



# Department of Public Health and Human Services

Office of Inspector General ♦ 2401 Colonial Drive 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor ♦ Helena, MT 59620 ♦ fax: 444-1742

Greg Gianforte, Governor

Adam Meier, Director

Dear Prospective Critical Access Hospital Provider:

Thank you for your interest in Critical Access Hospitals in Montana. This letter is intended to guide you through the licensing process. Critical Access Hospitals are not required to be reviewed by the Health Planning Program, and therefore do not need a Certificate of Need (CON). However, the use of hospital beds in excess of 5 patients or residents needing only skilled nursing care, intermediate nursing care, or intermediate DD care or the provision by a hospital of services for long-term care (swing beds) is reviewable by CON.

The following items must be submitted to the Licensure Bureau in order to license your facility:

- ❑ A floor plan of the facility documenting the size of all rooms and spaces utilized by the residents. This may be hand drawn as long as dimensions are included. If the bedroom has any built-in obstructions, such as a closet or bookcase, measurements are made from the front surface, not from the back. Door-swing areas are not included in the available square footage of the room. Additional requirements in relation to the physical property are found at ARM 37.106.302 of the Minimum Standards for All Healthcare Facilities. Please review the rules carefully and determine that your facility meets the conditions set forth in that rule.
- ❑ Local Building Code approval. If your facility is new construction, please submit the Certificate of Occupancy, issued by the local or State building code authority.
- ❑ A completed License Application and fee. The License Application may be found at <https://dphhs.mt.gov/qad/Licensure/HealthCareFacilityLicensure/LBFacilityApplications/CriticalAccessHospitals>
- ❑ Policies and Procedures, for review and approval. These must be submitted at least forty-five (45) days prior to the expected facility opening date. The rules describing the regulatory requirements for critical access hospitals can be found at the web address above.
- ❑ Report of facility fire inspection. Please refer to the State Fire Marshall's website at <https://dojmt.gov/enforcement/investigations-bureau/fire-prevention/>, and contact the Fire Marshal for your area to determine who will conduct your fire inspection.

Upon submission and approval of all the aforementioned information and documentation and the final approval from the Bureau construction consultant, the Licensure Bureau will issue a six (6) month provisional license. A facility may not accept patients/residents until it is licensed. A health care facility surveyor from the Licensure or Certification Bureau will conduct an on-site survey of the facility within the provisional license period to assess compliance with critical access hospital regulations. This visit is also an opportunity for the facility to obtain any clarification on those regulations.

Critical Access Hospitals are licensed and certified. The information included in this letter is for the licensing of Critical Access Hospitals only. To obtain information on what is required for certification of the facility, you will need to contact the Certification Bureau at 406-444-2099 or by e-mail at [MTSSAD@mt.gov](mailto:MTSSAD@mt.gov).

If you have further questions, or have questions during the licensure process, you may contact the Licensure Bureau at 406-444-2676.

Sincerely,

Carter Anderson,  
Inspector General, Montana DPHHS