The National Rural Health Association names the Top 20 Rural Community Hospitals based on the iVantage Health Analytics’ Hospital Strength INDEX, the first nationwide hospital rating system to evaluate U.S. rural PPS hospitals based upon market, value-based and financial measures.

NRHA’s Top 20 Rural Community Hospitals Winners are the highest ranked of the aggregate scores across eight pillars of excellence. This selection is a subset of the Top 100 RCHs, named by iVantage Health Analytics.

The Hospital Strength INDEX® utilizes publicly available data sets to quantify overall hospital performance in eight pillars: 1 - Inpatient Market Share, 2 - Outpatient Market Share, 3 – Quality, 4 — Outcomes, 5 – Patient Perspectives, 6 - Costs, 7 - Charges, and 8 - Financial Stability.

About NRHA
The National Rural Health Association (NRHA) 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 iVantage Health Analytics
iVantage Health Analytics (iVantage) is a leading provider of healthcare analytic and decision support tools. Health system and hospital leadership teams across the country rely on the company’s software and services to deliver customized insights on clinical and financial performance, strategic planning, market assessment and contract optimization. Employing a full array of public, private and proprietary data, iVantage tools and solutions - from dashboards and preformatted reports, to industry and custom guided analytics - are designed to help its clients move from data to action. In addition, iVantage analytics and tools are the basis of continuing thought leadership and insight in the areas of healthcare policy and research. Learn more at iVantageHealth.com

For more information about the NRHA Top 20 Rural Health Awards luncheon, contact Donna Douglas at ddouglas@NRHArural.org.
For more information about the criteria used, contact Michael Topchik at mtopchik@ivantagehealth.com or click on the following link: www.ivantageindex.com

About the Source Document Study
The Study
The purpose of this study is to use publically available data to provide a comprehensive comparison of the all Perspective Payment System hospitals across a continuum of financial, value-based and market driven performance indicators. The Hospital Strength INDEX™ model aggregates data for 70 indicators organized into nine performance categories. It focuses on a set of CMS value based indicators, augmented by market/competition and financial indicators. It is the first rating system to incorporate market position, competitive intensity and growing healthcare demand. It is also the first rating system modeled on research-based financial ratios most determinant of long-term financial sustainability. This study is unique because it is founded on the belief that a strong hospital/system has the following characteristics in the new health care:

- Low levels of population-related risk
- Dominant market position related to inpatient and outpatient services
Outstanding quality and safety programs
Loyal, satisfied patients
Cost efficient and appropriately priced services
Strong balance sheet with surplus capital

Review of Data Sources
Ratings are based on publicly available data sources, including Medicare Cost Reports, Medicare claims data, Hospital Compare reporting and related sources. The Hospital Strength INDEX includes the most recently available data sets and refinements to the methodology based on market feedback and access to new data sets.

The Hospital Strength INDEX is designed to provide a comprehensive, objective and straightforward method for comparing hospital performance. The scoring model aggregates hospital-specific data for 71 individual metrics and calculates percentile rankings based on performance in comparison to all hospitals in the study group. Nine primary pillar scores are derived based on the composite scores of their respective components. Aggregate scores across the nine pillars serve as the basis for a single overall rating. The INDEX’s complete methodology is available for download at www.iVantageINDEX.com

The various ratings within INDEX are based on publicly available data sources including Medicare Cost Reports, Medicare claims data, Hospital Compare reporting, indicators from the Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality, Federal SEC EDGAR filings, as well as other proprietary data and methodologies. In this updated study, iVantage modified the Hospital Strength INDEX to include the most recently available data sets and applied a set of refinements and market share measures to the methodology based on market feedback and access to new data sets required under the new healthcare.