

Colorado Critical Access Hospital Profile

Spotlight on: Del Norte, Colorado Rio Grande Hospital

The Colorado Critical Access Hospital (CAH) Program is administered by the Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC). The Colorado CAH Profiles have been developed to inform, update, and share the successes and challenges of all CAHs in Colorado.

County: Rio Grande
Address: 310 County Road 14, Del Norte, CO 81132
Phone : 719-657-2510 **Fax:** 719-657-2851
Web: www.rio-grande-hospital.org



Quick Facts

CAH Certification Date:
Former EACH/RPCH participant

Administrator:
Arlene Harms

Medical Director:
Dr. Bobby Howard

Board Chair:
John Allen Davey

City Population: 1,705

**Service Area
Population:** 15,000

Owned by:
Valley Citizens Foundation for Healthcare

Hospital Beds: 14

How Has CAH Status Affected the Hospital?

A study was conducted for 10 Colorado CAHs comparing data from two years prior to conversion to two years after conversion. Results revealed that on average for the 10 hospitals:

Gross Medicare revenue increased by 29%
Net Medicare revenue increased by 45%
Patient service margin increased by 2.71%
Swing bed discharges increased by 26%
Swing bed patient days increased by 49%
Number of employees decreased by 3 FTEs

This information was extracted from the Colorado Health and Hospital Association's DATABANK system.

Network Development Affiliates:

San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center—Alamosa, CO
Swedish Medical Center—Denver, CO
Provisions Included: Patient Transfer and Quality Improvement

CAH Technical Assistance Grant History

January 2001: Conducted a community needs assessment ; held community meetings and town trustee meetings regarding the building of a new hospital and status as a CAH; hired project coordinator to carry out the program plan for new facility.

June 2002: Cost reporting; staff and physician education; training materials; radiology system review.

November 2007: Board education; chargemaster evaluation and charge audit; manager leadership training.

The Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC)

The Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC) is a diverse mix of people, programs, and places interested in Colorado's rural healthcare. The Center's mission is to enhance healthcare services by providing information, education, linkages, tools and energy toward addressing rural healthcare issues. The CRHC serves as the State Office of Rural Health, yet remains an independent, non-profit organization.

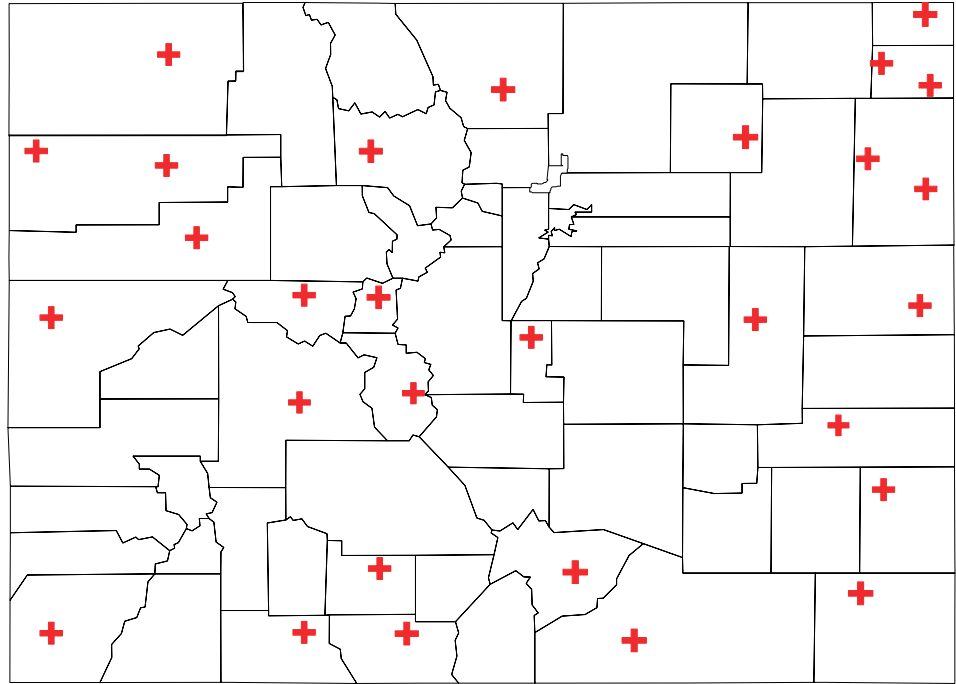
Colorado Critical Access Hospital Program (CAH)

The Critical Access Hospital Program was created by Congress in 1997 to help alleviate the negative impact the Balanced Budget Act had on the fragile rural healthcare delivery system. A small, rural hospital, with no more than 25 beds (any combination of acute or swing), providing emergency care, and not located within 35 miles of another hospital, can qualify for CAH status and receive cost based reimbursement for all Medicare patients.

The Center is the recipient of the Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex) Grant, which provides federal funding to administer the CAH program and to assist the CAHs with issues related to quality improvement, emergency medical services, and network development.

At least one half of the Flex grant funds are dispersed to the hospitals each year through the Center's CAH technical assistance grants.

There are currently 29 CAH's in Colorado. For more information about each CAH, [click here](#) or go to www.coruralhealth.org.



Exciting News from Rio Grande Hospital !

The tradition of hospital care at Del Norte goes back to 1907 when St. Joseph Hospital located at 1280 Grande Avenue in Del Norte opened. St. Joseph's closed in 1993 and in 1996, Rio Grande Hospital at Del Norte re-opened at the old St. Joseph Hospital Building.

The New Rio Grande Hospital opened August 11, 2004 with our new \$10 million dollar facility located at 0310 County Road 14, Del Norte, Colorado 81132. In 2008, Rio Grande opened a new Rural Health Clinic. The 7,500 sq ft clinic is located adjacent to the hospital

Rio Grande Hospital provides:

Emergent Care	Outpatient Care
Inpatient Care	Swing Bed Care
Laboratory Services	X-Ray and CT Evaluations
Physical Therapy	Specialty Clinics
Full On Site Cafeteria	



Critical Care Transfers:

An FAA approved helicopter landing pad is available on site for transfer of patients to other hospitals when necessary, as well as leer jet transportation from a nearby air field.