



MICHIGAN RURAL HEALTH CLINIC MONTHLY BULLETIN

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April 2025



A Few Words From Jill:

Spring is here, and with it comes one of our favorite times of the year—an opportunity to connect, learn, and grow together. We're looking forward to seeing many of you later this month at our **Michigan Rural Health Clinic Network Quarterly Meeting**, taking place on **Wednesday, April 23, 2025 from 1–4 PM**. This **hybrid event** offers the flexibility to join us either in-person or virtually and leads right into our 28th Annual Rural Health Conference, happening April 24–25 in Mt. Pleasant.

This quarter's meeting will focus on improving chronic disease care in rural settings, with presentations on best practices in diabetes workflows, billing and coding optimization, and chronic care management strategies for diabetes, CKD, and hypertension. We'll also feature a peer-to-peer discussion to hear what's working—and what's not—in your clinics.

We're excited to welcome a strong lineup of speakers:

- **Stacey Adams and Dawn Bledsoe**, Cardiometabolic Educators with Novo Nordisk, who provide unbranded disease state education to healthcare professionals supporting patients living with type 2 diabetes, chronic kidney disease, and cardiovascular disease.
- **Jill Hewitt** of Savvy Jane, a healthcare consultant with over 20 years of experience in Chronic Care Management services, workflow optimization, and data-driven solutions.
- **Jackie King** of ArchProCoding, a nationally recognized expert in documentation, coding, and billing with more than 35 years of experience and leadership in rural healthcare education and training.

- ✓ [View the full meeting agenda](#)
- ✓ [Register now for the Quarterly Meeting](#)

- ✓ Reserve your spot at the Annual Rural Health Conference

Whether you're joining us in person or online, we hope these events provide valuable tools, fresh perspectives, and the chance to connect with peers across the state.

Thanks-

Jill

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

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Cost Reporting



Emergency Preparedness

Federal and State RHC Regulations



Billing & Reimbursement

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.

- Registration Fee: \$50 (valued at \$499)
- CEUs: 11 CEUs approved by ArchProCoding & AAPC
- Limited Spots Available

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

Room Block Information Now Available!

[More Information](#)

[Register](#)

Make A Difference: Host A NURSES Grant Student In Your Clinic



Are you passionate about making a difference in helping nursing students serve in a community setting? Consider hosting nursing students who are participating in the NURSES Grant today!

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.

Qualified NURSES Grant Students Are:

- Undergraduate Nursing Students: Advanced-level BSN students in their 3rd or 4th year of study
- Demonstrate an interest in Underserved Populations: Students with an interest or knowledge of Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Clinics, Tribal Health Centers, and a passion for serving underserved communities
- Eligible Universities: Students must be enrolled in a BSN program at one of the

following institutions:

- Eastern Michigan University
- Ferris State University
- Grand Valley State University
- Lake Superior State University
- Michigan State University
- Michigan Technological University
- Northern Michigan University
- Saginaw Valley State University
- University of Michigan Flint
- Wayne State University

For more information about the NURSES grant and if you are interested in hosting nursing students at your clinic, please contact MCRH Workforce Initiatives Manager Kyra Burkeen at kyra.burkeen@affiliate.msu.edu.

More Information

One Spot Left: Join the Diabetes Care Learning Collaborative

The Michigan Center for Rural Health, in partnership with the MDHHS Diabetes and Kidney Unit, is launching a quality improvement project designed to support diabetes care in Rural Health Clinics—and there's still one spot available to participate.

This two-track initiative combines provider education and workflow enhancements to improve diabetes management and referral processes:

Track A – Project ECHO (for providers):

Engage in a peer-learning series on managing Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes, earn free CME credits, and connect with specialists in diabetes care and continuous glucose monitoring.

Track B – Workflow Quality Improvement Collaborative (for clinic staff):

Evaluate and strengthen referral workflows for diabetic retinopathy screenings with technical assistance, data support, and shared learning opportunities.

The project involves monthly virtual sessions, a simple baseline data assessment, and plenty of guidance along the way. **A small stipend is also available to support data reporting efforts.**

Interested in the final spot? Reach out to Renee, our Education Manager, at renee.calkins@affiliate.msu.edu to learn more or express interest.

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 opens on April 30th and closes on June 4th.

[More Information](#)

MDHHS Michigan State Loan Repayment Program (MSLRP) Update

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 requirements:

- Facility must be located in a HPSA
- Must be a non-profit health clinic
- Provide full-time primary healthcare services
- 2 year service period

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. To learn about the program, please visit www.michigan.gov/mslrp.

The 2025 MSLRP Application Period closes April 30th, 2025. To view the latest information about the 2025 MSLRP Application Period, please refer to the linked PDF below.

2025 MSLRP Application Information

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.

More Information

Medical Telehealth Flexibilities Extended Through September 30th

A recent Continuing Resolution passed by Congress has **extended current medical telehealth flexibilities for Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) through September 30, 2025**. This includes:

- Continued billing for G2025
- A delay in certain in-person requirements for tele-mental health
- Extended originating site flexibilities, allowing patients to receive care from home or other locations

CMS Updates



RHCs Can Now Submit Category II Codes

As of **April 7, 2025**, **Rural Health Clinics (RHCs)** are now able to submit **CPT Category II codes**—supplemental tracking codes used for **performance measurement**.

These optional codes support **quality tracking and participation in value-based care models** by allowing RHCs to more easily report specific clinical actions.

[Learn More on Category II Codes](#)

Updated CMS Fact Sheet on Medical Record Documentation

CMS has released an updated **fact sheet on medical record documentation requirements**. This revised guidance includes:

- New **documentation guidelines** for medical services
- Additional **resources for Medicare documentation**
- Clarification on common errors, including missing signatures and insufficient detail

The updates are especially relevant for services like **E/M visits, diagnostic tests, and DME claims**.

View the updated facts sheet to ensure your records meet current Medicare standards.

[Learn More on Medical Record Documentation](#)

CMS Updates Diabetes Supplies Coverage Fact Sheet

CMS has revised its **Medicare Coverage of Diabetes Supplies** fact sheet to

include coverage information for continuous glucose monitors (CGMs).

Key highlights:

- **Part B now covers CGMs, supplies, and accessories for eligible patients**
- Updated details on **blood glucose monitors, insulin pumps, and therapeutic shoes**
- Clarifies **coverage under Medicare Part D** for injectable insulin and diabetic supplies

View the updated facts sheet to ensure your practice is aligned with the latest guidance.

[Learn More About Diabetes Supplies Coverage](#)

New Lung Cancer QI & Education Series Available



Please join the Michigan Public Health Institute for a **free** Lung Cancer Quality Improvement and Education series!

This series aims to increase lung cancer screening rates for eligible adults in Michigan. This activity is appropriate for internal and family medicine clinicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, medical assistants, and others who want to learn more about lung cancer screening.

The project can be finished in 3 months and is recognized for:

- ABIM Board Certified physicians can receive Maintenance of certification (MOC) through the Approved Quality Improvement (AQI) Program and earn **20 Practice Assessment (PA) points**.
- ABFM Board Certified physicians can receive Performance Improvement (PI) activity eligible for **20 PI activity points** toward Family Medicine Certification Requirements.
- Clinicians may also claim *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*

More Information and Registration

Now Open: Nurse Corps Scholarship Program

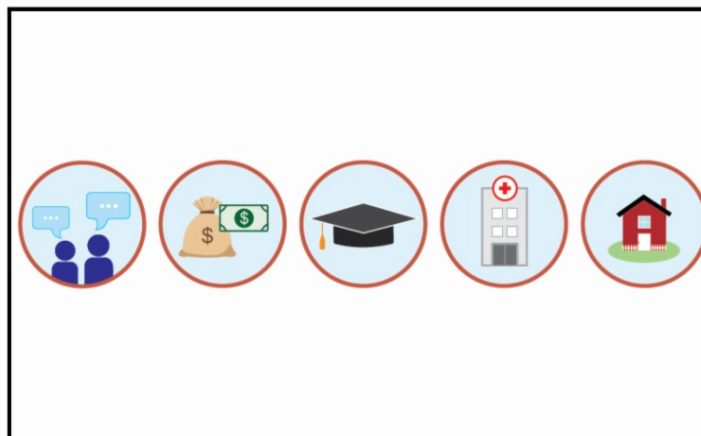


The **Nurse Corps Scholarship Program** provides financial support to students enrolled in nursing degree programs in exchange for a commitment to serve in high-need areas across the country. The scholarship includes payment of tuition, required fees, other reasonable costs, and a monthly living stipend. 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

Study Highlights Impact of Social Risk Factors on Rural Heart Health



A recent study funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) found that adults living in rural areas experience significantly worse **cardiovascular health outcomes** than their urban counterparts—differences largely explained by **social risk factors**.

Researchers analyzed data from **over 27,000 adults** and identified substantial **rural-urban disparities** in cardiometabolic risk factors and cardiovascular disease, with the largest gaps seen in **younger adults (ages 20–39)**.

The findings point to the need for strategies that address **social determinants of health** such as access to care, education, income, and others to improve outcomes in rural communities.

[Read the Full Study](#)

Staying Informed on Measles: Resources for Rural Health Clinics



With increasing attention on measles in Michigan and across the country, it's important that rural providers stay informed and prepared. We recognize the importance of sharing reliable information with our RHC network to support ongoing awareness and response efforts.

Below are key resources from MDHHS and the CDC that may be helpful as you navigate updates to measles-related protocols and patient education:

MDHHS Measles Updates and 2025 Information

- [MDHHS Measles Update Page](#)
- [Healthcare Provider Resources](#)

MDHHS Measles SOP (2024)

- [Standard Operating Procedures \(PDF\)](#)

CDC Measles Guidance for Healthcare Providers

- [CDC Measles Information for HCPs](#)
- [Interim Infection Control Guidelines \(PDF, 2019\)](#)

We encourage our clinics to explore these materials and coordinate with their local public health officials as needed.

Michigan's New Car Set Law Took Effect April 2: What to Know



Car crashes are one of the leading causes of death for children under the age of 13, according to the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#). But you can reduce your child's risk of death in a crash by 50% just by making sure they're properly restrained in the appropriate car seat, booster seat, or seat belt for their age and size.

Updates to Michigan's Child Passenger Safety Laws:

- Michigan's updated car seat law requires children under 2 years old to be in a rear-facing car seat.
- Children aged 2-5 should use a front-facing car seat with an internal harness, with straps that go over the shoulders and around the hips.
- Children under 8 or shorter than 4 feet 9 inches must use a booster seat.
- Children under the age of 13 must ride in the rear seat of a vehicle if the vehicle has one available.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has tips on how to find the perfect car seat, recommendations, and instructions on how to install car seats.



Upcoming MCRH Educational Events

Grand Rounds:

April 15, 2025, 12-1 PM EST

Dietetics Grand Rounds: Bias and Obesity

Speaker: Joe Nadglowski, President/CEO, Obesity Action Coalition

Register Here

CE Provided for Registered Dietitians, Nutritionists, Dietetic Technicians, Social Workers,

Nurses, Community Health Workers

April 30, 2025, 12-1 PM EST

Pharmacy Grand Rounds: MASH it, Not NASH it

Speaker: Tracey Mersfelder, PharmD

Register Here

CE Provided for Pharmacy Technicians, Pharmacists, Physicians, Nurses

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

Project ECHO:

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 Resources

Here are some topics impacting the RHC Community in Michigan this month.

- [Public Inspection: DEA, HHS: Expansion of Buprenorphine Treatment via Telemedicine Encounter](#)
- [The Latest HIPAA Requirements](#)
- [HRSA Payment Program for RHC Buprenorphine-Trained Providers](#)

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