

SCA Develops Idaho Quality Network to Improve Quality Care, Maintain Physician Independence



The Idaho Quality Network developed by SCA combines high quality with cost effective care and enables physicians to maintain independence.

#1 Ranked Hospital by Medicare Value-Based Purchasing Program (2012)

21% volume increase since starting IQN

In 2012 Medicare implemented the Value Based Purchasing Program for hospitals to provide financial incentives for providing quality patient care. Of the nearly 3,000 hospitals in the nationwide program, SCA's Treasure Valley Hospital in Boise, Idaho, was the number one ranked hospital.

SCA leveraged the outstanding quality provided by Treasure Valley Hospital to create the Idaho Quality (IQ) Network in 2014. The IQ Network enables physicians to receive higher professional fees from commercial health plans for meeting quality and efficiency metrics. This supports physician independence and ultimately results in improved options for patients and lower healthcare costs in Idaho.

"Blue Cross of Idaho and Surgical Care Affiliates are united in transforming the current delivery system to ensure that patients receive quality care, at the right time, in the most appropriate setting."

JEFF CROUCH, SR. VICE PRESIDENT OF PROVIDER SERVICES, BLUE CROSS OF IDAHO

Since developing the IQ Network, the volume at Treasure Valley Hospital has grown 21%. This current and future growth trajectory led to the expansion of the Boise facility, adding three new operating rooms and four new 23-hour stay rooms. Treasure Valley also has 10 inpatient rooms and is looking to expand further.

"On their own, no one physician could have achieved this type of arrangement with Blue Cross," says Treasure Valley surgeon Jeff Hessing, MD. "It took SCA to put together a group of physicians and negotiate a contract that enables physicians to remain independent and have a choice as to where to bring their cases."