPR in cardiac arrest emergencies.

Baptist Health South Florida first introduced the RQI program, an innovative, digital CPR learning solution, as part of a pilot test at West Kendall Baptist Hospital in July 2018. Transitioning from traditional instructor-led CPR training and initially enrolling nearly 800 clinicians, now, the system's 11 hospitals and one outpatient entity have embraced RQI to help its more than 12,000 healthcare providers achieve sustained mastery of high-quality CPR skills and competence, resulting in improved patient outcomes.



“We are excited to implement this proven solution across the Baptist Health South Florida system,” said Dr. Agueda Hernandez, Baptist Health South Florida’s vice president of medical education and chief health equity officer. “Patients who suffer a cardiac arrest must receive the highest quality CPR possible, which is known to be the cornerstone for survival. Our significant improvement in CPR performance, about 21%, can be directly attributed to our clinicians’ participation in the RQI program. Additionally, we are

realizing cost and productivity efficiencies, and increased confidence in our providers' response time. RQI has helped Baptist Health Florida embrace a culture of resuscitation competence and uphold its commitment to quality, clinical and service excellence."

More than 209,000 in-hospital cardiac arrests occur annually in the U.S. with survival rates at about 26% from adult in-hospital cardiac arrest. For decades, the CPR training standard for healthcare providers has been Basic Life Support with a requirement for participants to renew their course completion card every two years. However, [studies](#) show CPR skills can decay within three to six months following this training.

RQI is self-directed, simulation-based mastery learning and performance provided through cognitive and hands-on CPR quality improvement sessions that measure and verify competence. The program employs a "low-dose, high-frequency" model requiring healthcare providers to complete course assignments in short sessions every quarter. In 2018, the American Heart Association, the world's leading voluntary organization dedicated to a world of longer, healthier lives for all, and Laerdal Medical, one of the world leaders in medical simulation and resuscitation training, called for a new standard of care by shifting resuscitation practice from training once every two years to verified CPR competence for healthcare professionals.

Baptist Health South Florida has nearly 90 RQI simulation stations deployed throughout the hospitals to deliver Basic Life Support, Advanced Life Support and Pediatric Advanced Life Support course instruction, affording learners with greater flexibility and 24/7 access to resuscitation education.

"Enrollment in the RQI program illustrates Baptist Health South Florida's commitment to making high-quality CPR a

priority across the organization and furthering our shared mission to improve patient care and help save more lives,” said Brian Eigel, chief executive officer at RQI Partners, the partnership between and service provider for the American Heart Association and Laerdal Medical. “This path to a new standard of resuscitation care exemplifies the system’s leadership to ensure its providers have the knowledge and skills to perform lifesaving interventions on every patient, every time.”

In a special ceremony on November 29, attended by Baptist Health South Florida, American Heart Association and RQI Partners’ staff members, Eigel and Russell Griffin, RQI Partners’ senior vice president of programs and marketing, recognized Baptist Health South Florida’s leadership and commitment to improving patient outcomes, designating the system an [RQI Lighthouse Organization](#). The system joins an exclusive group of hospitals from around the country that demonstrate resuscitation, quality improvement and patient care best practices using the RQI program.

This distinction is awarded to participating RQI hospitals that advocate for quality and a culture of resuscitation excellence and serve as a beacon to other organizations looking to improve their resuscitation programs and patient outcomes. With a reputation for superior quality and efficient processes, RQI Lighthouse Organizations align with the RQI mission to eliminate preventable death from sudden cardiac arrest.

“We enthusiastically welcome Baptist Health South Florida to our RQI Lighthouse Organization roster, which now totals 19 institutions,” Griffin noted. “The system serves as a stellar role model on how to pivot from the CPR learning status quo to incorporating the RQI program into its culture. CPR performance has improved, and clinicians’ confidence levels continue to climb. Staff members are having peer-to-peer conversations to help influence and expand program adoption

and offering feedback on how we can continue to enhance the RQI program. We are proud to bestow Lighthouse distinction upon Baptist Health South Florida and look forward to collaborating with its team to ensure RQI is thriving in the greater South Florida community.”

To learn more about the RQI program and the value it brings to Baptist Health South Florida, patient care and the community at large, visit www.rqipartners.com.

About Baptist Health South Florida

Baptist Health South Florida is the largest healthcare organization in the region, with 12 hospitals, more than 26,000 employees, 4,000 physicians and 100 outpatient centers, urgent care facilities and physician practices spanning across Miami-Dade, Monroe, Broward and Palm Beach counties. Baptist Health has internationally renowned centers of excellence in cancer, cardiovascular care, orthopedics and sports medicine, and neurosciences. In addition, it includes Baptist Health Medical Group; Baptist Health Quality Network; and Baptist Health Care On Demand, a virtual health platform. A not-for-profit organization supported by philanthropy and committed to its faith-based charitable mission of medical excellence, Baptist Health has been recognized by Fortune as one of the 100 Best Companies to Work For in America and by Ethisphere as one of the World’s Most Ethical Companies. For more information, visit BaptistHealth.net/Newsroom and connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

About the American Heart Association

The American Heart Association is a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives. We are dedicated to ensuring equitable health in all communities. Through collaboration

with numerous organizations, and powered by millions of volunteers, we fund innovative research, advocate for the public's health and share lifesaving resources. The Dallas-based organization has been a leading source of health information for nearly a century. Connect with us on [heart.org](https://www.heart.org), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or by calling 1-800-AHA-USA1.

About Laerdal Medical

Laerdal is dedicated to our mission of helping save lives. For more than 60 years, Laerdal has remained a world leader in health care education, training and therapy solutions. Laerdal develops products, programs and digital solutions designed to increase survival and improve patient outcomes. By implementing evidence-based solutions within the areas of resuscitation, patient safety and global health, we address the changing needs of health care organizations and help build competence of health care providers, educators and lay rescuers. Together with our partners, we believe we can help save one million more lives, every year. Laerdal is a global company in 25 countries worldwide with the head office located in Stavanger, Norway. For more information, visit www.laerdal.com.

About RQI Partners LLC

RQI Partners LLC is a partnership between the American Heart Association and Laerdal Medical, positioning the organizations to deliver innovative solutions that accelerate the impact of their lifesaving mission. The company blends the AHA's leadership in science and resuscitation education with Laerdal's expertise in technology and implementation to deliver impactful and innovative resuscitation quality improvement programs. For more information, visit www.rqipartners.com and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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