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Two University of Kansas Health System Hospitals Rank in Top 10 Nationwide, Paola Hospital No. 1 for Quality of Care

PAOLA, Kan. - Paola Hospital has been recognized as the **No. 1 overall performer among 220 small community hospitals nationwide** in the 2026 Bernard A. Birnbaum, MD, Quality Leadership Ranking by Vizient®. The recognition places Paola Hospital at the top of its peer group for delivering high-quality care, based on the 2026 Vizient Quality and Accountability Study. The study evaluated performance from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Paola Hospital, which was recognized in the study under its former name, Miami County Medical Center, earned the **No. 1 ranking overall** among 220 hospitals in the Small Community Hospital Cohort.

Paola Hospital ranked:

- **No. 1 in mortality**
- **No. 1 in safety**
- **No. 1 in variation in care**
- **No. 5 in patient centeredness**

The recognition also highlights the performance of The University of Kansas Health System Great Bend Campus in **Great Bend, KS, which ranked No. 7 among 220 small community hospitals**. Great Bend demonstrated particularly strong performance in mortality, safety and variation in care.

The Vizient ranking recognizes hospitals that demonstrate excellence across multiple measures of quality and patient care.

“We are honored to be recognized as the No. 1 small community hospital in the nation, it is a true reflection of the commitment our team demonstrates every day. This achievement belongs to our physicians, advanced practice providers, nurses, clinical staff, support teams and leaders who work together to provide safe, compassionate, high-quality care for every patient who walks through our doors. We are proud to serve the local communities that place their trust in us, and this recognition reinforces our commitment to delivering exceptional care close to home,” said Aubree Slayman, Paola Hospital Site Administrator.

Together, the Vizient recognitions underscore the quality of care being delivered across the health system’s community hospitals.

The Bernard A. Birnbaum, MD, Quality Leadership Ranking is based on the Vizient Quality and Accountability Study, which evaluates participating hospitals across key measures of clinical quality, safety, patient experience and other aspects of care.

About The University of Kansas Health System

The University of Kansas Health System is a world-class academic medical center and destination for complex care, with locations throughout Kansas and the Kansas City region. As the region's leading academic health system, it combines clinical care, research and education to improve health and transform lives.

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