

Central-line Infections

At Boulder Community Hospital, our #1 priority is delivering high-quality patient care in a safe environment. Our physicians and nurses are working diligently on a wide range of safety-related initiatives.

We recognize that local citizens were understandably concerned by an article in the March issue of *Consumer Reports* magazine that provided an analysis of central-line infection rates in hospital Intensive Care Units. That analysis, based on a 2008 study by the Leapfrog Group, stated that BCH had the highest central-line infection rate in Colorado. After seeing the report, we carefully reviewed our records and determined that we had overstated the number of central line infections in 2008. We have sent corrected information to the Leapfrog Group. We apologize for the error.

Other publicly available data confirms that BCH does not have an excessive central-line infection rate. The *latest* publicly available data—a January 2010 report from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment—shows that our rate was on a par with other Colorado hospitals and national statistics. We had only three central-line infections while our ICU patients collectively utilized central lines for 1,891 days.

We encourage you to review the state report. To see it, go to the Colorado Department of Public Health website: www.cdphe.state.co.us. Click on Health Data. Then click on Health Facility Acquired Infections. That will take you to a page with a link to the 2010 annual report. The information on central-line infection rates is on pages 38 and 39 of the report.

We are committed to providing Boulder County residents with the high quality of medical care that you deserve and should expect. We have an Infection Prevention Department focused on providing our physicians and nurses with the information and resources they need to minimize hospital-acquired infections of all types. We actively participate in voluntary improvement programs, such as the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's 5 Million Lives Campaign.

If you would like to know more about the steps BCH is taking to make your community hospital as safe as possible, please visit the hospital website at www.bch.org/safety.