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NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Dear Colleague,

You have been asked by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), which is a part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to provide information for the National Hospital Care Survey (NHCS). As the Chief Executive Officer of the National Rural Health Association (NRHA), I am writing to urge you to participate.

The NHCS will provide nationally representative data on utilization of hospital care and healthcare statistics on inpatient, emergency, and outpatient care. This will be a valuable resource for monitoring healthcare delivered in the United States, especially to rural and underserved areas of the country. This new data collection will address healthcare policies related to the cost of care, inpatient quality and safety, disparities, and access. Your participation in this survey, although voluntary, will ensure the successful launch of a new, more comprehensive tool for monitoring the future of healthcare.

NCHS has a long history of protecting the confidentiality of patient records and the facilities that participate in its surveys. All information collected will be the property of the NCHS and kept strictly confidential. Results from the national survey will be published only in an aggregated manner that will not allow identification of any individual hospital or patient.

The National Rural Health Association (NRHA) is a national nonprofit membership organization with more than 21,000 members. The association's mission is to provide leadership on rural health issues. NRHA membership consists of a diverse collection of individuals and organizations, all of whom share the common interest in rural health. Through this survey, the information obtained through this process will be of great value to those who choose to call rural America home.

The NRHA supports this survey and encourages all those facilities selected to take part in this important public health study. Your full participation is needed to ensure that future National Hospital Care Survey data will be useful to hospitals and to rural America in particular. Thank you for taking part in this important survey.

Sincerely,

Alan Morgan, MPA
NRHA CEO