

CAH Eligibility Criteria

- Eligibility for rural non-profit hospitals to convert to CAH status prior to January 1, 2006 was met in two ways:
 - Had to be located more than 35-miles from another hospital or 15 miles in mountainous terrain or in areas with only secondary roads available.
 - A rural hospital that did not otherwise meet the Federal mileage requirements to be certified as a CAH and was otherwise eligible to become a CAH would be certified by the State as a “Necessary Provider of Health Services.”

Necessary Provider CAH Criteria

- Criteria for a “Necessary Provider” CAH included: The hospital is located in an area that is defined as “rural” by the Office of Rural Health; and
 - The hospital is located 15 or more highway miles from another acute inpatient care facility; and
 - The Office of Rural Health has determined that the facility is located in an “area of unmet health care need” through its authority granted by ORS 442.555(4); or
 - The hospital is located in an area that meets the criteria for designation as a Health Professions Shortage Area (HPSA) or Medically Underserved Area (MUA).
- In addition, any hospital determined to be a “necessary provider” must demonstrate that it is substantially at risk for imminent closure due to loss of physician staff or fiscal crisis.

Relocating a Necessary Provider CAH

- CAHs that have been granted Necessary Provider status and want to rebuild in a new location that does not meet the distance requirements of the 35-mile rule will be treated in the same manner as if they were building a replacement facility at the previous location.
- The new CAH facility will have to continue to meet the same criteria that led to its original state designation, serve at least 75% of the same service area, offer 75% of the same services, and utilize at least 75% of the same staff in its new location.