

FACT SHEET SOLE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

A hospital is classified as a sole community hospital (SCH) if it is located 35 miles from other like hospitals or it is located in a rural area between 25 and 35 miles from other like hospitals and meets one of the following conditions:

- ✚ No more than 25 percent of residents who become hospital inpatients or no more than 25 percent of the Medicare beneficiaries who become hospital inpatients in the hospital's service area are admitted to other like hospitals located within a 35-mile radius of the hospital or, if larger, within its service area;
- ✚ Has fewer than 50 beds and would admit at least 75 percent of the inpatients from its service area except that some patients seek specialized care unavailable at the hospital; or
- ✚ Other like hospitals are inaccessible for at least 30 days in each of two out of three years because of local topography or prolonged severe weather conditions;
- ✚ Located between 15 and 35 miles from other like hospitals but because of local topography or prolonged severe weather conditions, the other like hospitals are inaccessible for at least 30 days in each of two out of three years; or
- ✚ Effective October 1, 1990, because of distance, posted speed limits, and predictable weather conditions, the travel time between the hospital and the nearest hospital is at least 45 minutes.

Helpful Rural Health Resources

Administration on Aging

<http://www.aoa.gov>

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

<http://www.ahrq.gov>

Health Resources and Services Administration

<http://www.hrsa.gov>

Indian Health Service

<http://www.ihs.gov>

National Association of Community Health Centers

<http://www.nachc.org>

National Association of Rural Health Clinics

<http://www.narhc.org>

National Rural Health Association

<http://www.nrharural.org/>

United States Department of Agriculture

<http://www.usda.gov>

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