



SOUTH DAVIS
COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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South Davis Community Hospital's Response to Medicare's Rating System

Bountiful, Utah, December 30, 2008 - Medicare recently issued a "Five Star Quality Rating" for nursing home providers. The purpose of this rating system is to assist consumers and caregivers in comparing nursing homes across the country. Each facility's rating is derived from three sources: health inspections, staffing, and quality measures. Ideally, this rating provides a snapshot of the facility.

Like many other ratings and surveys, the Five Star Quality Rating has strengths and weaknesses. One such weakness is that some indicators, such as quality measures, are not adjusted for any special characteristics that facility residents may have. This may cause specialized facilities, such as South Davis Community Hospital (SDCH), to appear that care and services are worse than other facilities because SDCH's patient population is different than most typical nursing homes.

The SDCH campus is home to a variety of adult and pediatric individuals who have complex medical needs. Compared to other skilled nursing facilities (nursing homes), SDCH serves more patients with conditions that require advanced care, such as those who are paralyzed, ventilator dependent or require advanced wound care, and SDCH is the largest provider of skilled pediatric services outside of the acute care setting. Despite following best practices, these patients may be prone to complications, such as incontinence of the bowel or bladder, changes in weight or depression. Additionally, SDCH routinely receives requests to admit residents with preexisting conditions, such as the presence of a wound. SDCH is required to report that they are providing care for these conditions, even if the condition did not originate in the facility.

South Davis Community Hospital has a rich history of providing a variety of services to individuals living along the Wasatch Front and Intermountain West. Since opening its doors to the community in 1977 as a skilled nursing center, SDCH has expanded its services to include home health and hospice, assisted living, orthopedic rehabilitation, long-term acute care, dementia services, and pediatric care. The South Davis Community Hospital campus is involved in ongoing quality improvement projects and is looking forward to improving their Five Star Quality Rating in identified areas. To learn more about the various healthcare services that SDCH offers, we invite you to come in for a tour, contact Administration or Nursing Management or visit www.sdch.com.