

Press Release
September 30, 2011

For immediate release –

Star Valley Medical Center named as one of America's top 100 critical access hospitals.

The National Rural Health Association (NRHA) announced Wednesday, September 28, 2011 the names of the Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) in America. Star Valley Medical Center, located in Afton, Wyoming, is listed in this first ever comprehensive rating of Critical Access Hospitals.

A few of the 56 different measures used to determine the top 100 CAHs were market strength, value based strength, and financial strength.

- The Market Strength includes competitive strength, intensity, size and growth factors essential to ACO development.
- The Value-based Strength includes quality, outcomes, patient perspectives, and cost and charge indicators that are essential for earning rewards under CMS' Value-based Purchasing reimbursement incentives.
- The Financial Strength includes income statement and balance sheet ratios most predictive of long-term sustainability that are essential under an environment of reduced payments.

Star Valley Medical Center, based in Afton, Wyoming, is one of America's more than 1,750 Rural Critical Access Hospitals. Critical Access Hospitals are defined as small, generally geographically remote facilities that provide outpatient and inpatient hospital services to people in rural areas. To be designated as a CAH, a hospital must be located in a rural area, provide 24-hour emergency services; have an average length-of-stay for its patients of 96 hours or less; be located more than 35 miles (or more than 15 miles in areas with mountainous terrain) from the nearest hospital or be designated by its State as a "necessary provider".

Steve Perry, CEO at Star Valley Medical Center said, "Obviously we are extremely proud here at SVMC to be named as one of the top 100 Critical Access Hospitals in the country. Our team of professionals works hard every day at delivering quality, affordable healthcare to our community. Our desire is to continue to bring the latest technologies and services to the patients and families we serve, and remain a viable healthcare partner and provider to the people of Star Valley and the extended region."