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News Release

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Community Hospital Now a Level III Trauma Center

A Level III Trauma Center exemplifies the ability to provide prompt assessment, resuscitation, and intensive care, including surgery and stabilization of injured patients.

Mesa County, CO - Community Hospital was recently designated as a Level III Trauma Center by the Trauma Division of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). Increasing from a Level IV Trauma Center to a Level III Trauma Center will allow Community Hospital to treat patients with a higher acuity level and receive ambulance transports from Level IV Trauma Centers throughout the region.

Trauma Center Verification is an evaluation process done by the American College of Surgeons (ACS) to evaluate and improve trauma care. The ACS verifies the presence of resources listed in Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient. These include commitment, readiness, resources, policies, patient care, and performance improvement.

There are five trauma levels, Level I being the highest (research hospital) and Level V being the lowest, providing initial evaluation, stabilization and diagnostic capabilities and preparing patients for transfer to higher levels of care.

“We are extremely proud of our emergency department and trauma staff and everyone who worked so hard to make this happen,” stated Donald Nicolay, MD, Chief Medical Officer for Community Hospital. “The journey we have taken over the past several years to obtain a higher trauma level demonstrates our commitment to excellence and the team philosophy of Community Hospital,” added Dr. Nicolay.

“Becoming a Level III Trauma Center continues our mission to grow and expand the clinical capabilities of Community Hospital and increase the health care options for the entire Grand Valley,” said Chris Thomas, President and CEO for Community Hospital.

Elements of Level III Trauma Centers Include:

- 24-hour immediate coverage by emergency medicine physicians and the prompt availability of general surgeons and anesthesiologists
- Incorporates a comprehensive quality assessment program
- Has developed transfer agreements for patients requiring more comprehensive care at a Level I or Level II Trauma Center
- Provides back-up care for rural and community hospitals
- Offers continued education of the nursing and allied health personnel or the trauma team
- Involved with prevention efforts and must have an active outreach program for its referring communities

For more information on the services provided by Community Hospital, please call 970-242-0920 or visit www.YourCommunityHospital.com.

“We would like to recognize and extend a very heartfelt thank you to Jadie Andrus, Trauma Program Manager; Dr. Morse, Trauma Medical Director; the entire Trauma Committee, and all departments involved in the education and preparation that has led our organization to providing a higher level of care.” ~ Chris Thomas, President and CEO

Great People.
Great Care.
Great Choice!