



Colorado Rural Health Center

Critical Access Hospital Peer Review Network

“Providing quality, confidential medical
peer review for rural facilities”

The Critical Access Hospital Peer Review Network (CAH-PRN) was developed to provide assistance to rural facilities in conducting peer review activities. CAH-PRN offers a means of obtaining an independent, specialty –matched medical opinion from a rural provider based on review of medical records.

As the State Office of Rural Health, the Colorado Rural Health Center identified an increasing, statewide need for prompt, external peer review services for rural facilities. Rural hospitals need assistance with objective, retrospective reviews of medical cases – with a strong emphasis on confidentiality. CAH-PRN is an effective and economical option for Critical Access Hospitals to provide independent, non-binding reviews by specialists and staff not available in house.

WHY USE CRHC’s PEER REVIEW SERVICE?

- For confidential peer review for rural hospitals seeking an outside opinion
- To evaluate the accuracy of a diagnosis and the appropriateness of treatment
- All information is confidential
- Beneficial to small, rural facilities where true impartiality and objectivity may be difficult or impossible to achieve

THE PEER REVIEW PROCESS

1. Critical Access Hospitals seeking external review forward copies of medical records to CRHC, along with a completed review request form describing the reason for review.
2. All patient, facility and provider identifiers are removed.
3. CRHC sends the medical record to another participating Critical Access Hospital for review by a medical staff member of the appropriate specialty.
4. The reviewer completes a review form with recommendations and feedback, and returns the info to CRHC.
5. Report is forwarded to the requesting facility with an invoice for \$30 for shipping and handling.
6. Cases requiring review by specialists not available locally, or cases that require a second opinion review are forwarded out of state to one of two contracted QIOs (Quality Improvement Organizations) with panels of reviewers from all specialties. The charge for the out of state review is \$300 per case.

“Enhancing healthcare services in Colorado by providing information, education, linkages, tools & energy toward addressing rural healthcare issues.”

Colorado Rural Health Center

225 East 16th Avenue, Suite 1050

Denver, CO 80203

Phone: 303-832-7493

From Rural Colorado: 800-851-6782

Fax: 303-832-7496

E-mail: info@coruralhealth.org

Website: www.coruralhealth.org

