

MCRH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

April 2025
Volume 6, Issue 4

OUR MISSION

To coordinate, plan, and advocate for improved health for Michigan's rural residents and communities



Rural Health Clinic Practice Management Webinar Series

A 12-month program designed to help Rural Health Clinics achieve compliance, optimize operations, and improve patient care. Led by experts from Health Service Associates, **monthly 1 hour webinars** include topics like RHC certification, billing and reimbursement, federal regulations, emergency preparedness, and performance improvement.

- ✓ Live, interactive sessions with Q&A
- ✓ Access recordings and materials anytime
- ✓ Full series available for \$250



[Register](#)

[More Information](#)

Billing & Coding Bootcamp



Join us for a two-day, in-person Billing & Coding Bootcamp designed for Rural Health Clinics (RHCs), and other rural health providers. This intensive training will focus on clinical documentation, coding, and billing to ensure compliance, optimize reimbursement, and prepare participants for optional certification.

Billing & Coding Bootcamp

- **Dates:** May 12-13, 2025
- *Day 1: 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm*
- *Day 2: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm*
- **Location:** Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, Mount Pleasant, MI 6800 Soaring Eagle Blvd, Mt Pleasant, MI 48858
- **Registration Fee:** \$50 (valued at \$499)
- **CEUs:** 11 CEUs approved by ArchProCoding & AAPC
- *Limited Spots Available*

Who Should Attend?

- Coding, billing, and revenue cycle staff
- Facility and financial managers
- Quality reporting professionals
- Clinical providers (MD, DO, NP, PA, RN)

[More Information](#)

[Register](#)

Michigan Heath Endowment Fund Healthy Aging Initiative is Open!

MICHIGAN HEALTH ENDOWMENT FUND

The Health Fund's 2025 Healthy Aging Initiative aims to improve the health and quality of life of Michigan's older adults and their caregivers while reducing the cost of care. Priorities include:

- Improving the quality of care for older adults in the healthcare system
- Coordinating care in the community that will improve health outcomes and lower overall costs
- Increasing support for family and professional caregivers

Two-page concept papers are highly recommended and due April 24 at 5 p.m. (ET). Full proposals are due June 5 at 5 p.m. (ET).

[More Information](#)

MDHHS Launches New Public Health Dashboard



The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recently launched the Michigan Public Health Dashboard, a tool designed to improve access to key health data and support informed decision-making. The public resource provides public health community profiles at the legislative district level.

The two dashboards include information for Michigan Senate districts and for Michigan House districts. The dashboards will be updated as new data becomes available for each metric to provide a comprehensive and up-to-date view of public health across the state.

[More Information](#)

Now Open: Nurse Corps Scholarship Program



The **Nurse Corps Scholarship Program** provides financial support to students enrolled in nursing degree programs in exchange for a commitment to serve in high-need areas across the country. The scholarship includes payment of tuition, required fees, other reasonable costs, and a monthly living stipend. After graduation, scholarship recipients fulfill their service commitment at an approved location with a critical shortage of nurses. Applications will be accepted through Thursday, April 24th.

Learn more about becoming an approved site on the [NHSC webpage](#) or contact our Workforce Initiative Manager, [Kyra Burkeen](#).

[Learn More about the Nurse Corps Scholarships](#)

Register Now for the MI-POST & Advanced Care Planning Webinar

MI-Post and Advanced Care Planning

Thursday, May 22
12 – 1 pm | EST

In Collaboration with



Natalie Holland
MDHHS



Amy Bailey
MyMichigan Health

Objectives

- Overview of the POST (Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment) Paradigm
- Michigan POST and Advance Care Planning
- Communicating Care Wishes & Using MI-POST Effectively
- Resolving Conflicts Between Advance Care Documents (DNRs, Durable POA)
- MI-POST Advisory Committee Final Recommendations

REGISTER



Join us on Thursday, May 22 from 12–1 PM EST for an educational session on the MI-POST (Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment) paradigm and advance care planning in Michigan. This webinar is open to anyone working in rural healthcare who wants to deepen their understanding of communicating care wishes, navigating documentation like DNRs and POAs, and exploring the final recommendations from the MI-POST Advisory Committee.

This session supports ongoing efforts through the Michigan Center for Rural Health's palliative care grant initiative, which aims to expand access to quality, person-centered care across rural Michigan.

Speakers: Natalie Holland (MDHHS) and Amy Bailey (MyMichigan Health)

Questions: Aleah Huse, husealea@msu.edu

[Register](#)

[PDF Flyer](#)

April is Career Awareness & Exploration Month!



Governor Whitmer has declared April Career Exploration & Awareness Month in order to spotlight the state's growing need for talent and the programs and services in place to support residents in employment, training and educational opportunities available to them - including career pathways in healthcare. The Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) has created the new **Pathways to Healthcare Careers** page on Pathfinder!

Pathways to in-demand healthcare careers in Michigan can be found in nine categories including nursing, radiology, community health and occupational therapy.

Pathways to Healthcare Careers

NEW: MDHHS launches Nurse Loan Repayment Program (NLRP)



To help increase the number of health care providers serving residents in underserved communities, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is launching a student loan repayment program for nurses. The Nurse Loan Repayment Program (NLRP) will assist employers in the recruitment and retention of licensed practical nurses and registered nurses who commit to providing nursing services at eligible practice sites.

The program will provide up to \$300,000 in tax-free funds to successful applicants to repay educational debt over a period of up to four years for those working at state psychiatric facilities or up to 10 years for other eligible practice sites, including **Rural Health Clinics**. There is about \$9 million available for student loan repayment. The current application cycle is now open and closes on June 4th.

Big Rapids RAM Clinic: Free Medical Services

FREE
MEDICAL CLINIC

Get the medical care you need at our
FREE MEDICAL CLINIC coming to

Big Rapids, MI

Remote Area Medical (RAM)®
provides free, quality healthcare
to those in need:

SERVICES AVAILABLE:

- DENTAL CARE**
Dentists, Oral Surgeons,
Dental Assistants, Hygienists
- VISION CARE**
Optometrists, Ophthalmologists,
Opticians, Vision Techs
- MEDICAL CARE**
Physicians, Physician Assistants,
Nurse Practitioners, Nurses
- GENERAL SUPPORT**
Interpreters, Guides, Data Entry,
and Much More!

Free, First Come, First Served, No ID Required!

MAY 31-June 1, 2025
RL Ewigleben Sports Complex
210 Sports Dr
Big Rapids, MI 49307

FOR MORE INFORMATION: RAMUSA.ORG | 865.579.1530

Presented By:

FERRIS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Remote Area Medical (RAM), a nonprofit provider of free pop-up clinics, is bringing its FREE Medical Clinic to Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan from May 31–June 1, 2025 at the RL Ewigleben Sports Complex. This clinic offers essential dental, vision, and medical care to anyone in need—no ID required, and services are first-come, first-served.

Community Organizations: Agencies are invited to host resource tables or bring mobile units to offer free education, screenings, or services. This is a great opportunity to share your mission and connect with individuals who may benefit from your support. Agencies must register and agree not to collect patient information or charge for any goods or services. Learn more [here](#).

Healthcare Providers: RAM is seeking licensed medical, dental, and vision professionals, as well as nurses, social workers, and support staff. Volunteers help deliver life-changing services, from general consultations to diabetic care and physicals. Even a few hours of your time can make a meaningful impact. Learn more [here](#).

Learn more and register to volunteer at the link below or call (865) 579-1530.

[Learn More & Register](#)

Mastering De-Escalation in Healthcare: From Recognition to Resolution



High-pressure situations are common in healthcare, making de-escalation skills essential for maintaining a safe and supportive environment. This webinar will equip healthcare professionals with the knowledge and tools to effectively manage challenging interactions with patients, visitors, and staff. Participants will explore legal obligations for workplace safety, proactive strategies to prevent workplace violence, and practical de-escalation techniques. Expert-led discussions and case studies will provide valuable insights into fostering a culture of safety and implementing an effective post-incident response plan.

Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your conflict resolution skills and contribute to a safer healthcare environment!

[Information and Registration](#)

Help Your Patients Quit Menthol with the Michigan Quitlink Program



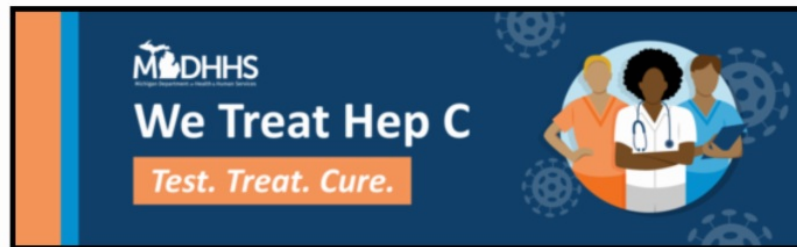
The Michigan Tobacco Quitlink has launched a program to assist people trying to quit

using menthol cigarettes. Interested enrollees are asked about menthol use. If they reply “yes,” they qualify for additional services.

The enrollees receive four coaching calls and eight weeks of nicotine replacement therapy which includes a choice of patch, gum and/or lozenges. Quitting menthol is more difficult than regular cigarettes so enrollees receive financial incentives to keep them engaged. They receive Visa gift cards in the amount of \$10 for completing the first coaching call, \$15 for the second and \$25 for the third. Most often, change behavior occurs with those completing the third call and they are more likely to complete the final call. In FY 23, 42% of enrollees were using menthol and 27% reported quitting

[Learn More](#)

Upcoming Perinatal Webinar Series from MATEC Michigan



Join MATEC Michigan this May for their *2025 Perinatal Update Webinar Series*. Each 1-hour session features case-based discussions led by Michigan experts on key topics in perinatal care, including hepatitis B and C, congenital syphilis, and HIV.

[Additional Information & Registration](#)

First Annual Michigan Food as Medicine Summit



The Food Bank Council of Michigan is excited to announce the inaugural Michigan Food as Medicine (MiFAM) Summit, taking place **October 7–8, 2025**, at the **Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center** on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing.

The MiFAM Summit will bring together leaders, practitioners, and advocates from across Michigan's healthcare, food, policy, and community sectors to build connections, share strategies, and shape the state's first unified Food as Medicine advocacy agenda.

Workshop Proposals Now Open!

Interested in presenting? Submit your breakout session proposal by **May 14, 2025**.

[Learn More](#)

2025 Michigan State Loan Repayment Program Application Cycle Runs Through End of April



The Michigan State Loan Repayment Program (MSLRP) helps employers recruit and retain primary medical, dental, and mental healthcare providers by providing loan repayment to those entering into MSLRP service obligations. MSLRP service obligations require participants to provide full-time primary healthcare services in Health Professional Shortage Areas ([HPSA](#)) at not-for-profit health clinics for two years.

MSLRP will assist those selected by providing up to \$300,000 in tax-free funds to repay their educational debt over a period of up to ten years. Participants will enter into consecutive two-year MSLRP service obligations requiring them to remain employed for a minimum of 40 hours per week for no less than 45 weeks per year at eligible nonprofit practice sites providing primary healthcare services to ambulatory populations.

The FY26 MSLRP Application Period continues through April 30, 2025 for two-year contracts starting October 1, 2025. Northern Obstetric Service Providers, Genesee County Applicants, and Inpatient Pediatric Providers including only Psychiatrists, Physician Assistants, and Nurse Practitioners remain the program's top priority this year. Additional eligibility information can be found [here](#).

[Additional Information Regarding MSLRP](#)

NURSES Grant: Seeking Partners for the Fall 2025 Semester

The primary goal of the NURSES Grant is to provide community-based outpatient clinical experiences to BSN students. This initiative addresses the nursing shortage in rural Michigan by offering comprehensive student support. The grant covers mileage and lodging for clinical rotations and provides additional funding for paid internships. We are excited to welcome Rural Health Clinics to participate in this impactful program, developed in collaboration with the Michigan Primary Care Association.

If you are interested in learning more about the NURSES Grant opportunities, please contact Kyra Burkeen, Workforce Initiative Manager, at kyra.burkeen@affiliate.msu.edu

**NURSES Grant Internship
Information**

**Additional Details on the
NURSES Grant**

MBQIP Upcoming Deadlines, Reporting Reminders, and Resources



MBQIP Data Submission Deadlines

MCRH continues to provide monthly Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project (MBQIP) updates that will help improve the quality of care provided in Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs).

MBQIP Reporting Updates

MBQIP 2025 Assistance

Not sure where to start with reporting the new MBQIP 2025 core measures new MBQIP 2025 core measures? The Data Submission Guides are a great place to start! These guides are designed to meet hospitals where they are at in their reporting journey, such as:

- Rural relevancy and buy-in
- Measure specifications
- Data collection and hospital implementation
- Data submission
- Understanding outcomes and quality improvement MBQIP

Data Submission Deadlines

April 2025 Upcoming MBQIP Deadlines

April 30, 2025

- Emergency Department Transfer Communication (**EDTC**) Q1 2025 encounters (01/01/2025- 3/31/2025) is due **April 30, 2025**. Connect with Crystal Barter @ barthcry@msu.edu for submission process details.

May 1, 2025

- Reporting Median time from ED arrival to ED departure (**OP-18**) Q4 2024, October 1 – December 31 is due **May, 1, 2025**. Submission is through the HQR Secure Portal-Outpatient. The CMS Abstraction & Reporting Tool (CART) Outpatient is being integrated into the Hospital Quality and Reporting (HQR) platform. Hospitals will use the HQR platform for abstractions similar to how hospitals used CART. **Per the CART website**, hospitals will use HQR for OP-18 abstractions for Q4 2024 encounter data due May 1, 2025.

May 15, 2025

- Patient left without being seen (**OP-22**) CY 2024 data is due **May 15, 2025**. Submission is through the HQR via HARP log in.
- Influenza Vaccination coverage among health care professionals (**HCP/IMM-3**) Q4 2024-Q1 2025 is due **May 15, 2025**. Submission is through NHSN.
- Social Drivers of Health Screening (**SDoH-1**) Calendar year 2024 is due **May 15, 2025**. Submission through HQR Secure Portal.
- Screen Positive Rate for Social Drivers of Health Screening (**SDoH-2**) Calendar year 2024 is due **May 15, 2025**. Submission through HQR Secure Portal.
- Hospital Commitment to Health Equity (**HCHE**) for Calendar year 2024 is due **May 15, 2025**. Submission through HQR Secure Portal.

New Releases!

MBQIP 2025 Core Set Information Guide

MBQIP 2025 Submission Deadlines

MBQIP Measures List

Monthly MBQIP Data Submission Deadlines (**March**)

For more on MBQIP, please contact Amanda St. Martin, Hospital Programs Manager, at amanda.saintmartin@affiliate.msu.edu.

Upcoming MCRH Educational Events

Grand Rounds:

April 30, 2025, 12-1 PM EST

Pharmacy Grand Rounds: **MASH It, Not NASH It**

Speaker: Tracey Mersfelder, PharmD

[Register Here](#)

CE is provided for social workers, nurses, and community health workers. Physicians and other health professionals may use the certificate to self-claim contact hours.

May 2, 2025, 1-2 PM EST

Oral Health Grand Rounds: Healthy Hearts & Healthy Smiles

Speaker: Timothy Nikolai, MBA

[Register Here](#)

CE Provided for Dentists, Dental Hygienists, Dental Therapists, Dental Assistants

May 20, 2025, 12-1 PM EST

Special Topics Grand Rounds: Updates in Asthma Care: The Dangers of OCS & SABA Overuse

Speaker: Karla Stoermer Grossman, MHSA, BSN, RN, AE-C

[Register Here](#)

CE Provided for Pharmacy Technicians, Pharmacists, Nurses, Physicians, Social Workers

May 21, 2025, 12-1 PM EST

Special Topics Grand Rounds: Deep Dive Into the Patient Advocate Designation Law

Speaker: Amy Bailey, LMSW

[Register Here](#)

CE Provided for Community Health Workers, Nurses, Physicians, Social Workers

May 22, 2025, 12-1 PM EST

Dietetics Grand Rounds: Sports Nutrition, Eating Disorder Risk, and Collaborative Care for Athletes: A Brief Overview for Providers

Speaker: Kaitlyn Pscodna, LLC

[Register Here](#)

CE Provided for Registered Dietitians, Dietetic Technicians, Social Workers, Nutritionists, Physicians, Community Health Workers, Nurses

ECHO:

April 22, 2025, 12-1 pm EST

Diabetes Project ECHO- Diagnosis: A Leveling

Speaker: Dr. Kim Pfothauer, DO, BC-ADM

Registration coming soon - [Check out our website](#): for updates!

CME Provided

May 21, 2025, 12-1 PM EST

Infectious Diseases ECHO: Candida Auris & Other Emerging Pathogens

Speaker: Dr. Peter Gulick, DO

[Register Here](#)

CME Provided

ADDITIONAL NEWS & RESOURCES:

RURAL EMERGENCY HOSPITALS:

[Thinking of Converting to REH? Key Observations from Financial Modeling](#)

[Updated Guidance for Rural Emergency Hospitals \(REHs\)](#)

CYBERSECURITY:

[AHA Helps Secure New Cybersecurity Resources from Microsoft and Google to Assist Rural Hospitals](#)

[Information on Microsoft Cybersecurity Program for Rural Hospitals // SIGN UP](#)

TELEHEALTH:

[Expanding Dental Care to Children Through Telehealth](#)

[Building Michigan's State Broadband Plan](#)

[VIDEO: How Broadband Access Positively Impacts the Growing American Workforce](#)

HOSPITAL PROGRAMS:

[CMS Updates Hospital Policies for Fiscal Year 2025 and Finalizes a New Payment Model for Select Surgeries](#)

PRIMARY CARE:

[CMS Enhancing Coverage of Preventive Services Under the Affordable Care Act](#)

[CMS Finalizes New Model to Improve Access to Kidney Transplants](#)

[Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute \(PCORI\) Funding: Improving Mental and Behavioral Health – Letters of Intent January 14](#)

[CMS Announces New Lower Drug Prices for 2026 / Negotiated Pricing Fact Sheet](#)

[CMS Innovation in Behavioral Health Model](#)

[New Changes to Behavioral Health Intensive Outpatient Program Coverage in Medicare](#)

[Medicare Advantage Plan Growth in Rural America: Availability of Supplemental Benefits](#)

SOCIAL DRIVERS OF HEALTH:

[Physician Engagement in Addressing Health-Related Social Needs and Burnout](#)

[A Toolkit for Developing Local Multisector Plans for Aging in Rural Areas](#)

[HHS Launches New "Food as Medicine" Resources](#)

[Engaging Policymakers for Healthier Communities | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](#)

[The U.S. Playbook to Address Social Determinants of Health](#)

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER:

[Take 10! Transforming Care for Women with Substance Use Disorders \(SUDs\) and Their Families Webinar Series](#)

[Opioid Settlement Resource Center - The Michigan Association of Counties \(micounties.org\)](#)

[Opioid Settlement Overview Table](#)

[Recovery-Ready Workplace Toolkit for Businesses](#)

[Rural Communities Opioid Response Program – Pathways](#)

WORKFORCE:

[Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Program for Paraprofessionals](#)

[Statewide Investment Helps Youth Explore Future Careers In Michigan](#)

[Mental Health in the Rural Workplace](#)

[Navigating Workplace Violence: Safety Strategies for Managing Agitation and Aggression](#)

VETERANS:

[Sign up for Veterans Health Updates](#)

[Sign up for the VA Office of Rural Health \(ORH\) quarterly newsletter](#)

[View an online copy of the new 2025 VA benefits booklet](#)

[New state law, effective April 2025, requires businesses to display a Veteran's resource poster](#)

[Questions about VA healthcare? Attend the Veterans Healthcare Workgroup Monthly Meeting on the Second Monday of Every Month at 1 PM EST \(Zoom Link\)](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

[National Poison Prevention Week | Poison Help](#)

[Michigan Pediatric Readiness Conference](#)

[Obstetric Care Access at Rural Hospitals in the United States](#)

[Local Data for Equitable Communities Grant Program](#)

[Rural Residency Planning and Development \(RRPD\) program](#)

[New Map Shows Rural Emergency Hospitals](#)

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CPAs / ADVISORS



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