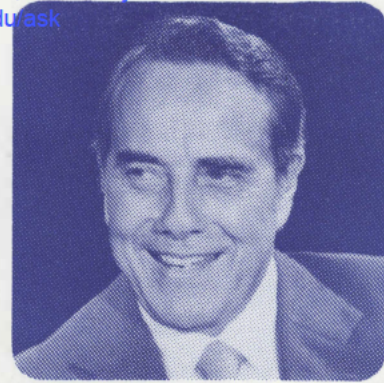


BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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HAYS MEDICAL CENTER GETS NEW "RURAL" DESIGNATION

Washington, DC -- Hadley Regional Medical Center in Hays has been designated a "rural referral center" by the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services (HHS), according to Senator Bob Dole (R-KS).

Sen. Dole said the new designation means the center will receive higher reimbursements for Medicare services worth an estimated \$400,000 annually.

"This new designation for the Hadley center is significant in providing quality health care to rural Kansans," said Sen. Dole. "The increased reimbursement for Medicare patients will mean Hadley can invest in new technology, equipment and services to improve medical care for the people of northwest Kansas."

Sen. Dole said that for a hospital to qualify as a rural referral center, at least 50-percent of its Medicare patients must be referred from other hospitals or from physicians not on its staff. Hadley Regional Medical Center serves nearly two dozen rural counties in northwest Kansas.

In addition, Sen. Dole said a minimum 60-percent of a hospital's Medicare patients must live more than 25 miles from the hospital and at least 60-percent of the hospital's services go to those beneficiaries.

The new designation was approved by the HHS department's Health Care Financing Administration with the backing of Sen. Dole.