



# MICHIGAN RURAL HEALTH CLINIC MONTHLY BULLETIN

Volume 7 | Issue 3  
March 2025



## A Few Words From Jill:

Happy **World Kidney Day**! March is **Kidney Month**, and today is a powerful reminder of the importance of kidney health in our communities. At the Michigan Center for Rural Health (MCRH), we are proud to collaborate with the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan (NKFM) to raise awareness and provide essential resources to support rural healthcare providers in preventing and managing kidney disease.

Did you know that **1 in 3 adults in Michigan is at risk for kidney disease—and most don't even know it?** Risk factors include type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, and family history. To help address this, we've partnered with NKFM to develop the **Managing Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD): Resources for Rural Providers** toolkit. This comprehensive resource equips rural healthcare providers with the tools, guidelines, and educational materials needed to effectively screen for and manage CKD. By supporting early detection and improving patient care, the toolkit aims to reduce the impact of kidney disease in underserved communities. Explore the toolkit here:

**Managing Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD): Resources for Rural Providers**

Looking for more ways to get involved today?

- ✓ **Take the Kidney Risk Quiz** – Encourage your staff, patients, and colleagues to check their risk at [kidneymi.org/quiz](https://kidneymi.org/quiz).
- ✓ **Spread the Word** – Use NKFM's campaign toolkit at [nkfm.org/areyouthe33](https://nkfm.org/areyouthe33) to educate your team and share new resources for caregivers.
- ✓ **Raise Awareness Online** – Share the quiz on social media using #MinuteForYourKidneys and NKFM's MIKM toolkit to make participation easy.

Thank you for your continued commitment to improving health in rural Michigan. By working together, we can make a real difference in kidney disease prevention and

awareness.

Thanks-

*Jill*

## Learn More About the RHC Practice Management Webinar Series

We are excited to bring a new format for the RHC Practice Management series this year. In the past, we hosted a one-day in-person workshop, but this year, we are offering a more flexible, interactive webinar series. What we haven't changed is our partnership with Health Services Associates. This series is designed to help Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) achieve compliance, optimize operations, and improve patient care. Each session will cover key topics such as certification, billing, compliance, and more, starting with the first session on May 8th.

Julie Quinn, a CPA with over 25 years of experience in governmental compliance and cost reporting, she has spent 15 years in the Medicare Contractor arena. She holds an MBA in Healthcare Administration and specializes in assisting RHCs with cost reporting, audit resolution, rate setting, and various other cost and compliance issues.

**Cost:** \$250 for the entire series

**When:** 2nd Thursday of each month, May 2025 - April 2026

**Featured Speaker:**

Julie Quinn

Vice President of Compliance and  
Cost Reporting



Register

More Information

## Rural Health Clinic-Focused Sessions at the 28th Annual Rural Health Conference



Join us at the 28th Annual Michigan Rural Health Conference on April 24-25, 2025, where Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) will take center stage in multiple breakout sessions. These dedicated discussions will provide valuable insights into chronic disease management, reimbursement strategies, billing and coding, emergency operations, and more.

**Featured RHC Sessions Include:**

- **Strategies to Improve Screening for Chronic Kidney Disease in RHCs** (April 24, 9:05–10:00 AM)
- **Chronic Care Management: Enhancing Patient Outcomes and Clinic Efficiency** (April 24, 10:15–11:10 AM)
- **Optimizing RHC Reimbursement Opportunities** (April 24, 11:15 AM–12:10 PM)
- **Billing and Coding for RHCs: SDOH "Z Codes" and Telehealth Reporting** (April 24, 2:35–3:30 PM)
- **Emergency Operation Planning and Execution for RHCs** (April 25, 10:00–10:55 AM)

This is an excellent opportunity for RHC leaders, providers, and staff to gain actionable strategies, industry updates, and best practices to enhance care delivery and financial sustainability in rural communities.

[Register](#)

[Draft Agenda](#)

**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](mailto:kyra.burkeen@affiliate.msu.edu).

[More Information](#)

**CMS Updates Medicare Part B Preventative Vaccine Payments for Rural Health Clinics**



The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced updated payment policies for Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) regarding Medicare Part B preventive vaccines.

Key changes for RHCs:

- Effective January 1, 2025: Hepatitis B vaccines will be reimbursed like other Medicare Part B preventive vaccines in RHCs.
- Effective July 1, 2025: New claim-based payments for all Part B preventive vaccines and their administration will take effect.
- RHCs will be required to annually reconcile payments with actual vaccine and administration costs on their cost reports.

These updates aim to streamline the reimbursement process and ensure RHCs receive appropriate payment for providing preventive vaccinations to their patients.

[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 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](http://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](#)

## Lean Transformation Initiative: Enhancing Efficiency and Patient Care in Rural Health Clinics

Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) across Michigan now have an opportunity to improve efficiency, enhance patient care, and streamline operations—at no cost. As the State Office of Rural Health, MCRH is offering Lean process improvement projects to help RHCs identify inefficiencies, optimize workflows, and boost both patient and staff satisfaction.



## **Proven Results in Rural Healthcare**

With support from Federal FLEX Funds, MCRH has successfully completed over 40 Lean projects, helping healthcare facilities reduce waste, improve patient throughput, and enhance communication. Many of these projects have focused on RHCs, tackling common challenges such as reducing wait times, improving patient flow, and streamlining administrative processes. Now, your facility can benefit from this transformative initiative through a structured, three-phase Lean assessment and improvement process.

### **What to Expect: A Step-by-Step Approach to Lean Transformation**

#### **Phase 1: On-Site Lean Assessment & Patient Visit Mapping**

##### **Day 1 – Lean Assessment:**

- Our Lean team will visit your RHC to evaluate patient flow, information systems, and operational barriers.
- Staff interviews, observation walk-throughs, and group discussions will help identify inefficiencies and frontline-driven solutions.

##### **Day 2 – Value Stream Mapping the Patient Journey:**

- A detailed map of the patient experience, from pre-registration to checkout, will be created with input from staff.
- Ideally, the map will remain on display for two weeks to allow additional feedback.

#### **Phase 2: Follow-Up Session & Action Planning**

Two weeks after the initial visit, MCRH will facilitate a working session to:

- Compile a list of identified barriers and proposed solutions.
- Use an impact-effort matrix to prioritize improvement efforts.
- Offer virtual Lean coaching for ongoing support as teams implement action items.

#### **Phase 3: Final Summary Report & Implementation Guidance**

- Your facility will receive a comprehensive report outlining key findings, recommended solutions, and progress made.
- Additional on-site support is available as needed to assist with implementation.

### **Transforming Rural Health Clinics for Lasting Impact**

This initiative is more than just a process improvement project—it's an opportunity to create meaningful, lasting change within your clinic. By engaging staff in the improvement process, RHCs can achieve:

- ✓ Smoother patient flow
- ✓ Reduced delays
- ✓ Enhanced patient and staff experiences

**Get Involved – Bring Lean Transformation to Your RHC.**

Please contact Quality Improvement Advisor, Jeff Nagy, for more information.

Email Jeff Nagy

# Billing & Coding Bootcamp for RHC & FQHC



Join us for a two-day, in-person Billing & Coding Bootcamp designed for Rural Health Clinics (RHCs), Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) 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.

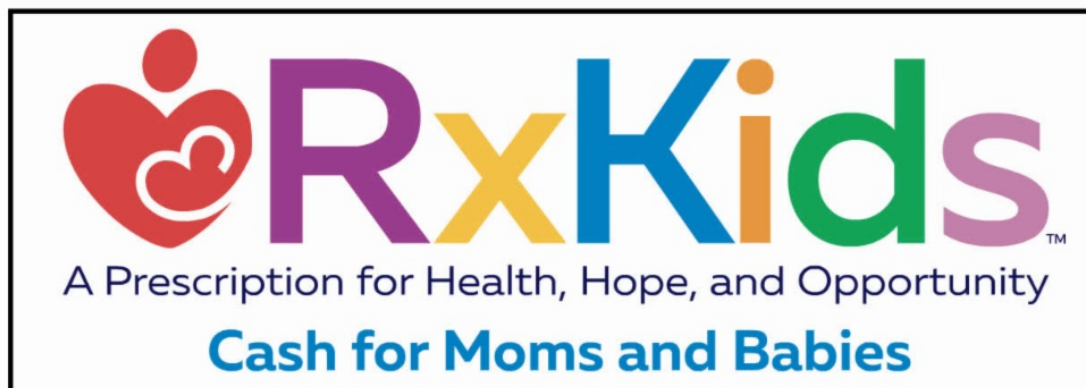
## RHC/FQHC Billing & Coding Bootcamp

- **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
- **CEUs:** 11 CEUs approved by ArchProCoding & AAPC

Register

More Information

## Expansion of Rx Kids: Eastern Upper Peninsula



Rx Kids, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at supporting maternal and infant health, has expanded into Michigan's Eastern Upper Peninsula, including Alger, Chippewa,



Luce, Mackinac, and Schoolcraft counties. This program provides all expectant mothers in these counties with a \$1,500 no-strings-attached cash payment during pregnancy, followed by \$500 per month for the first six months of the baby's life. By addressing financial stress and promoting early childhood well-being, Rx Kids seeks to create healthier beginnings for families across these rural communities.

Congratulations to the Chippewa County Health Department and LMAS District Health Department for championing this incredible program in the Upper Peninsula!

[Learn More](#)

## March American Heart Association Rural Health Updates



### American Heart Association Rural Health Updates

The **American Heart Association (AHA)** is offering new resources and opportunities to support rural health initiatives:

- Telehealth Training for Rural Providers – Rural health organizations participating in Outpace CVD can receive free telehealth training in primary care, stroke, and behavioral health by completing key program steps before May 1.
- Chronic Disease Management Tools – AHA's Target: BP and Target: Type 2 Diabetes programs offer evidence-based strategies for improving hypertension and diabetes care in RHCs.
- Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Webinar – March 27 – Learn how to move beyond screening and help patients access real solutions.

[AHA Rural Health Updates](#)

[AHA Telehealth Opportunities](#)

## HPV Vaccination Among Diverse Populations with Dr. Tracy Zivin-Tutela

Tune in to listen to an infectious disease expert discuss the burden of HPV, integrating HPV vaccination into clinical encounters, and overcoming barriers to getting vaccinated against HPV.

### Learning Objectives

- Recognize the burden of HPV-related diseases for patients and the healthcare system and the potential of HPV vaccination to reduce that burden
- Integrate appropriate HPV vaccine messaging in clinical encounters with adolescents and young adults to increase vaccine uptake
- Overcome barriers to timely HPV vaccination in key patient cohorts including males, older adolescents, and underserved populations

**ABIM MOC:** maximum of 0.75 Medical Knowledge MOC point

**Physician Assistants/Physician Associates:** 0.75 AAPA Category 1 CME credit

**Nurses:** 0.75 Nursing contact hour

**Physicians:** maximum of 0.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™

[Watch Now](#)

## Upcoming Webinar: AI Tools to Enhance Provider Effectiveness and Patient Outcomes



Join AHRQ's Digital Healthcare Research Program on March 18 from 2:30 to 4 p.m. ET for an in-depth discussion on how artificial intelligence (AI) can enhance clinician productivity, improve care quality, and increase patient engagement.

Expert panelists will cover:

- AI's role in improving provider efficiency and decision-making
- How AI-driven tools can enhance patient outcomes in clinical settings
- Ongoing research and real-world applications of AI in healthcare

Continuing education (CE/CME) accreditation is pending for this event.

[Learn More & Register](#)

## Upcoming Webinar: Remote Patient Monitoring

# in Rural Health Clinics



Join NRHA for a **webinar on March 16 at 2 p.m. CDT** to explore how **rural health clinics (RHCs) are leveraging remote patient monitoring** to improve patient outcomes and financial sustainability. Learn how RHCs successfully prevented more than 1,700 emergency room visits and secured \$267K in annual reimbursements through remote monitoring strategies.

Don't miss this opportunity to gain insights into the impact of remote patient monitoring on rural healthcare.

[Register](#)

## State Broadband Expansion & New Grant Opportunity



The Michigan High-Speed Internet Office (MIHI) has awarded \$10.6 million to 13 organizations that will serve as regional hubs for digital skills training, device distribution, and broadband accessibility. These investments, part of the Michigan Inclusive Training, Technology, and Equity Network (MITTEN) program, aim to bridge the digital divide by providing essential support for digital inclusion.

What This Means for Michigan:

- Expanded affordable broadband access
- Increased digital literacy and technology training
- Greater availability of online resources and devices

**Upcoming Grant Opportunity:** A third Request for Proposals (RFP) for Region 1A of the MITTEN Grant will be open March 10 – April 9, 2025, encouraging nonprofits, local governments, and community-based organizations to apply. Collaborative applications are strongly recommended.

More Information



## February RHC Network Quarterly Meeting Recap

On February 13th, the Michigan Rural Health Clinic Network came together for another great Quarterly Meeting. A huge thank you to our speakers for sharing their knowledge and to everyone who took the time to join the conversation. Your engagement and collaboration are what make these meetings so valuable!

This quarter's meeting covered key topics, including:

- National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Site Application & Nurse Grant Opportunity
- 2025 RHC Direct Services
- Enhancing Diabetes Quality Measures in Michigan RHCs
- Diabetes and Prevention Control Resources
  - One resource Anjanette wanted to ensure we highlighted is the American Diabetes Association's CME and webinar opportunities. Designed for a variety of healthcare professionals, including doctors, nurses, and community health workers. Many of these trainings are free and don't require a membership. You can explore these opportunities here: [DiabetesPro Catalog](#).

If you missed the meeting or want to revisit any of the presentations, you can access the slides and recording on our [website](#).



## Upcoming MCRH Educational Events

### Grand Rounds:

March 20, 2025, 12-1 PM EST

Pediatrics Grand Rounds: Rising Together: New Benefits for Michigan's Complex Children

Speaker: Danielle Pitchford, BA

[Register Here](#)

CE Provided for Social Workers, Nurses, Physicians

April 2, 2025, 12-1 PM EST

Geriatric Grand Rounds: Understanding the Grief of Older Adults

Speaker: Linda Keilman DNP, MSN, GNP-BC, DEGN, FNAP, FAANP

[Register Here](#)

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

April 9, 2025, 12-1 PM EST

Special Topics Grand Rounds: Introduction to Advance Care Planning - Level Setting

Speaker: Amy Bailey, LMSW, Advance Care Planning Specialist

[Register Here](#)

CE Provided for Social Workers, Nurses, Community Health Workers

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

## Project ECHO:

March 19, 2025, 12-1 PM EST

Infectious Diseases ECHO: Vaccination Updates for Primary Care Providers

Speaker: Dr. Peter Gulick, DO

[Register Here](#)

CME Provided

April 16, 2025, 12-1 PM EST

Infectious Diseases ECHO: Sepsis

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](#)
- [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](#)

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