



MICHIGAN RURAL HEALTH CLINIC MONTHLY BULLETIN

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May 2025



A Few Words From Jill:

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the April RHC Network Quarterly Meeting! It was an afternoon packed with valuable insights and practical strategies for Rural Health Clinics. We heard from Stacey Adams of Novo Nordisk on diabetes standards of care and medication adherence, Jackie King from Arch Pro Coding on optimizing billing and coding for diabetes care, and Jill Hewitt from Savvy Jane on chronic care management strategies for diabetes, CKD, and hypertension.

These meetings are a fantastic opportunity to connect, share, and learn together — and we'd love to see even more of you at the next one! Topics include employee engagement, workforce development initiatives, quality improvement programs, financial sustainability strategies, patient-centered care approaches, and specialized resources designed to meet the unique needs of rural health clinics.

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

The next quarterly meeting will be held on **August 21 from 1–4 pm** at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, featuring timely updates specifically for rural primary care administrators. Can't make it in person? A virtual attendance option is also available. [Register now!](#)

Below are important updates and opportunities for Michigan's Rural Health Clinics. Keep reading for more.

Thanks-

Jill

The RHC Practice Management Series has Begun!

The 2025 RHC Practice Management Webinar Series kicked off today, May 8, but it's not too late to join! This cohort-style learning series is designed specifically to help Rural Health Clinics achieve compliance, optimize operations, and enhance patient care. Sessions feature expert speakers from Health Services Associates, including a special session with Sarah Hohman, Director of Government Affairs for the National Association of Rural Health Clinics (NARHC).

Each session provides practical guidance, expert insights, and interactive Q&A to facilitate engaged learning. Plus, recordings and materials for every session are available on-demand through our Online Learning Portal—perfect for revisiting content or catching up if you join late. Registration remains open, and you can still become part of this valuable learning community!

[More Information & Registration](#)

MAY 8

Introduction to the RHC

Speaker | Tressa Sacrey, HSA

JUNE 12

RHC Certification and Recertification Processes

Speaker | Tressa Sacrey, HSA

JULY 10

Understanding RHC Billing and Reimbursement

Speaker | Marybeth Gleason, HSA

AUGUST 14

Compliance with the Conditions for Certification

Speaker | Tressa Sacrey, HSA

SEPTEMBER 11

Emergency Preparedness Requirements for RHCs

Speaker | Tressa Sacrey, HSA

OCTOBER 9

Performance Improvement

Speaker | Tressa Sacrey, HSA

NOVEMBER 13

RHC Cost Reporting: What You Need to Know

Speaker | Julie Quinn, HSA

DECEMBER 11

Health Information Privacy and Security (HIPAA)

Speaker | Tressa Sacrey, HSA

JANUARY 8

Credentialing and HR Requirements for the RHC

Speaker | Michelle Renee & Tressa Sacrey, HSA

FEBRUARY 12

Credentialing and HR Requirements for the RHC

Speaker | Michelle Renee & Tressa Sacrey, HSA

MARCH 12

Updates on Federal and State RHC Regulations

Speaker | Sarah Hohman, NARHC

APRIL 9

Creating a Compliance Calendar

Speaker | Tressa Sacrey, HSA

**Upcoming Webinar:
MI-POST & Advanced Care Planning**

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



Aleah Huse | husealea@msu.edu



Join us on **Thursday, May 22, from 12–1 pm EST** for our educational webinar, "**MI-POST and Advance Care Planning**," offered in collaboration with MDHHS and MyMichigan Health. This session is part of our ongoing commitment to improving palliative care in rural Michigan by providing essential training and resources to rural healthcare providers.

Topics covered will include:

- An overview of the Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POST) paradigm
- Effective communication of patient care wishes
- Best practices for using MI-POST forms
- Resolving conflicts between advance care documents such as DNR orders and Durable Powers of Attorney
- Recommendations from the MI-POST Advisory Committee

Advance care planning (ACP) is essential for clearly documenting healthcare preferences, helping ensure that an individual's care aligns with their personal values and wishes — especially during serious illness or near the end of life. We invite all rural healthcare professionals to join us for this valuable discussion.

Register Today

Eaton Rapids Medical Center RHC Boosts Patient Care with Lean Project

Eaton Rapids Medical Center's Rural Health Clinic (RHC) recently wrapped up a lean improvement project, supported by MCRH Flex Funds and led by Lean Fox Solutions, LLC. Launched in 2023 and extending into 2024, the project aimed to improve patient flow, satisfaction, and staff efficiency.

Through observation, interviews, and a collaborative value stream mapping process, the team tackled operational challenges head-on. Key wins included reducing phone complaints, improving the check-in process, cutting demographic and insurance errors, and boosting patient portal use by over 20%. The clinic also introduced text messaging for patients, cutting down on missed calls and voicemails.

Looking ahead, the RHC aims to increase patient productivity, boost portal usage to 60%, reduce no-show rates, and improve colonoscopy completion rates. With continued improvements, the team is confident they'll further enhance patient care and provider satisfaction.

Want to learn more?

Check out the full project write-up and contact Jeff Nagy, Quality Improvement Advisor, at jeff.nagy@affiliate.msu.edu to explore how similar projects could benefit your clinic!



Full Story

GVSU Expands Behavioral Health for Rural PAs with New HRSA Grant



**GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY**
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT
STUDIES

GVSU Expands Behavioral Health Training for Rural PAs with New HRSA Grant
Grand Valley State University's Physician Assistant Studies (PAS) program has been awarded a new HRSA grant titled *"Addressing Behavioral Health Conditions in*

Rural Primary Care Through Enhanced Preceptor, Faculty, and Student Training and Experiential Learning.” This initiative aims to grow the pipeline of PAs prepared to deliver high-quality behavioral health care in rural communities.

Building on the success of GVSU’s rural northern Michigan campus—originally funded by HRSA in 2012—the new grant will support enhanced training for PA faculty and rural clinical preceptors, along with expanded student experiential learning. Key program components include:

- A 3-month integrated behavioral health clinical rotation for PA students in rural primary care settings
- Preceptor training through UMass Chan Medical School’s Primary Care Behavioral Health Certificate (36 CME credits)
- Additional courses such as MOUD training and attendance at the Michigan Rural Health Conference
- Stipends of \$2,250 per student for preceptors, along with technology support (iPad provided for student/preceptor use)

Preceptors will host two students per year for 12-week rotations that span care across the lifespan and include at least ten behavioral health encounters weekly. Evaluations are completed mid- and end-of-rotation.

This comprehensive effort not only strengthens the rural primary care workforce but also builds long-term partnerships between education and practice sites, expanding access to behavioral health services across Michigan.

For more information or to express interest in precepting, please contact Amanda Reddy at redhya@gvsu.edu.

Program Information

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](#)

May CMS Updates for Rural Health Clinics



Stay up to date with the latest Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) updates impacting Rural Health Clinics (RHCs). Here's what you need to know:

Medicare Benefit Policy Manual Update for RHCs and FQHCs

CMS has released an update to the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 13, outlining Calendar Year (CY) 2025 requirements and payment policies for RHCs and FQHCs.

We encourage all RHC and FQHC teams to review this guidance to stay current and compliant.

View the manual update [here](#).

CMS Announces 2026 Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug Plan Payment Rates

CMS projects a 5.06% increase in Medicare Advantage (MA) plan payments for CY 2026—totaling over \$25 billion. The final rule also updates the Prescription Drug (Part D) Redesign Program Instructions, including:

- Raising the annual Part D out-of-pocket threshold to \$2,100
- Adjustments to enrollee, sponsor, manufacturer, and CMS liability under the new Part D design
- Updates tied to the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Program
- A 10% government subsidy for selected drug prices under the drug subsidy

program

View the announcement details [here](#).

Medicare Billing for Advanced Primary Care Management Services

Starting January 1, 2025, eligible providers can use a new payment bundle for Advanced Primary Care Management (ACPM). This bundle integrates:

- Principal care management
- Transitional care management
- Chronic care management

ACPM combines several existing care management and communication technology-based services to streamline advanced primary care delivery.

More information can be found [here](#).

AHA Midwest Rural Health Updates: Stroke Month, Target BP, & More



The latest American Heart Association Midwest Rural Health Updates bring valuable resources for rural healthcare teams.

► **May is American Stroke Month - Resources from the AHA**

Community Resources (Infographics, Support Network, post-stroke recipes, etc) and **Professional Resources** (Toolkit, webinar series, Get With The Guidelines, etc).

► **Last Call: Target: BP & Outpace CVD Recognition (Deadline May 16)**

Ambulatory care sites can still join nearly 2,000 organizations pursuing continuous quality improvement and national recognition. Need help with registration or data submission? Don't miss the new **Modifiable Risk Factor Policy & Procedure Template**.

► **New NIH Study Alert**

Explore the latest research on how social needs affect heart health in rural communities.

May AHA Updates

Webinar: What Do Older Adults Need to Know About Long Term Care?

WEBINAR

Long-term Care: What Do Michigan's Older Adults Need to Know?

Thursday, May 15, 2025 | 10:00–11:00 a.m. ET

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: ihpi.umich.edu/long-term-care-webinar

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A new report by the Michigan Poll on Healthy Aging reveals major gaps in planning and preparedness for long-term care among older Michiganders. Join the report's authors on May 15 at 10 a.m. (ET) for a webinar to hear about their findings and implications for older adults, families, and beyond.

There will be time for questions, and the Health Fund will join to reflect on how insights from the poll connect to our grantmaking and mission.

Register Today

Support Tobacco Cessation in Your Clinic: Training, Resources, and Referral Tools



Rural Health Clinics have several opportunities to strengthen tobacco cessation services for their patients through free resources, training, and new referral pathways.

1. Free Tobacco Cessation Toolkit

MDHHS and Healthy Behaviors Optimization for Michigan (HBOM) are offering a

free toolkit filled with resources to help your clinic support patients in quitting tobacco. The kit includes information on treatment options, nicotine replacement therapy (NRT), and Michigan Tobacco Quitlink promotional items.

Request your free toolkit [here](#).

2. MiHIN Tobacco e-Referral Pilot

The Michigan Tobacco Quitlink now offers an electronic referral pathway through MiHIN (Michigan Health Information Network), allowing providers to easily refer patients for comprehensive tobacco treatment services. Clinics using e-ClinicalWorks can join the pilot now, with new clinics and EMRs being recruited for 2025. Participation is free, and patients receive coaching, NRT, and ongoing support.

For more information, contact Karen Brown at brownk34@michigan.gov.

View the MiHIN Fact Sheet [here](#).

3. Virtual Tobacco Treatment Specialist (TTS) Training

Corewell Health and MDHHS are partnering to offer a virtual TTS training to equip healthcare professionals with skills to better support patients in quitting tobacco.

- Part 1: 10-hour online prerequisite
- Part 2: Three-day live Zoom training (May 27–29, 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. EST)
- Registration deadline: May 20.
- Needs-based scholarships are available.

Learn more and register [here](#).

New Michigan Rule Requires Blood Lead Testing for Young Children



Michigan has taken a major step to protect children from lead poisoning. New laws now require physicians to provide blood lead testing for all Michigan children at 12 months and 24 months of age. These “universal testing” requirements, signed into law by Governor Gretchen Whitmer in October 2023, are now in effect.

Under the new rules, physicians must test or order blood lead tests for children at these key ages, and at other times if a child is at risk for lead exposure. If there’s no

record of testing, children must be tested between 24 and 72 months of age. Test results will also be recorded on the child's immunization record.

"By ensuring Michigan children universally receive a blood lead test at a very young age, we can more quickly address the health risks associated with elevated blood lead levels, which will lead to healthier lives," said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, Michigan's chief medical executive.

Lead exposure can harm children's learning, behavior, speech, hearing, growth, and nervous system development—and there is no safe level of lead in the blood. Common sources include older paint, soil, drinking water from old pipes, and some imported goods.

Children with elevated blood lead levels may qualify for free nursing case management or home services through the state's Lead Safe Home Program, which helps families identify and fix lead hazards. Testing is covered under the Affordable Care Act, meaning no extra cost for families. Parents and guardians are encouraged to talk with their child's doctor about testing, especially if they have concerns about lead exposure. Families also have the option to opt out of the universal testing requirement.

To learn more about blood lead testing, services, or reducing lead risks at home, visit Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe.

Full Press Release

Free Behavioral Threat Assessment & Management Training

The Michigan State Police and MDHHS are offering six free Behavioral Threat Assessment & Management (BTAM) trainings across the state. These one-day sessions are designed for healthcare providers, administrators, HR, and security teams to help strengthen workplace and patient safety. Space is limited, so register early.

Additional Information & Registration

Join 3RNet Today!



3RNet is a free network of health professionals and employers that connects them with rural and underserved communities. Share open positions within your facilities and systems as well as seek out qualified providers who are specifically looking for opportunities in rural Michigan. 3RNet members are able to include J-1 Visa participation, loan forgiveness and scholarship programs, benefits, incentives, etc. in their postings to ensure they find the right candidate for the job.

Any questions about 3RNet can be directed to State Coordinator and Workforce Initiative Manager, Kyra Burkeen, at kyra.burkeen@affiliate.msu.edu.

Explore 3RNet

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.



Upcoming MCRH Educational Events

Grand Rounds:

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

June 05, 2025, 12-1 PM EST

Pharmacy Grand Rounds: Outpatient Management of Adult ADHD

Speaker: Jill Coveyou

[Register Here](#)

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

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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