



NEWS RELEASE

Cedar Rapids named a top 25 U.S. city for healthcare access

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA (Sept. 10, 2026) – Cedar Rapids has been named one of the 25 best U.S. metro areas for healthcare access, according to *Becker's Hospital Review*, citing data from Indeed's *Best Cities for Work 2026* index. This recognition reinforces the city's reputation as a regional leader in high-quality, patient-centered healthcare.

A key contributor to this recognition is the MedQuarter Regional Medical District (MedQ), a centrally located, community-focused district that brings together strong healthcare providers and supportive services.

The MedQ is home to leading medical organizations, including Mercy Medical Center, UnityPoint Health – St. Luke's Hospital and Physicians' Clinic of Iowa. Together, these institutions anchor a district designed to strengthen Cedar Rapids through quality healthcare and economic growth.

"This recognition reflects the MedQuarter's vision of a connected destination where patients and families can more easily access and navigate high-quality care," said Phil Wasta, executive director of the MedQuarter. "It also highlights the strength of our healthcare partners and their commitment to making Cedar Rapids a regional destination for exceptional care."

Being ranked among the top 25 metro areas for healthcare access places Cedar Rapids in distinguished company, joining cities known for their high-quality care environments and among nationally recognized academic medical centers.

The ranking highlights communities with better access, shorter appointment wait times, more choice in selecting a physician and stronger healthcare infrastructure.

###

About the MedQ

The Cedar Rapids MedQuarter Regional Medical District was created through a partnership between the City of Cedar Rapids and three major healthcare leaders: Physicians' Clinic of Iowa, Mercy Medical Center, and UnityPoint Health - St. Luke's Hospital. The district was designed not only to bring together comprehensive, patient-centered healthcare, but also to serve as a catalyst for economic growth in downtown Cedar Rapids. With healthcare as its anchor, the MedQuarter connects residents, patients, and visitors with nearby dining, shopping, and community amenities surrounding each medical center. For more information, visit www.themedq.com.

About Mercy

Mercy Cedar Rapids is a Catholic healthcare system serving patients and families in eastern Iowa. In addition to Mercy Medical Center (its fully accredited, 424-licensed-bed hospital in downtown Cedar Rapids, Iowa), the system also has an established network of specialty clinics and MercyCare primary and urgent care clinics located throughout Cedar Rapids and surrounding communities. PINC AI™ and Fortune have named Mercy Medical Center among the nation's 100 Top Hospitals multiple times in the last 20 years based on clinical, operational, financial and patient satisfaction data. Founded in 1900 by the Sisters of Mercy, Mercy remains dedicated to its mission of caring for the sick and enhancing the health of the communities it serves. For more information, visit www.mercycare.org, or follow Mercy on Facebook, Instagram, X, LinkedIn, TikTok or YouTube.

About UnityPoint Health – St. Luke's Hospital

UnityPoint Health – St. Luke's Hospital is a fully accredited 532-bed hospital serving a seven-county area surrounding Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Founded in 1884 as Cedar Rapids' first hospital, today it offers a wide range of patient care services with strengths in cardiac care, obstetrics, neonatology, pediatrics, rehabilitation, behavioral health, general surgery, trauma care and senior services. St. Luke's is nationally recognized as a Magnet Hospital and a nine-time Top 100 Hospital award winner by PINC AI™.

About Physicians' Clinic of Iowa

Physicians' Clinic of Iowa (PCI), in Cedar Rapids, is one of Eastern Iowa's largest specialty medical groups. Independent and locally owned, PCI specialists see patients at PCI Medical Pavilions 1 and 2, as well as offering surgical care at both Cedar Rapids hospitals, Surgery Center Cedar Rapids, Mercy Surgery Center, and surrounding community medical centers. Founded in 1997, PCI has more than 80 partner physicians, surgeons and mid-level providers whose focus is superior service and putting the patient first. At Physicians' Clinic of Iowa, Caring is Our Specialty.