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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Plumas District Hospital Recognized for Outstanding Obstetric Patient Care

QUINCY, CA, AUGUST 26, 2011 – Plumas District Hospital (PDH) received news this week that it has been recognized for outstanding obstetric (OB) patient care. It is one of only 14 hospitals in the state to be honored for meeting all elements of the annual OB Patient Safety Program – *Quest for Zero* sponsored by BETA Healthcare Group, the hospital's liability insurance carrier.

"The perinatal team here at PDH is very proud of this honor," said obstetric department manager Amy Titmus. "We are continuously striving to provide excellent quality care and assure the safety of our growing families," she continued. OB team training is ongoing and is already in progress for next year's OB patient safety program.

On September 7th, several representatives from PDH will receive the OB team's trophy at the annual OB symposium in San Francisco and the entire facility will receive a 5% reduction of its professional liability costs. Symposium attendance satisfies a portion of the ongoing educational requirements for next year's program.

"We are very proud to receive this honor for the second consecutive year," said Doug Lafferty, Chief Executive Officer at Plumas District Hospital. "We are committed to providing the same standard of care that is offered in larger hospitals and this award is a testament to that," Lafferty continued. "BETA's *Quest for Zero* obstetric patient safety program provides an opportunity to simultaneously maintain strict patient safety standards and save money for our hospital."

To achieve 100% compliance with the program, the hospital's entire OB department—nurses and doctors—must demonstrate specific skills, such as fetal heart monitoring and analysis, team communication strategies, and emergency management in labor and delivery.

"As OB teams progress through the program, staff communications become clearer and more consistent which is in alignment with our patient safety goal of taking a team of individual experts and creating expert teams," said Annie Herlik, RN, J.D., CPHRM, BETA Healthcare Group Vice President of Risk Management. "Most importantly, the program puts patients first ensuring they receive the highest quality care."

PDH offers 24 hour obstetric services. PDH presently has four family practitioners providing obstetric care - Erin Barnes, M.D.; Rachel Hurlburt, D.O.; Jeff Kepple, M.D. and Ross Morgan, M.D. All four PDH physicians accept new maternity patients. In addition, the hospital offers childbirth classes for expectant individuals several times per year.