

MCRH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

August 2025
Volume 6, Issue 8

OUR MISSION

To coordinate, plan, and advocate for improved health for Michigan's rural residents and communities



Rural Michigan Opioid and Substance Use Summit - Thank You for Joining Us!



On July 17, 2025, the **Northern Michigan Opioid Response Consortium (NMORC)**, a program of the Michigan Center for Rural Health, welcomed over 140 rural partners, 14 inspiring speakers, and 20 exhibiting sponsors to Treetops Resort in Gaylord, MI, for our annual summit.

This gathering brought together leaders and professionals from across sectors, including healthcare, behavioral health, public health, law enforcement, and community organizations, all committed to addressing substance use in rural Michigan. Attendees engaged in meaningful conversations, explored innovative strategies, and celebrated rural success stories, making a real difference in prevention, treatment, recovery, and workforce development.

We were also proud to honor our **2025 Rural Recovery Hero of the Year, Madeleine McConnell**, recognizing her as a true advocate for substance use

and opioid use disorder recovery in rural Michigan.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our exhibiting sponsors for their support, and to every attendee who contributed their time, expertise, and passion. Your commitment strengthens our shared mission to build healthier, stronger rural communities.

To view Summit presentations and stay updated as next year's summit unfolds, please visit our [website](#).

Michigan Center for Rural Health Awarded HRSA Rural Health Care Services Outreach Grant



The Michigan Center for Rural Health has been awarded a \$250,000 annual grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) through the Rural Health Care Services Outreach Program. This funding is part of more than \$15 million awarded to 58 recipients in FY2025 to improve access to care and health outcomes in rural communities.

This new four-year initiative (Advancing Health in Rural Michigan) builds on the success of MCRH's *Healing Close to Home* project, which expanded hospital-based transitional care in rural Michigan. The new effort will continue advancing rural post-acute care while adding a strong focus on community wellness and planning for end-of-life care, ensuring patients and families are supported throughout the full continuum of care.

Projects under HRSA's Outreach Program foster collaboration among local networks, use evidence-informed models, and address rural-specific needs such as chronic disease prevention, care coordination, and improved access to services.

MCRH is excited to continue and expand the work we began through the *Healing Close to Home* Outreach project. By integrating wellness initiatives with thoughtful end-of-life care planning, we can help rural Michiganders live well and age with dignity, right in their home communities.

The project period runs from August 1, 2025 through July 31, 2029.
For more information about the Rural Health Care Services Outreach Program and the FY2025 awardees, visit HRSA's award page.

More Information



Strength of Rural Spotlight Series

Michigan Assistive Technology Program: Bringing Assistive Technology to Every Corner of Michigan



August Edition

*Do you have a story to share? Know a rural organization or individual making a difference?
Email Laura Stoddard, Social Drivers of Health Manager,
at laura.mispelon@affiliate.msu.edu, and let us share your story!*

This month's Rural Spotlight shines on the Michigan Assistive Technology Program (MATP), a statewide initiative helping people with disabilities and older adults access tools that make daily life easier, no matter where they live.

From simple, low-tech aids like jar openers and magnifiers to high-tech solutions like communication devices and smart home tools, assistive technology (AT) can transform independence, safety, and participation in everyday life.

MATP offers:

- Free device demonstrations to compare options and see what works

best.

- Equipment loans for 14–45 days so you can try AT in your own environment.
- One-on-one training and support to build comfort and confidence with your chosen tools.

What makes MATP unique is its ability to serve all 83 Michigan counties, including the most rural communities. Their team meets people where they are, whether at home, work, or in the community, breaking down transportation barriers and ensuring no one is left without access.

MATP's work reminds us that rural health is about access, equity, and the tools that help people thrive in their own communities, because when the right technology meets the right support, the possibilities are endless.

[Read the Full Story](#)

2024 CMS Star Ratings: Recognizing Excellence in Michigan Rural Healthcare Facilities



The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently released the highly anticipated 2024 CMS Star Ratings. The CMS Star Ratings system evaluates various aspects of healthcare facilities, including clinical outcomes, patient experience, safety, and more. These ratings not only serve as a guide for patients seeking high-quality care but also encourage healthcare providers to continuously improve and strive for excellence. The star ratings range from one to five stars, with five stars indicating the highest level of quality and performance.

One notable aspect of the 2024 CMS Star Ratings is the recognition of exceptional rural healthcare facilities that have consistently delivered outstanding care to their communities.

Among these standouts are 7 rural Prospective Payment System (PPS) facilities and 6 Critical Access Hospitals that proudly received star ratings. These facilities have proven their commitment to excellence in patient care and clinical outcomes. Most Critical Access Hospitals don't receive a CMS Star Rating because low patient volumes and limited measure eligibility prevent

them from meeting the program's minimum reporting requirements, even when they deliver high-quality care making the achievements of this year's rated CAHs especially noteworthy.

Celebrating Rural PPS Facilities with Star Ratings

- MyMichigan Medical Center Alpena – 5 stars
- Munson Healthcare Cadillac Hospital – 4 stars
- Munson Healthcare Otsego Memorial Hospital (Gaylord) – 4 stars
- Oaklawn Hospital – 4 stars
- ProMedica Charles Virginia Hickman – 4 stars
- U of M Sparrow Carson – 4 stars
- Munson Healthcare Grayling – 3 stars

Recognizing Excellence in Critical Access Hospitals with Star Ratings

- Bronson Lakeview Hospital – 4 stars
- Corewell Health Gerber Hospital – 4 stars
- U of M Sparrow Ionia – 4 stars
- Corewell Health Pennock Hospital – 3 stars
- U of M Sparrow Clinton – 3 stars
- OSF St. Francis Hospital – 3 stars

Congratulations to the awardees!

Palliative Care Project ECHO



The Michigan Center for Rural Health is excited to be offering a new *Palliative Care Project ECHO* series beginning this September. This free, virtual education opportunity is designed for healthcare professionals interested in strengthening their knowledge and skills in palliative care delivery - especially in rural and underserved communities.

Each session includes 60 minutes of expert-led education, followed by an optional 30-minute open office hour with the speakers for case questions, discussion, and deeper engagement.

Topics include:

- Dementia and palliative care
- Cancer and pain management
- Care partner support
- Communication and advanced care planning

CME credits are available.

6 Sessions | September through December, from 12:00 to 1:30 PM EST.

Join the ECHO Session

Complete our short informational survey to register. Registration will be prioritized for doctors, advanced practice providers (APPs), and nurses. Other participants will be notified of admittance two weeks before the first session. Once you complete the survey, you'll receive an iECHO invitation within a week to access all session materials and Zoom links.

[Learn More](#)[Register](#)

Kidney Series Grand Rounds



The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan is hosting a free, four-part **Kidney Series Grand Rounds** to support healthcare providers in improving chronic kidney disease (CKD) care and outcomes. Designed for physicians, nurses, PAs, NPs, MAs, and all healthcare staff involved in chronic disease management, each session runs from 12:15–1:15 p.m. (ET) and offers 1.0 CME/CE credit.

Session topics and dates:

- Sept 10: CKD Screening, Diagnosis & Management | [Register](#)
- Oct 8: Medication Considerations in CKD | [Register](#)
- Nov 12: Nutrition & Lifestyle for CKD | [Register](#)
- Dec 3: Chronic Disease Self-Management Programs | [Register](#)

[More Information](#)

Target: BP Webinar — 2025 AHA/ACC High Blood Pressure Guideline



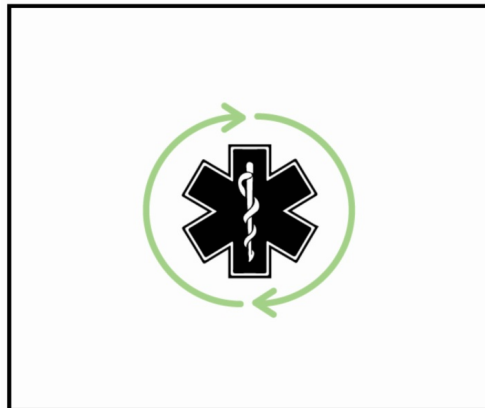
Join Target: BP for a free webinar reviewing the **2025 AHA/ACC Guideline for the Prevention, Detection, Evaluation, and Management of High Blood Pressure in Adults**. Guideline writing committee members will discuss diagnosis and treatment thresholds, risks of uncontrolled high blood pressure, risk calculation in treatment planning, recommended medication classes, and other key updates.

Date: Thursday, August 28, 2025 | **Time:** 12:00–1:30 p.m. CDT

[Learn More](#)

[Register](#)

New: Medical Legal Seminar



We're excited to announce a new EMS training opportunity! MCRH is proud to partner with Traverse City Fire Department (TCFD) and the Michigan Rural EMS Network (MiREMS) to bring a Legal Seminar for EMS with Orlando Blanco to the Traverse City area on **August 28th**.

This specialized session will cover key legal issues that impact EMS professionals, including intersectional accidents, patient refusals, and documentation pitfalls.

Date: August 28

Location: The Hagerty Center, Traverse City

Time: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

See the flyer below for full details and registration info.

Upcoming Veterans' Events in the Upper Peninsula

I-REACH Rural Veterans, the U.P. Together With Veterans and the Chippewa County Veterans Service Office are coordinating an outreach event for **Friday, September 26th, 2025, beginning at 3:30**, in conjunction with the Brimley VFW Fish Fry from 4 – 7pm. Veterans will receive a Free all you can eat fish fry platter.

I-REACH Rural Veterans, the U.P. Together With Veterans, the Drummond Island Lions Club and the Chippewa County Veterans Service Office are coordinating an outreach event for **Thursday, Oct 9th, 2025, from 12 – 2pm**, at the Drummond Island Township Hall. A **free lunch** will be served from 12 – 1pm for Veterans and seniors, and their spouse and/or caregiver.

Events are open to the public, and geared towards anyone who has ever served, anywhere, at any time, their families, and anyone providing care for a Veteran.

[Learn More](#)

Upcoming Webinar: MI-POST Advisory Committee to MDHHS and Recommendations

Join us Thursday, September 18, from 12–1 p.m. ET for an educational session on the Michigan Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment (MI POST) and its role in advanced care planning.

Objectives:

- Provide an overview of the MI POST advisory board to MDHHS
- Review recommendations from the advisory board for improvements to Michigan laws related to advanced care planning
- Provide scenarios of the MI POST in practice
- Facilitate conversation with attendees regarding their use of advance care planning tools

Speakers:

- Amy Bailey, MyMichigan Health
- Rose Seavolt, Advance Care Planning Consultant & Educator

[More Information](#)

[Register](#)

MDHHS Behavioral Health Internship Stipend Program Application Cycle Now Open!



The Michigan Behavioral Health Internship Stipend Program (MI-BHISP) aims to increase the number of qualified behavioral health professionals in Michigan by providing a stipend of up to \$15,000 to eligible student interns. MI-BHISP stipends are intended for interns who are in the process of completing a bachelor or graduate level behavioral health degree program that leads to a behavioral health profession dedicated to serving children.

The internship must be completed in the Michigan public behavioral health-based system defined as a local prepaid inpatient health plan, community mental health service program or subcontracted entity, Indian Health Service/Tribally Operated Facility or program/Urban Indian Clinic.

This application cycle closes on August 31st, 2025.

[Learn More](#)

September is National Recovery Month!



National Recovery Month is observed every September to celebrate and support those in recovery from mental health and substance use disorders. It's a time to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and promote the message that recovery is possible. The month-long observance also recognizes the dedication of service providers and the strength of the recovery community.

The Northern Michigan Opioid Response Consortium (NMORC) has funding to support recovery month events in the 25-county region. Please send your recovery month funding proposals to **Joyce Fetrow**.

Register for the Bureau of Indian Affairs Sixth Annual Opioid Summit



The Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe are proud to present the sixth annual Opioid Summit, Journey of Hope: Paths to Positive Change in the Opioid Crisis. This important one-and-a-half-day conference will take place on Wednesday, November 5, and Thursday, November 6, 2025, at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort Entertainment Hall in Mt. Pleasant, MI.

This summit welcomes all individuals and communities impacted by or working to address the opioid crisis. Attendees will include a diverse network of professionals and advocates, including:

- Victim service providers
- Law enforcement officers

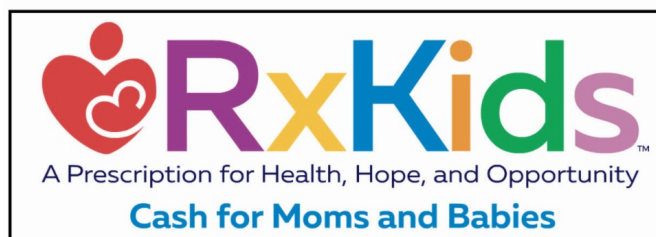
- Emergency response personnel (EMTs, paramedics)
- Health care professionals
- Educators and community organizers
- Human service and court personnel
- Therapists, addiction and recovery specialists
- Students and anyone passionate about healing and change

The goal of the summit is to foster collaboration, share resources, and inspire hope and positive action in the fight against the opioid epidemic.

This event reflects the Bureau of Indian Affairs' mission: to enhance the quality of life, promote economic opportunity, and carry out the responsibility to protect and improve the trust assets of American Indians, Indian tribes, and Alaskan Natives.

[Learn More & Register](#)

RX Kids



Rx Kids is Michigan's first *universal, unconditional cash prescription program* designed to support pregnant women and infants. Under the program, expecting mothers receive \$1,500 during pregnancy, followed by \$500 per month for the first 6–12 months of their child's life. The program's goal is to improve child health outcomes and strengthen family economic stability by reducing poverty—an especially critical issue in rural communities where families often face limited healthcare access, transportation barriers, and job insecurity.

Unlike traditional assistance programs, Rx Kids has no income limits. It is truly universal and unconditional.

To date, the program has distributed more than \$10 million to over 2,500 families statewide. Participants consistently report high satisfaction, with many noting that the financial support allows them to focus on their health and their baby's wellbeing instead of worrying about basic needs.

Expansion to Rural Michigan

On March 3, 2025, Rx Kids expanded to the Eastern Upper Peninsula (EUP), serving families in Alger, Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac, and Schoolcraft counties. Early outcomes demonstrate meaningful impact: **\$812,500 in cash prescribed, 323 families enrolled, and 189 babies born.** Local mothers, including one from Sault Ste. Marie, have shared how the program eased financial stress during pregnancy, allowing them to focus on their health and prepare for their baby's

arrival. The EUP effort is supported by the Luce Mackinac Alger Schoolcraft (LMAS) Health Department and the Chippewa County Health Department, ensuring strong local partnerships.

Clare County launched its Rx Kids program on August 1, 2025, administered by the Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD). Backed by MyMichigan Health and the Clare Community Foundation, the program is projected to serve approximately **300 families each year**. Families in Clare County already report reduced stress and an improved ability to cover essential needs such as diapers, formula, and rent.

Program Impact

Early results demonstrate Rx Kids' broad and lasting impact:

- 88% of participants report feeling more financially secure and better able to meet essential needs during pregnancy and early parenting.
- Families report significantly reduced stress, leading to healthier pregnancies and stronger starts for infants.
- Economically, the program generates a **\$1.57 return to the local economy for every \$1 distributed**, underscoring its value not only for families but also for entire communities.

Rx Kids has garnered bipartisan support in Lansing, where discussions are underway about expanding the program to additional counties—or even statewide. Leaders see it as an efficient, dignified alternative to traditional assistance models.

For rural counties such as Clare and those in the EUP, Rx Kids provides more than financial aid—it strengthens community wellbeing. By offering unconditional cash support during pregnancy and early childhood, the program promotes family stability, reduces stress, and helps infants grow into healthy children. Grounded in dignity and rural equity, Rx Kids is becoming a model for Michigan and a blueprint for regions across the nation.

Hepatitis C Newsletter Is Here!



The newest edition of the **MDHHS We Treat Hep C - Newsletter for Clinicians** is here! It features important hepatitis C updates, including:

- The new **Hepatitis C Point of Care Test and Treat Algorithm** linked on the **AASLD/IDSA HCV Practice Guidance website**.
- The **Cure Hepatitis C Act of 2025**, bipartisan legislation which aims to

support hepatitis C elimination in the United States through expanded access to hepatitis C testing and treatment, strengthening public health infrastructure, and implementing innovative care delivery models to reach vulnerable populations.

[Read the Full Newsletter](#)

NARHC Research and Education Foundation Launches Fall Scholarships!



The NARHC Research and Education Foundation (REF) has opened applications for the Fall 2025 **Quest for Rural Experience Scholarships**. Each \$3,000 award supports Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant/Associate students completing clinical rotations in Rural Health Clinics, helping cover expenses such as housing, transportation, and other educational needs. This fall, NARHC REF plans to award four scholarships.

Established in 2021, NARHC REF works to advance research on the role of RHCs in improving access to care and provides financial support to students training in rural settings.

Past recipients describe the program as transformative, citing experiences that strengthened their skills, deepened relationships with patients, and reinforced their commitment to serving rural communities.

RHCs hosting eligible students are encouraged to share this opportunity.

[Learn More](#)

SAMHSA Releases Annual National Survey on Drug Use and Health



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration recently released the results of its survey conducted every year, a national snapshot based on self-reported responses from nearly 70,000 people. This year marks the first year since 2020 in which there are at least four years of comparable data for key NSDUH outcomes to enable reporting of trends. Along with use of both legal and illicit substance use, SAMHSA's report tracks nine indicators of mental health, including anxiety, depression, mental illness, and suicidal thoughts, plans, and attempts.

Some key findings:

- Among adolescents aged 12 to 17 years in 2024, 18.8% (nearly 1 in 5) had moderate or severe symptoms of generalized anxiety disorder (GAD) including 10.6% who had moderate symptoms and 8.2% who had severe symptoms.
- Among adolescents aged 12 to 17, the percentage who had serious thoughts of suicide in the past year declined from 12.9% in 2021 to 10.1% in 2024.
- Among adolescents aged 12 to 17, the percentage who had a major depressive episode in the past year declined from 20.8% in 2021 to 15.4% in 2024.
- The percentage of people 12 or older with a drug use disorder in the past year increased from 8.7% in 2021 to 9.8% in 2024.
- The percentage of people 12 or older with an alcohol use disorder in the past year decreased from 10.6% in 2021 to 9.7% in 2024.
- In 2024, among adults aged 18 or older, 33.0% (or 86.6 million people) had either AMI or an SUD in the past year.
- During the past year, 25.5 percent of people 12 and older said that they'd used an illicit drug.
- Meanwhile, those who said they participated in binge drinking dropped slightly from 21.7 percent in 2021 to 20.1 percent in 2024.

This resource is a complement to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report last year which found that **between 2000 - 2020, suicide rates almost doubled in rural areas.**

CMS Proposes Updates to Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Payments for Calendar Year 2026 – Comment by September 12



This proposed rule from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), issued on July 16, 2025, seeks public comment on payment updates and policy changes to Medicare's physician fee schedule payments and includes other proposals affecting Medicare beneficiaries.

Proposals include removing the code and add-on payment for the Social Determinants of Health Risk Assessment, permanently adopting the definition of direct supervision that allows the physician or supervising practitioner to provide supervision through real-time audio and visual interactive telecommunications (excluding audio-only), creating an optional add-on codes for Advanced Primary Care Management (ACPM) services that would provide behavioral health integration or psychiatric Collaborative Care Model (CoCM) services proposed modifications to the way that CMS will pay for skin substitutes, a proposed negative 2.5 percent adjustment to certain non-time-based Relative Value Units (RVUs), and a new mandatory alternative payment model, the Ambulatory Specialty Model.

The proposed rule also includes proposed updates applicable to **Rural Health Clinics (RHCs)**, including extending non-behavioral health telehealth flexibilities through December 31, 2026, requiring an in-person mental health service within 6 months prior to the mental-health telehealth visit and requiring an in-person mental health visit every 12-months while the patient is receiving services, requiring RHCs and FQHCs to report and bill the individual codes for BHI and CoCM rather than the current consolidated code.

Upper Midwest Telehealth Resource Center Offers Free Healthcare AI Bootcamp

The Upper Midwest Telehealth Resource Center has partnered with a number of fellow telehealth resource centers to bring you the Healthcare AI Boot Camp. The 2025 Healthcare AI Bootcamp offers concise, beginner-friendly sessions designed to help healthcare professionals understand the opportunities, risks, and next steps in AI integration. Join them for:

- Complimentary, virtual and hybrid sessions
- Information from leadership, clinical, technical, and legal perspectives
- A program built to kickstart individual understanding of AI and its impact on healthcare

Register

MBQIP Upcoming Deadlines, Reporting Reminders, and Resources



MBQIP Data Submission Deadlines

MCRH continues to provide monthly Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project (MBQIP) updates that will help improve the quality of care provided in Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs).

MBQIP 2025 Assistance

Not sure where to start with reporting the **New MBQIP 2025 core measures**? The Data Submission Guides are a great place to start! These guides are designed to meet hospitals where they are at in their reporting journey, such as:

- Rural relevancy and buy-in
- Measure specifications
- Data collection and hospital implementation
- Data submission

- Understanding outcomes and quality improvement MBQIP

August 2025 Upcoming MBQIP Deadlines

October 1, 2025

- Hybrid Hospital-Wide Readmission (Hybrid HWR) Q3 2024 - Q2 2025 encounters (7/1/2024-6/30/2025) is due October 1, 2025. Submission is through the HQR Secure Portal-Hybrid Measures. Note: The measure is not currently being submitted for MBQIP but is available for reporting to CMS. <https://ecqi.healthit.gov/ecqm/hosp-inpt/2024/cms0529v4>

October 8, 2025

- Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) Q2 2025 encounters (4/1/25-6/30/25) is due October 8, 2025. Submission is through the HQR Secure Portal-Vendor. <https://hcahpsonline.org/en/quality-assurance/>

October 31, 2025

- Emergency Department Transfer Communication (EDTC) Q3 2025 encounters (7/1/25-9/30/25) is due October 31, 2025. **Connect with Crystal Barter @ barthcry@msu.edu** for submission process details.

Coming Soon

CAH Quality Inventory and Assessment – The Assessment will go live on Monday, September 15, 2025 and will be open through Friday, November 21, 2025. Please watch your email for this year's link to the Assessment.

Resource Updates

CAH eCQM Resource List

This document outlines the inpatient eCQM reporting requirements and the alignment between two Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) programs: the Promoting Interoperability (PI) Program and the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting Program: CAH eCQM Resource List

Monthly MBQIP Data Submission Deadline Document

Be sure to review the Monthly MBQIP Data Submission Deadline document for July! This resource contains a chart showing the upcoming MBQIP Core Measure data submission deadlines and is updated monthly: Data Submission Guidelines

NEW RESOURCE – MBQIP Navigator

The MBQIP Navigator is a powerful guide designed to streamline the MBQIP reporting process for hospitals.

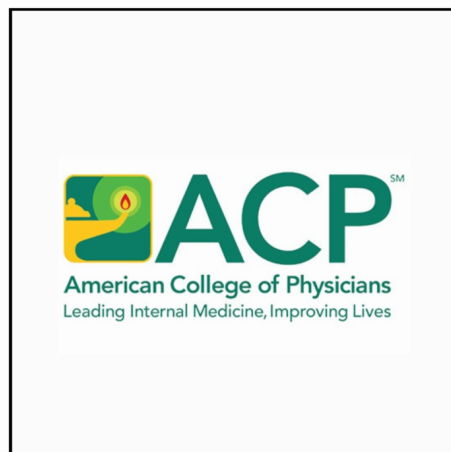
Key Features and Benefits:

- Comprehensive guidance for all MBQIP core measure reporting
- Seamless navigation across all four reporting mechanisms
- Step-by-step setup and submission instructions
- Reporting worksheet for Flex programs and hospitals

- Central hub linking to essential MBQIP resources and tools

Whether you're new to MBQIP reporting or a seasoned professional, the **MBQIP Navigator** provides the support you need to ensure accurate and timely measure reporting.

Upcoming Public Health Grand Rounds: Fall Vaccine Updates for Health Care Professionals



The Michigan Chapter of the American College of Physicians (MI-ACP), in collaboration with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), invites all health care professionals to attend an important Public Health Grand Rounds session:

From Policy to Practice: What Internists Need to Know About the Latest Vaccine Recommendations

- Thursday, September 11, 2025

- 12:00 PM ET (Virtual)

Presenters:

- *Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, MD, MPH, FIDSA, FACP — Chief Medical Executive, State of Michigan*
- *Shari Erickson, MPH — Chief Advocacy Officer, American College of Physicians*

This timely session will provide a comprehensive overview of Michigan's fall vaccine landscape, including progress and disparities in immunization rates, state-level strategies to improve vaccine uptake, and national policy updates that may impact clinical practice. Whether you're an internist, family physician, pharmacist, nurse, or any other health care professional, you'll gain valuable insights into what to expect this fall and how to support vaccine confidence and access in your community.

[More Information](#)

[Register](#)

Upcoming MCRH Educational Events

Grand Rounds:

September 10th, 2025, 12-1 pm EST

Dietetics Grand Round: Federal Child Nutrition Program Availability & Participation in Rural Areas of Michigan

Speaker: Deanne Kelleher, PhD, RDN

[Register Here](#)

CME Provided for Dietitians, Physicians, Nutritionists, Social Workers, Nurses, Community Health Workers, Advanced Practice Providers

ADDITIONAL NEWS & RESOURCES:

RURAL EMERGENCY HOSPITALS:

[Thinking of Converting to REH? Key Observations from Financial Modeling](#)

[Updated Guidance for Rural Emergency Hospitals \(REHs\)](#)

PALLIATIVE CARE:

[Access to Outpatient Palliative Care: Insights from Michigan](#)

TELEHEALTH:

[Expanding Dental Care to Children Through Telehealth](#)

[Building Michigan's State Broadband Plan](#)

[VIDEO: How Broadband Access Positively Impacts the Growing American Workforce](#)

HOSPITAL PROGRAMS:

[Michigan Value Collaboration Rural Health Workgroup July Meeting](#)

[The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\) Rural Emergency Hospital Specifications Manual version 3.0](#)

PRIMARY CARE:

[CMS Enhancing Coverage of Preventive Services Under the Affordable Care Act](#)

[CMS Finalizes New Model to Improve Access to Kidney Transplants](#)

[Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute \(PCORI\) Funding: Improving Mental and Behavioral Health – Letters of Intent January 14](#)

[CMS Announces New Lower Drug Prices for 2026 / Negotiated Pricing Fact Sheet](#)

[CMS Innovation in Behavioral Health Model](#)

[New Changes to Behavioral Health Intensive Outpatient Program Coverage in Medicare](#)

[Medicare Advantage Plan Growth in Rural America: Availability of Supplemental Benefits](#)

SOCIAL DRIVERS OF HEALTH:

[Updated Michigan Overdose Data to Action Dashboard](#)

[HHS Launches New "Food as Medicine" Resources](#)

[The U.S. Playbook to Address Social Determinants of Health](#)

[MiTracking Program: Michigan-specific environmental, health & population data](#)

[Geographic and Demographic Correlates of Living in Manufactured Homes: Implications for Health](#)

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER:

[Take 10! Transforming Care for Women with Substance Use Disorders \(SUDs\) and Their Families Webinar Series](#)

[Opioid Settlement Resource Center - The Michigan Association of Counties \(micounties.org\)](#)

[Opioid Settlement Overview Table](#)

[Recovery-Ready Workplace Toolkit for Businesses](#)

[Rural Communities Opioid Response Program – Pathways](#)

WORKFORCE:

[Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Program for Paraprofessionals](#)

[Statewide Investment Helps Youth Explore Future Careers In Michigan](#)

[Mental Health in the Rural Workplace](#)

[Navigating Workplace Violence: Safety Strategies for Managing Agitation and Aggression](#)

VETERANS:

[VA Makes it Easier for Veterans to Use Community Care](#)

[Sign up for Veterans Health Updates](#)

[Sign up for the VA Office of Rural Health \(ORH\) quarterly newsletter](#)

[Questions about VA healthcare? Attend the Veterans Healthcare Workgroup Monthly Meeting on the Second Monday of Every Month at 1 PM EST \(Zoom Link\)](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

[National Poison Prevention Week | Poison Help](#)

[Michigan Pediatric Readiness Conference](#)

[Obstetric Care Access at Rural Hospitals in the United States](#)

[Local Data for Equitable Communities Grant Program](#)

[Rural Residency Planning and Development \(RRPD\) program](#)

[New Map Shows Rural Emergency Hospitals](#)

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