

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Schneider Regional Medical Center Earns Full Joint Commission Accreditation

SRMC received full Joint Commission accreditation after a comprehensive review, confirming national standards for patient safety and quality despite workforce shortages and high patient volumes.

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The Schneider Regional Medical Center, By. ERNICE GILBERT, V.I. CONSORTIUM.

Schneider Regional Medical Center announced Friday that it has earned full accreditation from the Joint Commission, a milestone the hospital says confirms that its clinical services, patient safety practices, and operational systems meet—and in several areas

exceed—national healthcare standards, despite the challenges of serving a remote island community.

According to the release, SRMC officially received its Letter of Accreditation on January 9 following a comprehensive review of its clinical services and operations. Joint Commission accreditation is widely regarded as the gold standard in healthcare quality and performance, and hospital officials said the designation affirms SRMC's commitment to evidence-based care, infection prevention, leadership oversight, and continuous performance improvement.

"Like many hospitals serving remote and island communities, Schneider Regional Medical Center operates under unique and very real challenges," said Tina M. Comissiong, chief executive officer. "We are the sole acute-care hospital for our community, and we manage high patient volumes, workforce shortages, and limited resources—while still showing up every day and providing high-quality care to the people who depend on us. This full accreditation confirms that, even with the constraints, our systems, our clinical practices, and our standards of care meet—and in many areas exceed—national standards for quality and patient safety."

Hospital leadership acknowledged that SRMC's Emergency Department experiences extended wait times, driven by what it says are periods of unusually high patient volume and surges in demand. Those delays are further compounded by a high number of inpatient boarders, currently totaling 13, which limits available inpatient beds and restricts patient flow out of the Emergency Department. Despite those challenges, SRMC said that patients continue to receive excellent care.

"The challenges are real," Comissiong added. "But what this accreditation affirms is that our teams are doing the very best possible work with the resources available—guided by evidence-based standards and an unwavering commitment to patient care. I am incredibly proud of our physicians, nurses, clinical teams, and support staff—many of whom are from this community—who serve with professionalism, compassion, and resilience."

SRMC also highlighted the role of its Quality and Performance Improvement and Infection Control departments, noting that their oversight and diligence were instrumental in achieving accreditation. Special recognition was extended to Dr. Delphine Olivacce, chief nursing officer, along with Venetta Winston, Dawn Grell, Sharmaine Stapleton, and Tanicia Penn, for their leadership and sustained focus on quality and patient safety.

"This recognition belongs to them, and it reinforces our commitment to strengthening care delivery and continuously improving services for the people of the Virgin Islands," the release stated.

As the primary healthcare provider for the St. Thomas–St. John district, Schneider Regional Medical Center said it remains focused on advancing quality, enhancing the patient experience, and building capacity to meet the evolving healthcare needs of the community.