



National Hospital Week Fact Sheet

National Hospital Week – Background

- The first National Hospital Day was held on Florence Nightingale’s birthday, on May 12, 1921
- National Hospital Day was originally conceived by a Chicago magazine editor as a public healthcare event that encouraged trust in the city’s hospitals in the wake of the ‘Spanish flu’ outbreak of 1918, which killed more than 600,000 Americans
- The event expanded to an entire week in 1953
- Today, every state celebrates National Hospital Week, which is sponsored by the American Hospital Association
- Intended as a community-centered program, National Hospital Week engages every person in the hospital, from directors to orderlies, nurses to volunteers, EMS techs to home health professionals and physicians to patients
- National Hospital Week encourages public involvement, often through hospital tours and outreach events like health fairs, seminars and fun runs
- The commemorative celebration serves as a reminder that hospitals are foundations of the communities that built them and nurture them, and that hospitals serve people in every community from all walks of life
- Hospitals today are multi-dimensional environments that offer every medical specialty, with a focus on prevention and wellness
- During National Hospital Week, millions of Americans will visit hospitals in their communities to learn about the new breakthroughs, technologies and services that improve health and quality of life every day

National Hospital Week - 2008

- May 11 – 17, 2008
- Theme: “Where Healing Happens Every Day”
- Celebrated during events that are planned individually by each hospital in each community