

CRHC Critical Access Hospital Profile

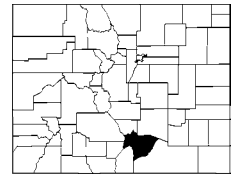
Spotlight on: Walsenburg, Colorado

Spanish Peaks Regional Health Center

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.

Mission:

"To improve the lives we touch." We are dedicated to providing the highest quality health care in a friendly and compassionate environment.

County: Huerfano**Address:** 23500 US Hwy. 160, Walsenburg, CO 81089**Phone:** 719-738-5100 **Fax:** 719-738-5138**Web:** www.spanishpeakshealth.org

Quick Facts

CAH Certification**Date:** June 2002**Administrator:**

Steve Perkins

Chief of Medical Staff:

Michel A. Moll, MD

Board Chair:

Kenneth Schneider

Employees: 200**City Population:** 4,200**Service Area****Population:** 8,000**Owned by:** Huerfano

County Hospital District

Hospital Beds: 25**Trauma Level:** IV**Sole Community
Provider**

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 Affiliate:

St. Mary Corwin Hospital - Pueblo, CO

Provisions Included: Patient Transfer, Peer Review, Credentialing and Quality Improvement/Assurance

May 2001: Hired interim staff to assist with CAH conversion policies and

CAH Technical Assistance Grant History

procedures; facilitated survey preparation.

October 2001: Hired consultant to conduct on-site review of clinical areas relating to CAH conversion with the following objectives: Identify system challenges, receive recommendations, outline policies to improve compliance, and create written report of findings.**December 2003:** Improved awareness and educated community about the capabilities and services provided by local healthcare system; produced brochure mailers; hosted health fair.

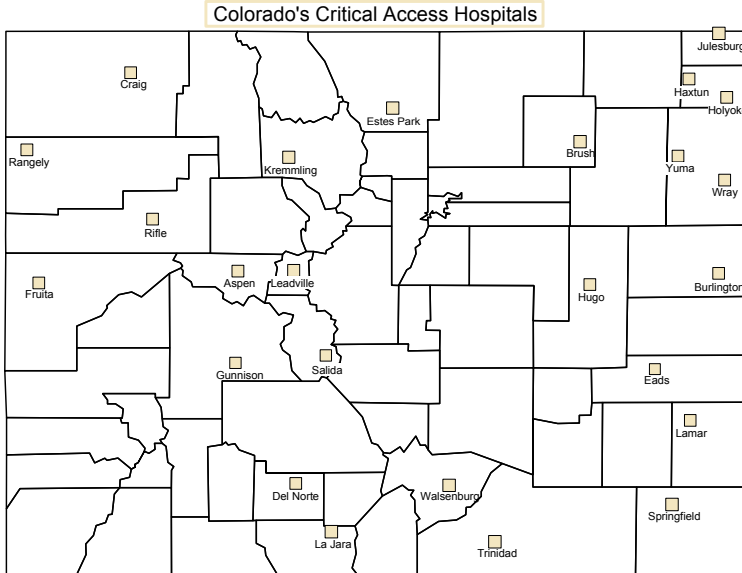
The Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC)

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.

Colorado's Certified CAHs



1. East Morgan County Community Hospital, Brush
2. Family Health West, Fruita
3. Rio Grande Hospital, Del Norte
4. Haxtun Hospital, Haxtun
5. Melissa Memorial Hospital, Holyoke
6. Lincoln Community Hospital, Hugo
7. Rangely District Hospital, Rangely
8. Conejos County Hospital, La Jara
9. Wray District Hospital, Wray
10. Southeast Colorado Hospital, Springfield
11. Sedgwick County Hospital, Julesburg
12. Estes Park Medical Center, Estes Park
13. Kit Carson Memorial Hospital, Burlington
14. The Memorial Hospital, Craig
15. Spanish Peaks Regional Health Ctr, Walsenburg
16. Yuma District Hospital, Yuma
17. Weisbrod Memorial County Hospital, Eads
18. Grand River Hospital District, Rifle
19. Kremmling Memorial Hospital District, Kremmling
20. St. Vincent General Hospital District, Leadville
21. Gunnison Valley Hospital, Gunnison
22. Mt. San Rafael Hospital, Trinidad
23. Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Ctr, Salida
24. Prowers Medical Center, Lamar
25. Aspen Valley Hospital, Aspen

All About Spanish Peaks Regional Health Center !

The Spanish Peaks Regional Health Center, previously named the Huerfano County Medical Center, provides quality health care to the residents of Huerfano County and the 25,000 tourists who visit the county each year. The Health Center has brought over 120 new jobs to the area and is a critical step in a carefully planned economic development strategy to preserve Huerfano County's rich cultural heritage and secure its future by helping attract new industry.



Huerfano County Memorial Hospital, later named the Huerfano County Medical Center, was built in 1963 as a 38-bed hospital located in the heart of Walsenburg. The facility was built on expansive, shifting soils, resulting in massive, irreparable damage to walls, ceilings and floors. This damage forced hospital officials to close the surgery suite in 1986. Without surgical capabilities, obstetric care was discontinued and emergency care was limited. An engineering study of the medical center building concluded that it would be futile to repair the damaged wings, since the bentonite soil would continue to shift and the facility would encounter recurring structural damage. The engineering firm recommended relocation to a new site as the most cost-effective way to proceed. As a result, the Board of Directors resolved to build a new medical center to replace the existing one.

For over a decade, community veterans had encouraged the placement of a state veterans nursing home in Walsenburg. By combining the two facilities, the needs of both the community and the aging veteran population could be met. In 1989, 83% of the voters in Huerfano County approved a \$5.2 million bond issue for building the new medical center and a \$1.8 million operating subsidy of \$300,000 per year for six years. These bond issues raised taxes by an average of 10% per property owner. Additional funding was obtained as donations from Foundations, Corporations and individuals. Approximately 65% of the State Veterans Nursing Home is funded by the Veterans Administration. The new facility, located two miles west of Walsenburg on Highway 160, was completed in 1995. It is a 25-bed county medical facility of approximately 40,000 square feet, attached to a new 120 bed state veterans nursing home of approximately 45,000 square feet. In addition, a professional building accommodates physicians for both facilities, and houses a specialty medical clinic and the regional dialysis center.