
Michigan Rural Health Clinic Monthly Bulletin



Volume 3, Issue 10:
December 2022



A Few Words From Jill:

Welcome to the December issue of the RHC Newsletter!

I wanted to take some time to recognize some of the great work RHCs are doing around Michigan. The team at Hills and Dales General Hospital in Cass City has done terrific work within the Healthy Hearts for Michigan program, along with their participation in the 2022 RHC focused FLEX projects!

I recently spoke with Hills and Dales team members, Laura Green, Tami Wahl, and Tracey Foster about some of their successes and proud to share them with all of you. Here are some highlights of our conversation:

Jill: Briefly explain some of Hills and Dales's successes based on your work within the Healthy Hearts for Michigan program and some of its initiatives. What improvements have you seen? What can your colleagues around the state learn from you?

Hills and Dales: *One of the main focuses Hills and Dales has on the Healthy Hearts for Michigan program is an emphasis on blood pressure control in hypertensive patients. Jill provided the clinics with evidence-based interventions that have allowed our clinics to bring blood pressure control to the center of their focus. In all our clinics, we have seen improvements in controlling blood pressure measurement percentages.*

Jill: What quality improvements have Hills and Dales implemented over the course of the year and how have they impacted your operations? What are your quality improvement goals for 2023 and beyond?

Hills and Dales: *Hills and Dales have a yearly competency program that all medical assistants are required to participate in. This year, each medical assistant was required to demonstrate how to properly take a blood pressure and enter it into EMR. Regardless of how many years an employee has been a medical assistant, it is best practice to review proper techniques on blood pressure measurement and how to accurately document the reading in the EHR. At Hills and Dales, we will continue to focus on controlling blood pressure, along with well annual well visits, colorectal cancer screenings, breast cancer screenings, and cervical cancer screenings.*

Jill: What are some of the accomplishments you have made within the framework of RHC FLEX projects this year and how do you plan on continuing them in the future?

Hills and Dales: *The FLEX project allowed us to investigate the root cause of why some of the clinics weren't performing well in the blood pressure category. We plan to use this framework in other areas and take the time to do a "deep dive" into our quality scores.*

Jill: What advice can you share with other RHCs going into 2023?

Hills and Dales: *Education and communication are key to making improvements within the clinic. It is important to have the employee demonstrate how they perform tasks in the clinic to ensure it is being done properly. It is okay to work on just one thing in the clinic at a time because once you and the employee see the*

positive scores and feedback, it helps to open the doorway to keep working on improvements with the clinic.

Jill: Thank you very much, Laura, Tami, and Tracey! Keep up the great work and I cannot wait to see your continued progress in the upcoming year!

I appreciate all of Michigan's Rural Health Clinics and all of you who work so hard to serve your communities. I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

See you in 2023!

Thanks,
Jill



NEW!
**Training Resources Coming in
January 2023!**

Arch Pro Coding is offering the following training resources beginning in January 2023 that will increase knowledge and core competencies in areas of credentialing, coding, and billing.

Please click on the course links for more information about each of these upcoming educational events!

- [January 11, 2023: Credentialing Certification for Rural & Community Health](#)
- [January 24-25, 2023: National CAH Coding & Billing Bootcamp](#)
- [February 7-9, 2023: National Rural or Community Health Coding & Billing Bootcamp](#)

**Bill Finerfrock Health Policy
Fellowship Program -
Application Deadline January 2,
2023**



The Bill Finerfrock Health Policy Fellowship Program was created in 2022 to celebrate the remarkable legacy of Mr. Bill Finerfrock. Bill was the co-founder and long-time Executive Director of the National Association of Rural Health Clinics (NARHC) until his retirement in June 2022.

The fellowship requires a full-time, in-person commitment for either a 4-week continuous timeframe, or two, 2-week periods in May, June, or July 2023. The selected candidate will reside in Alexandria, Virginia during the fellowship period and work within the NARHC DC Office, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m-6 p.m. Lodging and travel expenses will be fully covered by the program, and an \$8,000 stipend will be provided the fellow directly. Additionally, the selected fellow's employer will receive a \$2,000 stipend to be used as the organization sees fit in gratitude for its support of the fellow's participation in this program.



Bill Finerfrock

**Click Here to
Read Full
Details on the
Fellowship!**

**Click Here to
Download
Your
Application!**

During the program, the BFHP Fellow will:

- Participate in NARHC advocacy meetings with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Capitol Hill staff
- Analyze NARHC educational content for relevancy
- Identify areas of focus for NARHC

- Educate key policymakers on the realities of rural health

The BFHP Fellow will gain connections and learn how to be a grassroots advocate and champion for rural health. Completing the fellowship will establish the BFHP Fellow as a strong and trusted advocate for the rural health clinics program and enable the RHC or system they work for to emerge as a national leader on rural health clinic issues.

Interested candidates should possess a strong interest in health policy and a desire to deeply understand the federal legislative and regulatory process and its impact on RHCs. In addition, candidates should possess strong interpersonal and communication skills.

The selected fellow will be expected to remain a NARHC member for three years following their fellowship as well as serve as an active liaison between the NARHC DC office and the membership.

Eligibility:

- Mid-career rural health professionals
- Current NARHC members
- Recommended active Certified Rural Health Clinic Professional (CRHCP) certification



iMPROve Health Introduces Lung Cancer Screening ECHO Program

iMPROve Health, formerly known as MPRO, is offering a virtual teleECHO series to support primary care teams in promoting the early detection of lung cancer. The aim of this program is to promote appropriate and timely lung cancer screening to reduce lung cancer mortality across our Michigan communities.

ECHO session topics:

- Screening eligibility criteria
- Referral processes
- Next steps after receiving results
- Health disparities

The program will begin in January 2023 and occur on the third Tuesday of every other month through September 2023 (January, March, May, July, and September). Each session will last one hour.

[Click Here to Join the Program!](#)

**Maternity Care Health Professional
Target Area (MCTA)
Scores Just Released**



Data.hrsa.gov is pleased to announce that Maternity Care Health Professional Target Area (MCTA) scores are now available for eligible Primary Care (PC) HPSA designations. Each PC MCTA receives a secondary score representing the highest maternity care needs, in addition to the PC HPSA score.

Note that:

- As Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)/ Look-A-Likes (LALs), Rural Health Clinics (RHCs), and Indian, Tribal, or Urban Indian Health Clinics (ITUs), you may access your facility's MCTA scores through your Auto-HPSA POC portal account.
- Auto-HPSA POCs will also be able to submit Auto-HPSA MCTA rescore requests through their Auto-HPSA portal account: <https://programportal.hrsa.gov/extranet/landing.seam>.
- You may request a MCTA only rescore without affecting your current PC HPSA scores until April 2023 (tentatively). This is a temporary MCTA only re-score process, a future MCTA rescore request after April 2023 might be tied to a primary care HPSA rescore request, which might change your current primary care HPSA scores.
- The new MCTA scores might be used for the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Programs and other recruitment and retention efforts.
- You may find additional Shortage Areas data by state, county, facility, and/or address here: <https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area>

[Click Here to Visit the MCTA Federal Register Notice!](#)

RHC December News & Updates

Here are some of the topics impacting the RHC community in Michigan this month. Click on these links to read more:

- **NEW:** [CMS Delays Enforcement on Phase II of Good Faith Policy](#)
- **NEW:** [Medicaid Assistance for Doulas](#)
- **NEW:** [Preparing for Medicaid/CHIP Unwinding](#)
- **ONGOING:** [RHC CTM Reporting Reminders \(\\$100k funding\)](#) (November 2022 due December 30th)
- **RESOURCE:** [Answer the call: 988 Lifeline Suicide & Crisis Network Jobs](#)
- **ONGOING:** [HRSA Payment Program for RHC Buprenorphine-Trained Providers](#)

COVID-19 Vaccine Updates and Resources

A reminder that COVID-19 is still having an impact on our rural neighbors and those providing care and solutions. Please click on the links below for important information regarding the latest on vaccines, boosters, testing, and other recommendations:

- **UPDATED:** [COVID-19 Treatment Panels Releases Updated Guidelines](#)
- **RESOURCE:** [RHC Vaccine Confidence News and Information - UPDATED](#)
- **RESOURCE:** [One Stop Online for COVID Prevention and Treatment in Every County](#)
- **RESOURCE:** [COVID-19 Impact on Emergency Preparedness for RHCs](#)
- **RESOURCE:** [The Implications of Long COVID for Rural Communities](#)
- **UPDATE:** [MDHHS Medicaid Policy Bulletins](#)
- **UPDATE:** [MDHHS L-Letters Guidance](#)
- **ONGOING:** [Understanding the Federal COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates: Practical Considerations for Covered Employers](#)



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