



MICHIGAN RURAL HEALTH CLINIC MONTHLY BULLETIN

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A Few Words From Jill:



We're excited to introduce a brand-new educational opportunity for Rural Health Clinics. This year, we are launching the [2025 RHC Practice Management Webinar Series](#)—a monthly virtual series designed to support RHCs in achieving compliance, optimizing operations, and improving patient care.

In the past, we have offered an in-person, full-day workshop covering these essential topics. This year, we're shifting to a more accessible format, providing **12 monthly webinars** from **May 2025 through April 2026**. This new structure allows RHC leaders and staff to engage with expert speakers from **Health Services Associates**, gain valuable regulatory insights, and apply practical strategies throughout the year. Topics will include RHC certification, billing and reimbursement, emergency preparedness, performance improvement, and more.

Each session will be live and interactive, with recordings available for on-demand learning. The full series is available for \$250, providing a year-long opportunity to stay informed and connected. Don't miss out—[register today](#) to take advantage of this new format!

Looking ahead, registration is now open for the [28th Annual Rural Health Conference](#), happening **April 24-25, 2025**, at **Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort** in **Mt. Pleasant, MI**. We hope you'll join us for another year of great information and networking opportunities.

We're excited to bring you this new learning experience and look forward to supporting your RHC's success in 2025 and beyond!

Thanks-

Important Notice for RHCs and FQHCs: Claims May Need To Be Resubmitted

Starting October 1, 2024, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) **incorrectly returned certain Rural Health Clinic (RHC) and Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) claims** with reason code W7072. Impacted claims include:

- Type of bill: 071X (RHC) and 077X (FQHC)
- HCPCS code: 93010 (electrocardiogram (EKG or ECG))

RHCs and FQHCs **should review their claims** and resubmit any that were returned in error.

For questions, contact ruralpolicy@hrsa.gov.



The Promise of Remote Patient Monitoring



The Michigan Center for Rural Health (MCRH) has been at the forefront of advancing remote patient monitoring (RPM) in rural communities, playing a crucial role in research and implementation efforts across Michigan. A recent study, *The Promise of Remote Patient Monitoring*, highlights how RPM can revolutionize healthcare delivery by leveraging technology such as wearable devices, AI integration, and broadband expansion. The study underscores the importance of overcoming digital access barriers and policy constraints to fully realize RPM's potential, particularly in addressing chronic disease management and rural maternal health disparities.

MCRH has actively contributed to this mission through a collaborative RPM pilot program funded by the Michigan Health Endowment Fund. This initiative, detailed in *Remote Patient Monitoring for Rural Michigan Hospitals*, supported RPM deployment in three independent rural hospitals: Helen Newberry Joy Hospital, McKenzie Health System, and Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital. The pilot demonstrated significant improvements in patient outcomes, engagement, and provider satisfaction. Key findings included enhanced chronic disease management, a reduction in emergency visits, and improved integration of social determinants of health into patient care. By spearheading these efforts, MCRH continues to drive

transformative healthcare solutions that bridge access gaps and enhance rural health equity across Michigan.

[More Information](#)

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](#)

State Level Analysis of Rural-Urban Disparities in Diabetes Prevalence



This study examines **diabetes prevalence disparities** between rural and urban populations across 41 U.S. states using **2021 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data**. Researchers analyzed **odds ratios (OR)** for diabetes in different states, providing a data-driven assessment of geographic influences on diabetes risk. Findings offer insight into how geography influences diabetes outcomes and can help inform targeted public health interventions.c

[Read the Full Story](#)

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 require participants to provide full-time primary healthcare services in Health Professional Shortage Areas 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. To learn about the program, please visit www.michigan.gov/mslrp. This month, join the MDHHS Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) team for free webinars focused on collaboration, innovation, and actions to address social needs and promote health equity. These sessions will offer valuable insights for healthcare providers, community organizations, policymakers, and those committed to healthier communities.

The 2025 MSLRP Application Period started February 3rd, 2025 and 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

Understanding Disparities in Cardiac Arrest Mortality for CKD Patients



A new epidemiological analysis examines demographic disparities in cardiac arrest mortality among individuals with chronic kidney disease (CKD). Using CDC WONDER data from 1999–2020, this study explores how social vulnerability and rural vs. urban residence impact health outcomes. The findings highlight critical factors influencing mortality rates, offering insights for healthcare providers and policymakers.

View the Full Story

AI's Expanding Role in Healthcare and Public Health



The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has released a strategic plan for integrating artificial intelligence (AI) into healthcare and human services. This initiative covers seven key areas, including medical research, healthcare delivery, public health, and cybersecurity. The plan also highlights the role of Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and Indian Health Service (IHS) in ensuring equitable AI use in rural, tribal, and underserved communities. Learn more about how AI is shaping the future of healthcare.

[Strategic Plan Overview](#)

[Strategic Plan Slideshow](#)



MDHHS Urges Vaccinations as Respiratory Cases Rise in Michigan

With flu, COVID-19, and RSV activity increasing across Michigan, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is urging residents to get vaccinated. Flu activity is expected to peak in the coming weeks, and Michigan typically lags behind national trends, meaning further increases are likely.

Key vaccination data:

- Only 11% of Michigan residents have received a COVID-19 vaccine this season

Expanding Children's Access to Oral Health in Michigan

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has announced a \$300,000 grant from the Delta Dental Foundation (DDF) to support SEAL! Michigan and community water fluoridation programs. These initiatives aim to improve oral health for Michigan families by providing:

- School-based dental sealants and screenings
- Fluoride applications and oral health education

- 23.6% have been vaccinated for influenza
- Children and young adults have the lowest flu vaccination rates

The CDC continues to recommend **annual flu vaccination for all individuals aged six months and older**. Vaccination remains a critical tool in preventing **severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths** from respiratory viruses.

For vaccine availability and more information, visit Michigan.gov/COVIDFluRSV or IVaccinate.org.

[View the Full Story](#)

- Community water fluoridation support

During the last school year, **SEAL! Michigan** screened nearly **11,000** children, with over **37%** found to have **untreated cavities**. The program placed more than **45,000 sealants** to help prevent tooth decay. Additionally, **fluoridation efforts** continue to ensure that more than **1.5 million Michigan residents** have access to fluoridated water. Learn more about [SEAL! Michigan and community water fluoridation](#).

[View the Full Story](#)

Free Contraception Resources Available at Over 300 Locations in Michigan

The [Take Control of Your Birth Control](#) program continues to provide **free contraception supplies** at more than **300 locations statewide**, ensuring Michigan residents have access to essential family planning resources. Available supplies include:

- Over-the-counter oral birth control pills
- Emergency contraception
- Condoms
- Educational materials on family planning

Since October, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has distributed **34,300 doses of emergency contraception, 34,300 doses of oral birth control pills, and 171,500 condoms**. They are now preparing to deploy a second shipment that could provide resources more than **25,000 additional individuals**. Residents can use the interactive map to find participating locations.

These resources are accessible **regardless of insurance status** and are available through local health departments, MDHHS offices, and federally qualified health centers. Individuals without insurance can explore coverage options through **Medicaid and the [Plan First! program](#)**.

[View the Full Story](#)

Deadline Approaching! Kidney Scholarship for 2025



The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan's Richard D. Swartz/Marie Ferriter Scholarship Program is officially underway for 2025!

This program assists individuals who are on dialysis and those with a kidney transplant achieve their higher education goals.

Applicant eligibility includes:

1. Individual is on dialysis (*hemo or PD; in-center or home*) or has received a kidney transplant.
2. Resident of Michigan.
3. Enrolled or planning to enroll in a course of study at an accredited college, university, trade, technical, or vocational school. (*Can be full or part-time, taking a minimum of 3 credit hours. Online classes are eligible.*)
4. Has a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 (*4.0 scale*).

Completed applications and supporting materials are due by April 15, 2025.

Application Materials

The Impact of Medicaid Cuts on Rural Communities



A new **webinar and report** from Georgetown University's Center for Children and Families explores the **potential consequences of federal Medicaid cuts on rural America**. Experts, including **Joan Alker**, CCF's Executive Director, discuss how these cuts could **severely impact rural healthcare systems**, increasing strain on providers and limiting access to essential care for rural residents.

Additionally, the **Michigan – Children's Health Coverage Report Card** provides data

on children's Medicaid and CHIP coverage in the state, offering insights into coverage trends and disparities.

Register for the Perinatal Wellness and Mental Health Series



Guidance for All Perinatal Professionals

12–1 p.m. ET | Every other Wednesday, February 12–March 26

Web-based virtual training | There is no fee to attend this activity CEUs & CMEs available

If you work with women during pregnancy and postpartum, you have a chance to promote mental wellness, identify those at risk for depression and anxiety, and have meaningful conversations about available support and treatment options. Participants will join in learning and discussing with colleagues from across the state, all focused on improving the lives of women, caregivers, and children.

[Learn More & Register](#)

MDHHS Seeks Provider Input for Federal Shortage Designations

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is requesting provider participation in the 2025 Statewide Provider Survey to help assess Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) and Medically Underserved Areas/Populations (MUA/P). These federal designations direct critical resources to areas with the greatest healthcare workforce shortages, particularly for primary care, dental health, and mental health services.

Survey responses will help update statewide provider-to-population ratios and ensure federal and state funding is allocated to communities in need. The survey takes approximately 15-20 minutes and will remain open until **Friday, February 14, 2025**.

To participate, complete the Provider Survey. For questions, contact [Miguelina Carela-Garcia](#).

Provider Survey

Nominate the 2025 Rural Health Professional of the Year

Nominations Are Being Accepted Until March 7

2025 RURAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

Presented to individuals deserving of recognition for their efforts in carrying out exemplary work promoting health in rural areas.



Nominations Due March 7, 2025

Since 1994, the Michigan Center for Rural Health (MCRH) has celebrated an outstanding rural health professional for achievements they have directed to advance Michigan's rural health initiatives. The recipient is chosen through a nomination process and will be celebrated with a special award during the 28th Annual Michigan Rural Health Conference on April 24, 2025, at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

"The Rural Health Professional of the Year Award" formally acknowledges someone deserving of recognition for their distinctive efforts to elevate rural health in Michigan.

The award is granted to an individual who has carried out exemplary work promoting health in rural areas, shown excellent leadership in improving health care services in rural Michigan, and made worthy contributions to improving the health of the people in rural Michigan.

If you know someone who fits this description – nominate them TODAY!

Please contact Laura Mispelon (laura.mispelon@affiliate.msu.edu) for more information about the Rural Health Professional of the Year nomination process.

Click Here for the Rural Health Professional of the Year Nomination Form



Upcoming MCRH Educational Events

Grand Rounds:

February 18, 2025, 12-1 PM EST

Special Topics Grand Rounds: Effective Communication: How We Do it in Palliative Care

Speaker: John Mulder, MD, FAAHPM, HMDC

[Register Here](#)

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

March 11, 2025, 12-1 PM EST

Special Topics Grand Rounds: HOPE: Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences

Speaker: Mary Neumaier, RD, ACEs, Master Trainer

[Register Here](#)

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

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](#)
- [In October, Telehealth Utilization Increased Nationally and in Every Region but the Midwest, Where It Decreased](#)
- [The Latest HIPAA Requirements](#)
- [The Michigan Health Council \(MHC\) Offers Five Virtual One-Hour Implicit Bias Training Courses](#)
- [HRSA Payment Program for RHC Buprenorphine-Trained Providers](#)

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO MCRH'S 2025 ORGANIZATIONAL SPONSORS





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Michigan Center For Rural Health | 909 Wilson Road B-218 W Fee Hall Michigan State University | East Lansing, MI 48824 US

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