Top critical access hospitals announced

The 20 highest-ranked critical access hospitals (CAHs) in the country, as determined by the Chartis Center for Rural Health, were recently announced by the National Rural Health Association (NRHA). An awards ceremony will be held during NRHA’s Critical Access Hospital Conference in September in Kansas City, Mo.

The determining factors for the Top 20 CAHs were based on the results of the Hospital Strength Index and its eight indices of performance: inpatient market share, outpatient market share, quality, outcomes, patient perspective, cost, charge, and financial efficiency. This elite group of hospitals was selected from the Chartis Center for Rural Health’s 2021 top 100 CAH list, which was released earlier this year.

Forty best practice designations were also given to facilities that achieved success in one of two key areas of performance: 1) quality: a rating of hospital performance based on the percentile rank across rural-relevant process of care measures, and 2) patient perspective: a rating of hospital performance based on the percentile rank across all 10 HCAHPS domains.

“NRHA is committed to ensuring our members have the best information to manage their hospitals,” says Brock Slabach, NRHA membership services senior vice president. “We’re pleased to recognize the accomplishments of these rural hospitals.”

The list of Top 20 winners and best practice recipients, in alphabetical order and by category, is included below:

**TOP 20 CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS**

Avera Hand County Memorial Hospital, Miller, S.D.
Barrett Hospital & HealthCare, Dillon, Mont.
Beaver Valley Hospital, Beaver, Utah
Cass County Health System, Atlantic, Iowa
CHI St. Alexius Health Carrington, Carrington, N.D.
Clay County Medical Center, Clay Center, Kan.
Community Medical Center, Falls City, Neb.
Community Memorial Healthcare, Marysville, Kan.
Graham County Hospital, Hill City, Kan.
Howard County Medical Center, Saint Paul, Neb.
Jamestown Regional Medical Center, Jamestown, N.D.
Kingman Healthcare Center  
Kingman Regional Health Center  
Milbank Area Hospital Avera  
Osborne County Memorial Hospital  
Pella Regional Health Center  
River Hospital  
Towner County Medical Center  
Wallowa Memorial Hospital  
Westfields Hospital and Clinic  

BEST PRACTICE RECIPIENTS – QUALITY  
Allendale County Hospital  
Annie Jeffrey Memorial County Health Center  
CHI Health Plainview  
Comanche County Hospital  
Edgefield County Healthcare  
Gove County Medical Center  
Harper County Community Hospital  
Kiowa District Healthcare  
Linton Hospital  
Loring Hospital  
Medicine Lodge Memorial Hospital  
Mitchell County Hospital District  
Osborne County Memorial Hospital  
Pembina County Memorial Hospital  
St. Andrew’s Health Center  
St. Luke’s Medical Center  
Stafford County Hospital  
Swift County – Benson Health Services  
Towner County Medical Center  
Trousdale Medical Center  

BEST PRACTICE RECIPIENTS – PATIENT SATISFACTION  
Avera Hand County Memorial Hospital  
Casey County Hospital  
CHI Health Mercy Corning  
CHI Oakes Hospital  
Collingsworth General Hospital  
Fillmore Community Hospital  
First Care Health Center  
Hancock County Hospital  
Henderson Health Care Services  
Jackson County Hospital District  
Kiowa District Healthcare  
Lady of the Sea General Hospital  
Madelia Health  
MercyOne Elkader Medical Center  
Monroe County Hospital & Clinics  

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MercyOne Elkader Medical Center  
Monroe County Hospital & Clinics
Monument Health Custer Hospital  Custer, S.D.
Richland Parish Hospital – Delhi  Delhi, La.
Santa Ynez Valley Cottage Hospital  Solvang, Calif.
Union General Hospital  Farmerville, La.
Vidant Bertie Hospital  Windsor, N.C.

About NRHA
The National Rural Health Association is a national nonprofit membership organization with more than 20,000 members. The association’s mission is to provide leadership on rural health issues. NRHA membership consists of a diverse collection of individuals and organizations, all of whom share the common bond of an interest in rural health.

About the Chartis Group
The Chartis Group provides comprehensive advisory services and analytics to the health care industry. With unparalleled expertise in strategic planning, performance excellence, informatics and technology, and health analytics, Chartis helps leading academic medical centers, integrated delivery networks, children's hospitals, and health care service organizations achieve transformative results. For more information, visit chartis.com.

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