

Livingston HealthCare garners national award

By Enterprise Staff

Livingston HealthCare has been recognized as a top critical access hospital.

The health care facility was ranked among the nation's top 100 critical access hospitals by iVantage Health Analytics, a health care consulting business and software vendor.

LHC was one of seven of Mon-

tana's 48 critical access hospitals to receive the award.

The award recognizes the top 100 out of 1,300 critical access hospitals, or CAHs, in the United States, using 62 different performance criteria, including quality, outcomes, patient satisfaction, affordability, population risk and efficiency, according to an LHC news release.

A critical access hospital is an official designation most often

sought by rural hospitals, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services website. To receive certification, a CAH must have no more than 25 beds; offer 24/7 emergency care; be located in a rural area at least a 35-mile drive away from another hospital or CAH — with some exceptions; and maintain an average hospital stay of no more than 96 hours for "acute inpatient care."

CAH certification allows hospitals to receive cost-based reimbursement from Medicare rather than standard fixed rates, according to the website, which helps the financial performance of small hospitals.

"We are proud of the efforts that our physicians and staff have contributed to our hospital achieving this designation," Bren Lowe, LHC's CEO, said in the release. "This is our second award in 2015 for our

outstanding efforts as a healthcare organization. We have a great team at LHC and our commitment to quality care is evident with this designation."

LHC was also recently named a HEALTHSTRONG Top Hospital, a recognition given to only 572 out of 4,334 measured hospitals in the nation.

More information may be found online at www.iVantageHealth.com.