



Press Release
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Reeves Regional Health Earns National Recognition as Center of Excellence in Surgical Safety

PECOS, Texas — Reeves Regional Health in Pecos, Texas is honored to receive the Center of Excellence in Surgical Safety: Prevention of retained surgical items (RSI) award by the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN), the leading professional organization for surgical nurses nationwide. This prestigious award recognizes Reeves Regional Health's unwavering commitment to minimizing the risk of surgical errors and enhancing patient safety through advanced education and training of its surgical team in preventing unintentionally RSI.

Unintentionally retained surgical items (RSIs), which include any surgical sponge, instrument, tool, or device unintentionally left in a patient after surgery, have long been identified by The Joint Commission as the most common sentinel event in surgical and invasive procedures.

Brenda McKinney, CEO of Reeves Regional Health says, "This recognition as an AORN Center of Excellence underscores our deep commitment to patient safety. It validates the hard work and dedication of our surgical team and reinforces our promise to provide the highest quality care to our community."

The Center of Excellence designation signifies that Reeves Regional Health has successfully completed AORN's comprehensive, evidence-based program, adopting and implementing best practices to ensure the continued safe care of surgical patients.

To achieve this recognition, Reeves Regional Health Perioperative Services underwent a rigorous process, demonstrating its commitment to RSI prevention through several key initiatives. This included a comprehensive review and enhancement of existing surgical safety protocols, the implementation of adjunct technology and standardized procedures for instrument and sponge counting, and advanced training for all surgical team members on best practices for preventing RSIs.

The program also emphasized fostering a culture of open communication and collaboration within the OR to ensure that all team members are empowered to speak up if they have any concerns about patient safety. Earning this Center of Excellence designation demonstrates Reeves Regional Health's dedication to providing the highest level of safety for patients undergoing surgical procedures, while also creating a safer and more supportive environment for its surgical staff.



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"To keep pace with evolving surgical safety practices, facilities must adapt," said David Wyatt, PhD, AORN's CEO & Executive Director. "This Center of Excellence designation reflects that commitment."

Reeves Regional Health, is a non-profit Level IV Trauma Center in Pecos, Texas, has been caring for Reeves County and surrounding West Texas communities since 1954. In 2022, the hospital opened its new 140,000-sq-ft facility, combining modern technology with the warmth of hometown care.

Our mission is our commitment to *exceptional care through servant-leadership* and strive to be the trusted beacon of health in our region—enhancing quality of life through innovation, compassion, and excellence. Our Vision is guided by our WECARE values—Wellness, Excellence, Compassion, Accountability, Respect, and Equality—we put patients and families at the heart of everything we do.

Founded in 1949, AORN is the leading professional organization for perioperative nurses, supporting the practice of more than 200,000 perioperative nurses by providing evidence-based research, nursing education, standards and practice resources to enable optimal outcomes for patients undergoing operative and other invasive procedures. AORN unites and empowers perioperative nurses, healthcare organizations, and industry partners to support safe surgery for every patient, every time. For more information about AORN and its initiatives, visit www.aorn.org.

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