



Media Contact: Dane Roper
303-520-9591
dane.roper@dhha.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Denver Health recognized by AMA for work to promote well-being and reduce burnout

DENVER (Oct. 15, 2024) – Denver Health has earned recognition from the American Medical Association (AMA) as a Joy in Medicine™ health organization. The AMA distinction is granted to organizations that meet the rigorous criteria of the [Joy in Medicine Health System Recognition Program](#) and acknowledges the nation’s leaders in prioritizing proven efforts to enhance the well-being and professional fulfillment of physicians.

“Clinician burnout is a national challenge as well as one affecting Denver Health. We know there is much work still to be done to support our providers, and this recognition highlights effective interventions deployed over the last five years, including many that are still in place today, as well as the organization’s commitment to further improvement,” Read Pierce, MD, Chief Quality, Safety and Transformation Officer at Denver Health, said. “I’m proud of the work our Provider Engagement Committee has done to build relationships and listen to voices across the organization about the key drivers of burnout at Denver Health and create a foundation to address those challenges throughout our health system.”

After peaking during the COVID-19 pandemic, provider burnout rates at Denver Health have begun to decline. This mirrors national trends, but also highlights the work that remains. Continued efforts are essential to ensure doctors receive the support they need to thrive and achieve national health goals.

“Physicians are humans caring for other human beings, strained by factors beyond their control and challenged by the enormous expectations placed on them to continuously deliver high quality, compassionate care. There is no doubt change is needed, but what needs to change is not the doctors,” said AMA President Bruce A. Scott, MD, “A national movement is gaining momentum to transform health care work systems and fix the root causes of physician burnout. Health organizations that have earned the AMA’s Joy in Medicine recognition are leading this movement with bold visions for redesigned clinical systems to foster professional well-being and support quality care.”

Denver Health’s Provider Engagement Committee has led the way in educating the health system about its medical staff’s unique experiences and drivers of burnout and satisfaction, in addition to piloting innovations and advocating for possible solutions. Becoming an AMA Joy in Medicine recognized program provides a roadmap of national best practices for Denver Health to enact over time. As a safety net health system, the Joy in Medicine recognition represents Denver Health’s commitment to better supporting the people who drive its important mission forward every day.

In 2024, a total of [62 health systems nationwide](#) earned recognition with documented efforts to reduce system-level drivers of work-related burnout and demonstrated competencies in commitment, assessment, leadership,

efficiency of practice environment, teamwork and support. Learn more about the AMA Joy in Medicine Health System Recognition Program at ama-assn.org/joyinmedicine.

###

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 health care needs of our patients while strengthening our community.