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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 are based on the results of the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEX and its eight indices of performance: inpatient market share, outpatient market share, quality, outcomes, patient perspective, cost, charge, and finance. This elite group of hospitals was selected from the Chartis Center for Rural Health's 2026 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 chief operations officer. "We're pleased to recognize the accomplishments of these rural hospitals." The list of winners and best practice recipients, in alphabetical order and by category, is included below:

TOP 20 CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS

Amery Hospital & Clinic
Avera St. Anthony's Hospital
Cass Health
CHI Mercy Health of Valley City
CHI St Alexius Health Carrington
Cobleskill Regional Hospital
Cox Barton County Hospital
Fairview Hospital
Hedrick Medical Center
Jefferson Community Health & Life
Kingman Healthcare Center
Mayo Clinic Health System - Waseca
Memorial Health Care Systems

Amery, Wis.
O'Neill, Neb.
Atlantic, Iowa
Valley City, N.D.
Carrington, N.D.
Cobleskill, N.Y.
Lamar, Mo.
Great Barrington, Mass.
Chillicothe, Mo.
Fairbury, Neb.
Kingman, Kan.
Waseca, Minn.
Seward, Neb.

Mosaic Medical Center - Albany	Albany, Mo.
Pembina County Memorial Hospital	Cavalier, N.D.
Rio Grande Hospital	Del Norte, Colo.
River Falls Area Hospital	River Falls, Wis.
Rooks County Health Center	Plainville, Kan.
South Central Health	Wishek, N.D.
Virginia Gay Hospital	Vinton, Iowa

BEST PRACTICE RECIPIENTS – QUALITY

Beaver County Memorial Hospital	Beaver, Okla.
Big Sandy Medical Center	Big Sandy, Mont.
Comanche County Hospital	Coldwater, Kan.
Coteau des Prairies Health Care System	Sisseton, S.D.
Emplify Health by Gundersen Friendship	Friendship, Wis.
Grafton City Hospital	Grafton, W. Va.
Lady of the Sea General Hospital	Cut Off, La.
McCone County Health Center	Circle, Mont.
Medicine Lodge Memorial Hospital	Medicine Lodge, Kan.
Mercy Hospital Logan County	Guthrie, Okla.
Mercy Hospital Tishomingo	Tishomingo, Okla.
Mercy Hospital Waldron	Waldron, Ark.
Mille Lacs Health System	Onamia, Minn.
Mitchell County Hospital	Colorado City, Texas
Myrtue Medical Center	Harlan, Iowa
Palacios Community Medical Center	Palacios, Texas
Rio Grande Hospital	Del Norte, Colo.
Seymour Hospital	Seymour, Texas
Towner County Medical Center	Cando, N.D.
Virginia Gay Hospital	Vinton, Iowa

BEST PRACTICE RECIPIENTS – PATIENT SATISFACTION

Adair County Health System	Greenfield, Iowa
Aspirus Lake View Hospital	Two Harbors, Minn.
Callaway District Hospital	Callaway, Neb.
CHI Health Mercy Corning	Corning, Iowa
Community Memorial Hospital	Burke, S.D.
ECU Health Bertie Hospital	Windsor, N.C.
Electra Memorial Hospital	Electra, Texas
Fishermen's Community Hospital	Marathon, Fla.
Henderson Health Care Services	Henderson, Neb.
Hillsboro Health	Hillsboro, Ill.
Iowa Specialty Hospital - Belmond	Belmond, Iowa
Lynn County Hospital District	Tahoka, Texas
Marshall Medical Center	Lewisburg, Tenn.
Midwest Medical Center	Galena, Ill.
Ochsner Abrom Kaplan Memorial Hospital	Kaplan, La.
Saint Joseph Berea	Berea, Ky.

Sanford Webster Medical Center
Santa Ynez Valley Cottage Hospital
Sleepy Eye Medical Center
Tallahatchie General Hospital

Webster, S.D.
Solvang, Calif.
Sleepy Eye, Minn.
Charleston, Miss.

About NRHA

NRHA is a nonprofit organization working to improve the health and wellbeing of rural Americans and provide leadership on rural health issues through advocacy, communications, education, and research. NRHA's membership is made up of unique individuals and organizations from across the country, all of whom share the common bond of an interest in rural health.

About Chartis

Chartis is a comprehensive health care advisory firm dedicated to helping clients build a healthier world. Chartis works across the health care continuum with more than 600 clients annually, including providers, payers, health services organizations, technology and retail companies, and investors. Through times of change, challenge, and opportunity, Chartis advises the industry on how to navigate disruption, pursue growth, achieve financial sustainability, unleash technology, improve care models and operations, enhance clinical quality and safety, and advance health equity. The teams convened bring deep industry expertise and industry leading innovation, enabling clients to achieve transformational results and create positive societal impact. For more information, visit www.chartis.com.

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