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Ruby Valley Hospital Contributes to National Efforts for Safer Care

A new report from the Department of Health and Human Services shows that hospital stays are safer now than they were four years ago. Since 2010, 50,000 hospital deaths have been prevented nationwide, a savings of \$12 billion in health care costs. Patients are now at a lower risk for getting infections, being administered a drug incorrectly or being harmed during their hospital stay. The report also showed that hospital-acquired conditions were reduced by 1.3 million between 2010 and 2013.

Hospitals are finding innovative solutions to protect patients and their families. Ruby Valley Hospital strives to provide the highest quality care to every patient in the Ruby Valley area. Partnering with Mountain-Pacific Quality Health, Montana's Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization, Ruby Valley Hospital actively participates in local and national health care quality initiatives. These initiatives include reducing hospital readmission rates, reducing adverse drug events and preventing healthcare-associated infections.

"Delivery of safe patient care is always our #1 priority at Ruby Valley Hospital. Currently we have implemented a new Fall Prevention Program and have been very successful in reducing patient falls within the hospital." said Ted Woirhaye, RN, Director of Nursing.

Though patient care is improving, there is still work to be done. Ruby Valley Hospital is dedicated to continuing this trend of safer patient care. "Areas we are currently in the process of improving are safer medication administration systems and decreasing hospital acquired infections," commented Woirhaye.

Critical medication administrations are double checked for accuracy to assure patient safety. Ruby Valley Hospital is only using invasive procedures when necessary to reduce the possibility of developing a hospital acquired infection.

For more information regarding what Ruby Valley Hospital is doing to improve patient care, please contact Ted Woirhaye, RN., Director of Nursing Services at 406-842-5453.