

# 2005 Winner of the *Carter L. Marshall Rural Hospital Quality Award*

## **Northern Cochise Community Hospital**



**The *Carter L. Marshall Rural Hospital Quality Award* is given by Health Services Advisory Group (Medicare's Quality Improvement Organization for the state of Arizona) to rural hospitals that provide the highest quality of care to patients with pneumonia.**

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Northern Cochise Community Hospital (NCCH) is a full-service health care facility located in Willcox, Arizona, at Exit 340 on Interstate 10. NCCH offers a 24-hour-a-day emergency department, a physical therapy department, a respiratory department, a radiology department (x-ray, mammography, sonography, MRI, and CT), and a full-service laboratory. Life Net is based on the hospital campus and provides emergency medical transportation by helicopter.

NCCH was organized in 1968 as a not-for-profit corporation to serve the rural community, providing basic medical and emergency services. The Northern Cochise Nursing Home was added in 1972 with 24 beds and is a model long-term care facility.

The governing board consists of five elected community members of the Northern Cochise Hospital District, who also serve as the Corporate Board of Directors; the Medical Chief of Staff also serves on the Corporate Board. NCCH was designated as a Critical Access Hospital on February 1, 2002.

Specialty clinics host physicians from neighboring communities to serve local patients. Examples are allergy, cardiology, dermatology, ear-nose-throat, gastroenterology, gynecology, orthopedic, podiatry, pulmonology, and urology—plus prenatal care.

NCCH opened the Sulphur Springs Medical Center in 1995 with two physicians and moved into a new building in 2002 with three physicians and a certified physician's assistant; the facility currently has three physicians, a certified physician's assistant, and a certified nurse practitioner. NCCH assumed the Sunsites Medical Clinic in 1998 and moved into a new space in 2002; it serves patients in the Pearce/Sunsites area with a part-time physician, a certified physician's assistant, and a certified family nurse practitioner. Both clinics were designated Rural Health Clinics in 2004.