

Kootenai Medical Center in Top 100 for its value to area communities

For the fourth year running, Kootenai Medical Center has been named a Top 100 Hospital in a 2009 survey rating 2,643 U.S. hospitals on quality of care and value to their communities.

The annual Community Value Index evaluates hospitals in four key areas: financial viability and capital reinvestment, cost structures, patient charge structures and quality of performance.

“This survey recognizes that these practices not only help us remain financially healthy; they are the reason we can continue to serve our community with excellent health care,” said Joe Morris, CEO of Kootenai Health. “At Kootenai, we have always been committed to maintaining a low cost structure and reinvesting in our services and facilities.

“As good as our processes are, we are always looking for ways to improve. Right now, we are working with a consulting division from VHA, a national health care association. Our goal is to reduce our operational costs by somewhere between \$3 million to \$5 million. No matter what form health care reform takes, managing costs better is something we will always be striving to improve,” Morris said.

Top 100 rankings appear in the recently released 2009 *State of the Hospital Industry* report compiled by Cleverley and Associates, an Ohio-based financial consulting firm specializing in the health-care industry.

In the study, Kootenai was also designated as a Five Star hospital for the sixth year in a row. Five Star facilities must earn scores that place them in the top 20 percent of their respective peer groups. Kootenai’s peers include 396 large, non-teaching hospitals across the country.

Kootenai is the sole hospital in Idaho to earn Top 100 status.