The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) recently awarded Anaheim Regional Medical Center (ARMC) the prestigious Pathway to Excellence® designation. To earn this recognition, a thorough review process was conducted documenting quality initiatives in ARMC’s practices, policies and culture while also acknowledging essential elements of an ideal nursing practice environment.

ARMC nursing staff participated in a confidential online survey where staff ratings reflected overall positive responses a majority of the time. Thirteen exemplars of best practices were identified.

As a Pathway to Excellence® designated organization, ARMC shows commitment to nurses, to what nurses identify as important to their practice, and to valuing nurses' contributions in the workplace. This designation confirms that nursing efforts are supported and appreciated. The honor also encourages other nurses, not employed at ARMC, to join their colleagues in this desirable work environment.

In addition, the Pathway to Excellence® designation is granted based on the confirmed presence of characteristics known as "The Pathway to Excellence Criteria.” An organization must successfully undergo a review process that documents foundational quality initiatives in creating a positive work environment, which is defined by nurses and supported by research. These initiatives must be present in the facility's practices, policies, and culture.

The award also recognizes and focuses on nurses achieving a balanced lifestyle, working in a collaborative atmosphere, having a high level of job satisfaction and knowing their contributions are valued.