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## News Release

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### **Community Hospital Earns Level III Trauma Designation**

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 has earned a Level III Trauma Center designation by the Trauma Division of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). In June of 2018, CDPHE conducted a trauma review to ensure complete compliance of the higher trauma level designation. Finding no deficiencies, CDPHE granted Community Hospital the state trauma designation of Level III. Community Hospital was granted a provisional Level III Trauma Center designation in April 2017. Trauma level status for hospitals is valid for three years. The current designation for Community Hospital is valid until 2021.

Increasing to a Level III Trauma Center allows 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.

“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 Grand Valley and throughout the region,” 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](http://www.YourCommunityHospital.com).

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