

National Rural Health Association Top 20 Award Winners and Best Practice Hospitals 2018

The National Rural Health Association names the Top 20 Critical Access Hospitals from a larger set of Top 100 CAHs, which is evaluated and produced by The Chartis Center for Rural Health. Both the Top 20 and Top 100 performing Critical Access Hospitals are identified through iVantage Health Analytics' Hospital Strength INDEX®, the most comprehensive and objective assessment of U.S. rural and Critical Access Hospital performance based upon market, value-based and financial measures.

**NRHA's Top 20 Winners are the highest ranked of
the Top 100 CAHs, named by The Chartis Center for Rural Health.**

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 Perspective, 6 - Cost, 7 - Charge, and 8 - Financial Stability.

**Additionally, NRHA recognizes the 20 highest ranking
CAHs in the Quality and Patient Perspective (Patient Satisfaction) Pillars, naming them a “Best Practice” hospital in
the designated category.**

- **“Quality INDEX” -- Hospital Compare Process of Care Measures** – All hospitals in the INDEX study are evaluated across rural-relevant Process of Care measures (including Heart Failure, Pneumonia and Outpatient metrics). Each hospital's performance across these indicators is aggregated and ranked against rural peers nationally. The Top 20 CAHs are recognized for the outstanding quality they deliver to their patients.
- **“Patient Perspective INDEX” -- Hospital Compare Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) Measures** – All hospitals in the study are evaluated across all 10 HCAHPS domains. Each hospital's performance across these 10 metrics is aggregated and ranked against rural peers nationally. The Top 20 CAHs are recognized for the outstanding patient satisfaction they provide.

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 The Chartis Group

The Chartis Group® (Chartis) provides comprehensive advisory services and analytics to the healthcare industry. With an unparalleled depth of 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 healthcare service organizations achieve transformative results. The Chartis Center for Rural Health was formed in 2016 to offer tailored services, performance management solutions, research and education to rural hospitals and facilities. Learn more at Chartisrural.com.

About iVantage Health Analytics

Based in Newton, Massachusetts, iVantage Health Analytics (iVantage) is a leading provider of performance management, cost reduction, benchmarking, and strategic market planning solutions for hospitals and healthcare systems. Health system and hospital leadership teams across the country rely on the company's software and services to help them to stay ahead of the curve and achieve or maintain their status as high-performing organizations. iVantage analytics and tools are the basis of continuing investment, thought leadership and insight in the areas of healthcare policy and research. In 2015, iVantage was acquired by The Chartis Group, a national advisory services firm dedicated to the healthcare industry. Learn more at iVantageHealth.com.

For more information about the NRHA Top 20 awards breakfast, contact Donna Douglas at ddouglas@NRHArural.org.

For more information about the criteria used, contact Michael Topchik at mtopchik@chartis.com or click on the following link: www.ivantageindex.com

About the Hospital Strength INDEX

The Hospital Strength INDEX utilizes publicly available data to provide a comprehensive comparison of all rural and Critical Access Hospitals across a continuum of Market, Value-based and Financial performance indicators. By assessing performance across more than 50 individual indicators and eight pillars of performance, INDEX brings a rural-relevant perspective to healthcare leaders making strategic and operational decisions. The INDEX is the foundation for many of rural healthcare's most prominent awards and is used by organizations such as the National Rural Health Association in support of its advocacy and legislative initiatives.

Learn more about the INDEX and The Chartis Center for Rural Health research at:

<http://www.ivantageindex.com/research-education2/>

Review of Data Sources

The INDEX leverages the most recent publicly available data from CMS. This release includes the most recently available data as of December 2017. All available data are included in the INDEX and statistical sampling and data projection methodologies are employed when necessary. Please refer to the full methodology www.ivantageindex.com/2018-methodology for a complete review of data sources and date ranges.