



NORTHERN IDAHO ADVANCED CARE HOSPITAL

100th patient arrives at NIACH less than a year after opening

POST FALLS, Idaho - Northern Idaho Advanced Care Hospital (NIACH) admitted its 100th patient this week, marking an important milestone for the new long term acute care hospital.

Less than one year ago, the hospital's administrative team was moving into the new hospital, hiring staff and working toward acceptance of its first patient in February. Now, the hospital is hitting the century mark for admission of medically complex patients from throughout the Northwest.

"This is a significant step for us and the medical community," said Rick Richards, CEO. "It shows how vital this care is to the health care continuum in the Northwest."

In October, NIACH became nationally recognized as an accredited long-term acute care hospital by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. In addition, the hospital achieved its Medicare certification in the same month.

Federal health officials analyzed the hospital's ability to care for medically complex patients for extended periods and certified the hospital as a long-term acute care hospital once the study was complete. The recent accreditation followed an intense survey of the hospital's services and practices. The accreditation means NIACH has met or exceeded the national standards for health care quality and safety.

Just a few weeks later, hospital staff began wrapping up the last of the agreements with the Medicaid programs in the region including Montana, Idaho and Washington and many of the regional and national commercial payors as well.

"All of these accomplishments could not have been achieved without the support of our regional hospitals," Richards added. "Hospitals throughout the Inland Northwest have offered nothing but their full support in our efforts to care for medically complex patients needing long-term acute care."

Unlike nursing homes and skilled nursing centers, Northern Idaho Advanced Care Hospital takes seriously ill patients from the acute hospital setting with the goal of stabilizing the patient and, through advanced medical care and rehabilitation, moves them toward independence or the next appropriate level of care. The intense level of services offered at Northern Idaho Advanced Care Hospital is unlike any other in the region.

The Northern Idaho Advanced Care Hospital is part of a network of rehabilitation and long-term acute care hospitals throughout the western states operated by Ernest Health, Inc.

Learn more by going to www.niach.ernesthealth.com.