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## News Release

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### **Community Hospital Achieves National Accreditation from the Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program**

Mesa County, CO - Community Hospital has achieved the high honor of being identified as a ‘Bariatric Center of Excellence’. The surgical weight loss program at Community Hospital meets all criteria for this designation according to national quality standards established to deliver safe, high quality bariatric patient care.

Andrew Morse, DO, Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Director at Community Hospital, today announced its bariatric surgical center has been accredited as a Bariatric Center of Excellence under the Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program (MBSAQIP®), a joint program of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS). This prestigious designation encompasses both adults as well as adolescents.

Community Hospital is the only hospital on the Western Slope and one of only five hospitals in the state to hold the adolescent accreditation designation. Patients seeking surgical treatment for severe obesity and its related conditions have a high-quality choice for receiving treatment at a nationally accredited program that meets the highest standards for patient safety and quality of care.

The MBSAQIP Standards, outlined in the *Resources for Optimal Care of the Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Patient 2014* ensure that bariatric surgical patients receive a multidisciplinary program, not just a surgical procedure, which improves patient outcomes and long-term success. The accredited center offers preoperative and postoperative care designed specifically for their severely obese patients.

“As the oldest bariatric surgery program on the Western Slope, we are excited to be recognized for our strengths,” said Andrew Morse, DO. “Since 2009, we have been able to help hundreds of patients live happier and healthier lives,” added Dr. Morse.

“Dr. Morse and the surgical weight loss staff have worked tirelessly to earn this designation. We are extremely proud of the entire team,” stated Chris Thomas, President and CEO at Community Hospital.

To earn the MBSAQIP designation, Community Hospital met essential criteria for staffing, training and facility infrastructure and protocols for care, ensuring its ability to support patients with severe obesity. The center also participates in a national data registry that yields semiannual reports on the quality of its processes and outcomes, identifying opportunities for continuous quality improvement.

In the United States, around 15.5 million people suffer from severe obesity, according to the National Institutes of Health, and the numbers continue to increase. Obesity increases the risks of morbidity and mortality because of the diseases and conditions that are commonly associated with it, such as type II diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular disease, among other health risks.

For more information about Community Hospital’s surgical weight loss program, please call 970-242-9123 or visit [YourCommunityHospital.com](http://YourCommunityHospital.com).

Great People.  
Great Care.  
Great Choice!