

2026 Critical Access Hospital National Performance Goals (NPGs)

- Goal 1 The critical access hospital ensures that the correct patient receives the correct care at the correct time.
- Goal 2 The governing body and leadership team foster a culture of safety.
- Goal 3 The critical access hospital has an emergency management program.
- Goal 4 The critical access hospital prioritizes excellent health outcomes for all.
- Goal 5 The critical access hospital prioritizes infection prevention and control.
- Goal 6 The critical access hospital prioritizes pain management and safe prescribing practices.
- Goal 7 The critical access hospital respects the patient's right to safe, informed care.
- Goal 8 The critical access hospital reduces the risk for suicide.
- Goal 9 The critical access hospital develops and implements safe transplant practices.
- Goal 10 The critical access hospital performs waived testing in a safe and consistent manner.
Note: Waived tests are categorized by CLIA as "simple laboratory examinations and procedures that have an insignificant risk of an erroneous result." The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) determines which tests meet these criteria when it reviews a manufacturer's application for test system waiver. The list of FDA-approved waived tests can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfClia/analyteswaived.cfm>.
- Goal 11 The critical access hospital maintains workplace and patient safety.
- Goal 12 The critical access hospital is staffed to meet the needs of the patients it serves, and staff are competent to provide safe, quality care.
- Goal 13 The critical access hospital safely performs imaging services.
- Goal 14 The critical access hospital has a medication management program that focuses on safety.