

COLORADO RURAL HEALTH CENTER

The State Office of Rural Health

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Pioneers Medical Center Recognized for Outstanding Leadership in Rural Healthcare

Colorado's rural health association – the Colorado Rural Health Center – recently recognized Pioneers Medical Center as 2014's first featured Member of the Month

DENVER, CO – The Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC), headquartered in Aurora, functions as both the State Office of Rural Health and the association for Colorado's widespread rural health organizations. Each month, the CRHC recognizes one of its members whose work supports the CRHC's vision that all rural Coloradans have access to comprehensive, affordable, high quality healthcare.

Pioneers Medical Center is a community-based healthcare facility operated by the Eastern Rio Blanco County Health Service District. Governed by a publically elected Board of Directors, the hospital (a Critical Access Hospital and Level IV Trauma



Center), the clinic and the long-term care residence deliver a wide variety of health services to residents in and around Meeker, Colorado. Located in Rio Blanco County – Meeker is a short drive from Craig, Rifle, Rangely, Glenwood Springs and Grand Junction and is known for their Sheepdog Championship competition and Colorado's oldest annual rodeo.

Pioneers Medical Center opened its doors in 1950 and ten years later constructed the Walbridge Wing, which provides long-term skilled nursing services. It wasn't until 1990 that the Meeker Family Health Center – a rural health clinic - was created.

Pioneers Medical Center and their team of over 120 professionals are passionate about helping the community stay healthy. Ken Harman, Pioneers chief executive officer says, “I truly believe the compassion and individualized care of the Pioneers’ staff exceeds the usual scope of care found in most hospitals.”

Known for always putting their patients first, Pioneers Medical Center was recognized by iVantage Health Analytics in October when they were named HealthSTRong™ Award winner for Excellence in Patient Satisfaction. They were also named a 2013 Guardian of Excellence Award winner by Press Ganey Associates, Inc. The Guardian of Excellence Award recognizes top-performing facilities that consistently achieved the 95th percentile of performance in Patient Satisfaction.



The Colorado Rural Health Center is proud to feature Pioneers Medical Center as this month’s featured member of the month. Not only was Pioneers the first to renew their membership for 2014, but they were the first member to contract with CRHC’s Colorado Provider Recruitment to recruit a Registered Nurse.

Pioneers Medical Center is involved in the Improving Communications and Readmissions (iCARE) program, which offers Colorado’s CAHs and their clinics the opportunity to engage in a statewide improvement project aligning with national trends and funding priorities demonstrating sustainable improvements and outcomes. They are also involved in the Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP), which is a statewide collaborative project focusing on creating and refining quality improvement systems and processes with the goal of meeting electronic health record (EHR) Meaningful Use criteria.

Involved in many of CRHC’s education and training opportunities, Pioneers Medical Center is an engaged member of the Colorado Rural Health Center. If you would like to learn more about Pioneers Medical Center, you can find additional information on their [website](#), [Facebook](#), or email them directly at info@pioneershospital.org.

Do you know a CRHC member that is leading the way for rural healthcare delivery in Colorado? [Click here](#) to complete a nomination to recognize any of [CRHC’s current members](#). Questions, contact info@coruralhealth.org.