



North Basin Medical Clinics “Best of the Best”

(April 2003) It's official. North Basin Medical Clinics is among the very best in Washington State as determined by the State itself.

Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard to prepare for the recent Rural Health Clinic Surveys at all three clinics. Not only were our three clinics found to be deficiency free, but one of the surveyors who has been in the business for 20 years told us that out of all the places she'd surveyed, we were outstanding — “the Best of the Best.”

The survey was conducted by the State Department of Health on behalf of the federal government to determine whether North Basin Medical Clinics qualifies for federal Rural Health Clinic Designation. Because we earned that designation, our medical clinics will now receive cost-based reimbursement for Medicaid and Medicare patients. This is similar to the Critical Access Designation earned by Lincoln Hospital two years ago and will help our financial foundation to remain strong.

This survey was no small thing. Every aspect of our medical program was under scrutiny including patient care, policies and procedures, safety, environmental services, records, storage of medicines and quality of care. It's good to know we're at the front of the pack and our staff is wholly responsible for our success. The Board of Directors thanks all our employees!

Now, we can set our sights on establishing cost based reimbursement for Long Term Care, which will be the last piece in our foundation. We're working hard with the state legislature to fully fund Proshare payments over the next two years and we're hopeful we'll receive that funding. Don't forget to let your legislator know how important rural healthcare is to our district. Thank you again to our top notch crew! You are our success.

Sincerely,

Tom Martin, Lincoln Hospital Administrator