

2005:

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HealthGrades' 2005 Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence™

HealthGrades is a nationally recognized healthcare quality rating company. As such, Benefis is rated among the top 5 percent of hospitals in the nation and was recognized as one of the top 229 hospitals out of nearly 5,000 hospitals nationally!

The HealthGrades quality rating analysis showed Benefis performing exceptionally well in a number of individual clinical areas, in addition to its overall ranking, including but not limited to:

- Five-star rating for overall Orthopedic Services (total knee replacement, total hip replacement, and partial hip replacement).
- Five-star rating for Treatment of Stroke.
- Five-star rating for overall Pulmonary Services (treatment of aspiration pneumonia, treatment of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and treatment of community-acquired pneumonia).
- Five-star rating for Bowel Obstruction.
- Five-star rating for Treatment of Sepsis.

Solucient's 100 Top Hospitals: Performance Improvement Leaders Award 2004 (April 2005)

Benefis Healthcare was recently named one of the nation's top 100 performance improvement leader hospitals by Solucient, a leading provider of strategic business and clinical information for the healthcare industry, and is only one of two hospitals in Montana to have received this award, as well as one of only 100 nationally (out of nearly 5,000).

Benefis Healthcare and its senior management team were recognized for developing consistent and effective organization-wide performance improvement across critical measures at a faster rate than other U.S. hospitals. These measures include quality of care, operational efficiency, financial performance and growth.

5-Star CVI Rating in Cleverley & Associates' *State of the Hospital Industry – 2004 Edition*

(May 2005)

Benefis Healthcare was recently published in Cleverley & Associates' *State of the Hospital Industry – 2004 Edition* as having made the Community Value Index 5-Star listing. The Community Value Index (CVI) was created to provide a unique measure of the value that a hospital provides to its community. This proprietary index is composed of eight measures that assess a hospital's performance in three areas:

1. Financial performance and plan reinvestment
2. Hospital cost structure
3. Hospital charge structure

Fundamentally, the CVI suggests that a hospital provides value to the community when it is financially viable, is appropriately reinvesting back into the facility, maintains a low cost structure, and has reasonable charges. Benefis has done just that.

Department of Health and Human Services Medal of Honor Award for Organ Donation (May 2005)

Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt recognized Benefis HealthCare for its commitment to saving lives through organ donation. The hospital was awarded the *HHS Medal of Honor* for its organ donation efforts. Due to the hard work of all staff, Benefis HealthCare achieved a donation rate of greater than 75 percent and is among the nation's top organ donor hospitals that have received this honor.

Mountain-Pacific Quality Health Foundation's 2005 Quality Achievement Award (September 2005)

Benefis Healthcare was awarded the *Quality Achievement Award* for its outstanding efforts in demonstrating quality patient care. It is the highest award offered by the Mountain-Pacific Quality Health Foundation. The hospital quality awards were created to recognize the quality of each hospital's medical care in a variety of areas such as heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia and prevention of surgical infections.

2006:

HealthGrades' 2006 Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence™ (January 2006)

HealthGrades is a nationally recognized healthcare quality rating company. As such, Benefis is rated among the top 5 percent of hospitals in the nation and was recognized as one of the top 229 hospitals out of nearly 5,000 hospitals nationally!

The HealthGrades quality rating analysis showed Benefis performing exceptionally well in a number of individual clinical areas, in addition to its overall ranking, including but not limited to:

- Five Star Rated in Joint Replacement Surgery, Spinal Surgery and Overall Orthopedic Services
- Five Star Rated in Stroke Care
- Five Star Rated and Ranked #1 in Montana for Overall Pulmonary Care
- Five Star Rated in Gastrointestinal Surgery and Ranked #1 in Montana for Gastrointestinal Medical Services

Benefis awarded Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) "5-Star" Employer Award for Service Members (February 2006)

The Montana Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Committee (ESGR), an agency of the Department of Defense, announced Benefis Healthcare as a "5-Star" Employer for its support of Guard and Reserve members of Montana. Benefis is the first in Great Falls, and the second in Montana, to receive this award. The award is provided those American Employers who promote ongoing demonstrated support for voluntary military service.

Sletten Cancer Institute Receives Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Grant

(March 2006)

Benefis Healthcare's Sletten Cancer Institute (SCI) and its affiliate, Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) at the University of Utah, were chosen to receive one of six Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) grants to help reduce cancer in its rural Native American populations. Specifically, the \$3.9 million grant will help increase the rates of screenings for colon, cervical, breast and prostate cancer among Medicare eligible Native Americans in rural Montana and Utah.

This project will help minority Medicare beneficiaries “navigate” the health care system in a more timely and informative manner. The services provided under this project will help participants overcome barriers to three components of cancer care – screening, diagnosis and treatment. For Montana, SCI also will provide services to help participants schedule timely appointments for cancer screening and, if needed, follow-up diagnostic testing.

From the total CMS grant, Sletten Cancer Institute at Benefis Healthcare will receive \$1.5 million over a four-year period or an average of \$375,000 per year.

MONARC Earns Gold Seal of Approval for Health Care Quality by the Joint Commission

(March 2006)

MONARC at Benefis Healthcare earned the *Gold Seal of Approval* for healthcare quality. The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) awarded MONARC’s Disease-Specific Care Certification for its Total Joint program. The certification is effective for two years and is indicative of the program’s compliance with consensus-based national standards; effective use of established clinical practice guidelines to manage and optimize care; and performance measurement and improvement activities.

Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations

- Disease specific certifications for:
 - Joint Replacement (March, 2006)

Solucient’s 100 Top Hospitals: Performance Improvement Leaders Award 2005 (May 2006)

For the second year in a row, Benefis Healthcare was recognized as among the **top 2% of hospitals nationally** for performance improvement by Solucient, the leading source of healthcare information products. This recognition was publicized in the May 1, 2006 issue of *Modern Healthcare* magazine.

Benefis Healthcare and its management team were recognized for being one of a hundred hospitals making the greatest progress in improving hospital-wide performance over five years (2000-2004). These organizations have set national benchmarks for consistent improvement in clinical outcomes, safety, hospital efficiency, financial stability and growth.

Benefis Stroke Center Earns Gold Seal of Approval for Health Care Quality by the Joint Commission (July 2006)

Benefis was awarded the Disease-Specific Certification for the Benefis Stroke Center’s effective use of established clinical practice guidelines to manage and optimize care, performance measurement and improvement activities.

Recognition as #1 Large Hospital in Montana to Support Newborn Screening for Deafness (July 2006)

The Department of Public Health and Human Services recognized Benefis for helping lead the effort in Montana for the universal screening of newborns for deafness. Benefis has made newborn screening and reporting a standard practice.

HealthGrades’ Specialty Excellence Award For Orthopedic Care (August 2006)

Recognizes Benefis as being among the top 10 percent in the country for Orthopedic Care.

Mountain-Pacific Quality Health Foundation’s 2006 Quality Achievement Award (September 2006)

Benefis Healthcare was awarded the *Quality Achievement Award* for its outstanding efforts in demonstrating quality patient care. It is the highest award offered by the Mountain-Pacific Quality Health Foundation. The hospital quality awards were created to recognize the quality of each hospital's medical care in a variety of areas such as heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia and prevention of surgical infections.

Cleverley & Associates Community Value Index 5 Star Award For 2006

- Recognized for 2nd year in a row.

HealthGrades Specialty Excellence Award™ recipient for orthopedic care, joint replacement and stroke care (October 2006)

Benefis Healthcare has been ranked number one in Montana for pulmonary and medical gastrointestinal services, according to a comprehensive study released by HealthGrades, the nation's leading healthcare ratings company. The hospital also ranked among the top five percent in the country for overall orthopedic services and top 10 percent in the nation for joint replacement surgery and treatment of stroke. The study names Benefis Healthcare as a Specialty Excellence Award™ recipient for orthopedic care, joint replacement and stroke care.

2007:

HealthGrades' 2006 Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence™ (January 2007)

HealthGrades is a nationally recognized healthcare quality rating company. As such, Benefis is rated among the top 5 percent of hospitals in the nation and was recognized as one of the top 229 hospitals out of nearly 5,000 hospitals nationally – for the third year in a row!

The HealthGrades quality rating analysis showed Benefis performing exceptionally well in a number of individual clinical areas, in addition to its overall ranking, including but not limited to the following five-star ratings:

- Total knee replacement surgery
- Total hip replacement surgery
- Hip fracture repair surgery
- Partial hip replacement surgery
- Treatment of stroke
- Treatment of bowel obstruction
- Treatment of sepsis
- Treatment of respiratory failure
- Treatment of community-acquired pneumonia