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# Denver Health first hospital in region to earn Emergency General Surgery verification

**DENVER** (March 11, 2026) — Denver Health has become the first hospital in the Rocky Mountain region to receive Emergency General Surgery (EGS) verification from the American College of Surgeons (ACS). The verification, awarded following a rigorous two-day, on-site review, confirms that Denver Health is one of 13 hospitals in the U.S. to meet the highest national standards for treating patients with urgent and life-threatening general surgical conditions.

EGS encompasses some of the most time-sensitive and complex cases in medicine, including bowel obstruction, complex biliary disease, perforated esophagus and peptic ulcer disease, fistulas, soft tissue infections, acute gastrointestinal bleeding and other surgical emergencies that require immediate intervention. The ACS Emergency General Surgery Verification Program (EGS-VP) evaluates hospitals against 43 standards across nine domains, assessing surgical response times, clinical care pathways, quality improvement infrastructure, data surveillance, geriatric protocols and multidisciplinary team coordination.

"This verification represents our collective commitment to the patients who count on us most," said Denver Health Chair of Surgery Fredric M. Pieracci, MD, MPH. "EGS, like so many other health conditions, is strongly related to social determinants of health, and having the resources and expertise to rapidly identify and treat EGS conditions leads to better outcomes. I am proud that Denver Health has been recognized as the lone center in the region that provides this rigorous level of care. EGS verification showcases our team based, multidisciplinary approach to providing comprehensive care to our patients; this culture of collegiality is a hallmark of what makes Denver Health Denver's most trusted provider."

The verification has significant implications for emergency medical services routing, interfacility transfers and patient access across Colorado and neighboring states. Ambulance systems,

regional hospitals and patients seeking the highest level of emergency surgical care can now identify Denver Health as a verified destination for these conditions in the region.

Denver Health's verification is valid through May 2028, after which the hospital will undergo a reverification review.

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**About Denver Health**

Denver Health is a comprehensive health and hospital system that provides high-quality care and proudly serves as the city's safety-net hospital. For more than 160 years, Denver Health has been guided by its mission to serve the people of Denver, to educate the next generation of health care professionals and to engage in research and community partnerships to better deliver the services that meet our patient's health care needs while strengthening our community.