



SEARCH's Essential Services List

The following is a list of the Essential Services that the SEARCH organization believes should be maintained locally for the citizens of Mitchell and Yancey Counties in a manner that is accessible, affordable, comprehensive and coordinated, including referral services. The list covers a wide spectrum of services which may be delivered in a doctor's office, clinic, ambulatory surgery center, emergency room, pharmacy, skilled nursing facility/rehabilitation center, or hospital. The list is alphabetical rather than prioritized.

1. **Ambulatory care** – Outpatient services, including diagnostic testing (lab and imaging services such as X-ray, MRI, CT, sonogram, etc.), treatments, or rehab visits.
2. **Dental, vision, and hearing services** – Including but not limited to preventive and basic services for individuals of all ages.
3. **Emergency and observation services** – Emergency medical treatment that requires immediate and unscheduled care or observation services to determine whether a patient needs to be admitted or can be discharged.
4. **Hospitalization for basic illnesses** – Inpatient care for basic illnesses.
5. **Maternity care** - Prenatal, labor and delivery (for non-high-risk pregnancies), and postnatal services.
6. **Mental health and substance use disorder services** - Including behavioral health treatment and access to inpatient and outpatient psychiatry.
7. **Primary care for all ages** – Including preventive, diagnostic, management of chronic disease, therapeutic, complementary alternative medicine, rehabilitative and end-of-life services.
8. **Pharmacy services**– Including supplying prescription and over the counter medications, offering advice to patients and care providers, preventing medication errors, and identifying drug interactions.
9. **Skilled nursing and rehabilitative services** – Care for those not sick enough to be hospitalized, but not yet well enough to return home.
10. **Surgery and anesthesia services** – Non-specialty surgeries, both emergency and elective.
11. **Transportation** – Including both personal and medical transportation to allow patients to access care at hospitals and other health care facilities.

Sources:

1. The Affordable Care Act's essential services list, March 23, 2010
2. The American Hospital Associations essential services list published in a report by the Task Force on Ensuring Access in Vulnerable Communities, November 29, 2016
3. A list compiled by Mitchell and Yancey County doctors in response to the loss of Labor and Delivery services at Blue Ridge Regional Hospital and published in both county newspapers in August, 2017.