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Blue Cross of Idaho honors top performing hospitals

Four hospitals received 2008 Hospital Quality Awards from **Blue Cross of Idaho**, the insurance provider announced on April 27.

The awards recognize top performers in Blue Cross of Idaho's Hospital Quality Incentive Program, which was developed in collaboration between Blue Cross of Idaho, statewide hospitals and the Idaho Hospital Association to measure and reward patient safety and improved clinical outcomes.

Twenty-nine hospitals participated in the program and were judged based on a range of criteria, including how well they implemented measures known to improve health outcomes in treating a range of diseases. Winners were named in both rural and urban categories.

Rural honorees were **Oneida County Hospital** in Malad City, which received the Award of Achievement, and **Boundary Community Hospital** in Bonners Ferry, which received the Award of Merit.

Urban honorees were **St. Luke's Regional Medical Center**, with the Award of Achievement, and **Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center**, with the Award of Merit. Both St. Luke's and Saint Al's are in Boise.

Last year's winners were rural hospitals Steele Memorial Medical Center in Salmon and Shoshone Medical Center in Kellogg; and urban hospitals Kootenai Medical Center in Coeur d'Alene and Mercy Medical Center in Nampa.

Blue Cross of Idaho's incentive program was established in 2005 and to-date has awarded Idaho hospitals more than \$2.2 million for quality improvement and patient safety. This year's winners were honored at the Hospital Quality Conference in Boise on April 2.