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**September 18, 2018****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Montana Hospitals Receive Health Care Quality Awards**

Billings, Mont., (Sept. 18, 2018) — Mountain-Pacific Quality Health is pleased to announce the winners of the *2018 Montana Health Care Quality Awards*. The awards were presented to eight Montana hospitals during the Montana Hospital Association Fall Convention and Trade Show on September 20th in Billings.

Quality awards are given out annually to recognize Montana hospitals for their commitment to improving patient care. All recipients were required to meet certain criteria outlined by Mountain-Pacific, including working on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Core Elements of outpatient antibiotic stewardship and taking steps to improve care transitions, medication safety, adult immunization rates and patient and family engagement and satisfaction. Mountain-Pacific celebrates these hospitals and looks forward to another year of excellence in Montana health care.

“Every one of these hospitals demonstrated a true commitment in providing high quality, excellent care to their patients,” said Christy Fuller, Mountain-Pacific’s Montana director. “We are honored to give the 2018 Quality Awards to each of these hospitals. The staff and leadership at all of these hospitals has shown their continual commitment to improve health care in our state. We truly appreciate their dedication and hard work.”

Eight hospitals received the 2018 Health Care Quality Awards

- Barrett Hospital & Healthcare, Dillon – Ken Westman, CEO
- Benefis Health System, Great Falls – John Goodnow, CEO
- Bozeman Health – John Hill, CEO
- Cabinet Peaks Medical Center, Libby – Bruce Whitfield, CEO
- Community Hospital of Anaconda – JoEllen Villa, CEO
- Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital, Hamilton – John Bishop, CEO
- St. Luke Community Healthcare, Ronan – Steve Todd, CEO
- Sidney Health Center – Jennifer Doty, CEO

All Montana hospitals are eligible for Hospital Quality Awards. Award-winning hospitals range from small, rural hospitals to large, urban hospitals. Mountain-Pacific will continue to partner with Montana hospitals to help ensure that every patient receives the safest, highest quality of care possible.

About Mountain-Pacific—Mountain-Pacific is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation and holds federal and state contracts that allow them to oversee the quality of care for Medicare and Medicaid members.

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Mountain-Pacific works within its four-state region (Montana, Wyoming, Alaska and Hawaii, which includes the U.S. Pacific Territories of Guam and American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) to help improve the delivery of health care and the systems that provide it. Mountain-Pacific's goal is to increase access to high-quality health care that is affordable, safe and of value to the patients they serve. www.mpqhf.org

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