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## News Release

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### Community Hospital Teams up with University of Utah to Implement Process Improvement Systems

Mesa County, CO — Community Hospital has teamed up with University of Utah Health Care to research and track ways in which they can improve health care through a program called Value University, or ValueU. The free online learning platform and associated national training pilot, made possible with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is designed to equip physicians and other professionals on the front lines of health care with processes for improving the value of care that their patients receive.

Health care is changing rapidly, and today's patients are demanding better value, defined as better quality care and service for lower costs. It is the job of health care professionals to address the difficult dilemmas that stand in the way of value. That's why leaders of Community Hospital are facing this issue head on using the ValueU framework. Kristin Gundt, Chief Nursing Officer and Debbie Riggle, Vice President of Operations served as team leads, guiding nursing, general surgery, and Community Hospital's quality team through standardization processes.

The pilot, "Becoming a Value Driven Organization," engaged 10 teams from different health care organizations (including five regional and five national) to learn and share ways to create high-value health care using University of Utah processes. The training consisted of short case studies that followed the true stories of four physicians leading the value revolution at the University of Utah, which has decreased its costs by 0.5 percent annually in recent years while remaining ranked among the top 10 academic medical centers in quality and safety by the University HealthSystem Consortium. In addition to the case studies, a process tool enables health care professionals to put their plans into action and measure their results.

"Classically, health care providers are not trained in any of the competencies around what improving value actually is and means," said Robert Pendleton, M.D., Chief Medical Quality Officer at University of Utah Health Care. "We're sharing what we've learned about what centering health care around patients truly means in an efficient package that people can access at their convenience."

"For me, it is the shared learning that makes this so exciting," said Riggle. "No one hospital has all the answers, but we're gaining insights from different places to make things better."

To learn more about ValueU, visit <http://healthsciences.utah.edu/value-university/>.

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