

MCRH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

May 2025
Volume 6, Issue 5

OUR MISSION

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



Michigan Hospitals Earn National Recognition for Outstanding Patient Experience



Three rural Michigan hospitals have been nationally recognized with the **2025 Outstanding Patient Experience Award™** from Healthgrades, the #1 site Americans use when searching for a doctor or hospital. This prestigious award honors hospitals that excel not only in clinical quality but also in creating a positive and supportive experience for patients.

The following rural hospitals earned this distinction, placing them in the ***top 15% of hospitals nationwide*** for patient experience:

- UofM Health-Sparrow Carson Hospital
- Ascension Standish Hospital
- MyMichigan Medical Center Alpena

These hospitals stood out based on nine key measures of patient satisfaction, including doctor and nurse communication, hospital cleanliness, noise levels, and clear instructions regarding medications and post-discharge care. Their inclusion on this elite list highlights the exceptional dedication of rural

healthcare teams to patient-centered care.

Congratulations to all of Michigan's recognized hospitals for setting a national example of excellence in rural healthcare.

2025 RURAL MICHIGAN OPIOID AND SUBSTANCE USE SUMMIT

Vision to Action: Creating Connections.



The Northern Michigan Opioid Response Consortium (NMORC), a program of MCRH, hosts its annual summit to unite rural partners across Michigan in addressing substance use. The event features panel discussions, voices of lived experience, and opportunities to share best practices in prevention, treatment, recovery, and workforce development.

Why Attend the Summit?

Join us for a powerful day of learning, connection, and inspiration:

- Highlighted Rural Success Stories
- Cross-Sector Collaboration
- Workforce Development Focus
- Recovery-Centered Conversations

Why Sponsor or Exhibit?

Have your organization's resources in front of all of the Summit attendees and help support this event!

2025 Rural Recovery Hero Award

Know someone making a difference in Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery? Nominate someone today!

[Additional Information & Registration](#)

The RHC Practice Management Webinar Series has Begun!

The 2025 RHC Practice Management Webinar Series kicked off, 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!

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

[Register](#)

[More Information](#)

Billing & Coding Bootcamp: A Success!



MCRH recently hosted a highly successful Billing and Coding Bootcamp, drawing over 90 participants from across the rural health spectrum. The training was led by nationally recognized expert John Burns, CPC, CPMA, RH-CBS, CH-CBS, Vice President of Audit and Compliance Services at ArchProCoding.

Nearly half of the attendees represented Hospital-Based or Independent Rural Health Clinics (RHCs). Others came from FQHCs, Behavioral Health Clinics, County Health Departments, and EMS agencies, showcasing the growing importance of billing and coding excellence across rural and community health settings.

Over the day-and-a-half workshop, participants dove into key themes such as:

- Documentation & Coding Accuracy
- Compliant Billing Practices
- Quality Reporting
- Shared Responsibility in Closing Knowledge Gaps

Mr. Burns guided attendees through *“Our Shared Path”*, a hands-on approach to:

Prepare for Patient Visits → Greet the Patient → Treat & Document the Visit → Code the Full Encounter → Report Billable Services & Validate Payments → Cost/Quality Reporting

Attendees also had the opportunity to earn CEUs relevant to coding, billing, RHC, and FQHC work.

We’re proud to share that:

- 41 participants indicated they wanted to be signed up and receive the test for RHC certification.

- 14 participants indicated they wanted to be signed up and receive the test for FQHC certification.
- 13 participants indicated they wanted to be signed up for both the RHC and FQHC certification test.

Thank you to all who participated—your commitment to accuracy, compliance, and continuous learning makes a lasting impact on the quality of care in rural communities.

Save the Date:

As reminder, MCRH will be hosting a Critical Access Hospital Billing & Coding Bootcamp on August 7-8, 2025, at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort. More information coming soon!

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 GVSU Senior Affiliate Faculty member, [Amanda Reddy](#).

[More Information](#)

MDHHS Updates MMR Vaccine Guidance Amid Measles Outbreaks



The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) updated guidance May 9 on the administration and reimbursement of the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine. The bulletin outlines how providers may administer and receive reimbursement for MMR vaccines delivered outside of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommended schedule.

These updates support ongoing hospital preparedness efforts and broader access to preventive vaccines during outbreak situations.

[More Information](#)

MHEF Funding Opportunities



Capacity Building:

The Michigan Health Endowment Fund's Capacity Building grant program is now accepting concept papers! This opportunity is designed to strengthen health-focused, community-based organizations by enhancing their infrastructure, leadership, and long-term sustainability. It also encourages collaboration among providers, service agencies, and community groups working together to improve health outcomes.

Concept papers are due **June 10**.

Community Health Impact Initiative:

The Health Fund's Community Health Impact Initiative is seeking to support health-focused, community-based organizations with bold ideas that empower communities to solve their most pressing health issues and successfully implement community-driven health solutions. Grassroots organizations, neighborhood groups, and small and medium-sized nonprofits are encouraged to apply.

Concept papers are required as part of the application process and are due **June 4 at 5 p.m. (ET)**. Applicants who submit concept papers determined to be competitive by reviewers will receive an invitation to submit a full proposal due by **July 15 at 5 p.m. (ET)**.

For more details about our grant priorities, proposal criteria, and the application process, please view the RFP below or register for our webinar on **May 21 at 12 p.m. (ET)**, when we'll share more information and answer questions from attendees.

[MHEF Website](#)

[MHEF Grant Database](#)

EMS Week 2025



EMS WEEK

May 18-24, 2025

We Care. For Everyone.

MCRH celebrates rural EMS providers during EMS Week 2025! During EMS Week, May 18-24, check out [EMS.gov](https://www.ems.gov) for resources, events, and training that celebrate this year's theme: *We Care. For Everyone.* As in years past, each day of the week features a theme to help guide the planning of special events, celebrations and training:

- Sunday, May 18: Health, Wellness, and Resilience - A day to emphasize the importance of self-care for EMS professionals.
- Monday, May 19: Education - A time to showcase the training and education that empower EMS teams to provide top-notch care in high-pressure situations.
- Tuesday, May 20: EMS Safety - Today focuses on creating a culture of safety for both EMS providers and the communities they serve.
- Wednesday, May 21: EMS for Children - EMS Focus Webinar on May 21, 2025. [Register Here.](#)
- Thursday, May 22: Save-a-Life - Learn about public CPR training, Stop the Bleed, and other programs that encourage bystander education. Consider holding or participating in a local blood drive.
- Friday, May 23: EMS Recognition - Celebrate the outstanding work and achievements of EMS professionals who go above and beyond every day.
- Saturday, May 24: EMS Remembrance - This day is set aside to honor EMS heroes who have died in the line of duty and to recognize these fallen professionals and their families.

In addition, please check out the EMS section of the MCRH website to gain a better understanding of the resources that MCRH provides for rural EMS providers! This includes [EMS education](#), [EMS Grants & Programs](#), and [EMS resources](#).

EMS Week 2025 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 is now open and closes on June 4th.

[More Information](#)

Updates to Medicare Claims Processing Manual for RHCs and FQHCs Chapter 9



The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently released updates to the Medicare Claims Processing Manual Chapter 9 for Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). The updates reflect changes to billing and claims processing, including updates from the CY 2025 Physician Fee Schedule.

[More Information](#)

Webinar: Medicare Care Management Billing Strategies



The Rural Health Information Hub is hosting a webinar on **Friday, May 30, 2025, at noon EST**, on new Medicare care management billing codes that can support care coordination and help your organization improve quality of care for Medicare beneficiaries.

The presenters will discuss actionable steps to help your organization plan for and implement these billing codes. Experts will discuss new billing codes that can support care coordination and quality of care for Medicare beneficiaries.

[Information and Registration](#)

2025 Michigan Healthcare Workforce Plan



The Michigan Health Council (MHC) developed the *2025 Michigan Healthcare Workforce Plan* to address long-standing and evolving challenges. Supported by the **Michigan Health Endowment Fund**, this effort aims to guide the implementation of data-driven solutions to our state's healthcare workforce challenges.

[Read the Report](#)

New Campaign Promotes Men's Mental Health: "Speak Up, Man"

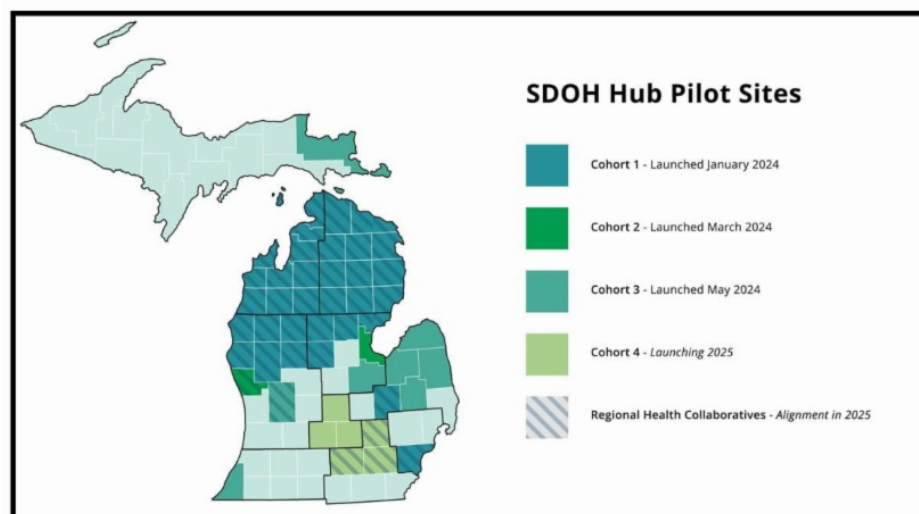


The *Preventing Suicide in Michigan Men (PRiSMM)* program has launched a powerful new media campaign aimed at improving mental health outcomes for men across the state. Titled **“Speak Up, Man,”** the campaign tackles the stigma surrounding mental health and encourages adult men to seek help when they’re struggling.

Men are often less likely to talk about their mental health or seek support—yet doing so can be lifesaving. The “Speak Up, Man” campaign delivers a clear message: **It’s okay to ask for help. Speak up. The life you save could be your own.**

[More Information](#)

Advancing Health Equity in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula: Region 1



The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recently featured Region 1’s innovative efforts to address social determinants of health, led by Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Community Action Agency (CLM CAA) and the Chippewa County Health Department (CCHD). Together, they’re making strides across key priority areas:

- **Community Information Exchange (CIE):** CLM CAA launched park-based QR code signage, connecting seven new households to services. CCHD is restructuring a regional CIE with the Eastern Upper Peninsula ISD, with new systems set to launch in June.
- **Health in All Policies (HiAP):** With a Healthy Community Zones grant, CCHD is expanding nutrition education through MIHP and WIC, while supporting families in growing their own produce—aligning closely with SDOH Hub priorities in food access and maternal health.
- **Community Health Workers (CHWs):** CHWs at CCHD continue to connect residents to care and support community-driven solutions.

Region 1 is a powerful example of rural collaboration driving real progress in health equity.

[Learn More](#)

Thank You, Helen Newberry Joy Hospital!



Helen Newberry Joy Hospital donates \$500 to the Upper Peninsula Together With Veterans. This was done in support of the HNJVH and UP TWV Veterans Health resource fair scheduled for June 5, 2025.

Left to right is Mandy Butkovich, HNJVH Chronic Care and Veteran Services Coordinator, Jim Yates, Michigan Center for Rural Health I-REACH Veterans Program Manager, Alli Holbrook, HNJVH Population Health Manager, and Koreen Troyer, HNJVH Director of Community Clinics.

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



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

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](#).

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. More information can be found [here](#), or contact Karen Brown at brownk34@michigan.gov.

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 Reporting Updates

MBQIP 2025 Assistance

Not sure where to start with reporting the new MBQIP 2025 core measures 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

Data Submission Deadlines

May 2025 Upcoming MBQIP Deadlines

July 9, 2025

- Reporting Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) Q1 2025 encounters (1/1/25-3/31/25) is due **July 9, 2025**. Submission is through the HQR Secure Portal-Vendor. **Quality Assurance Guidelines V.19.0**

July 31, 2025

- Emergency Department Transfer Communication (EDTC) Q2 2025 encounters (4/1/25-6/31/25) is due **July 31, 2025**. Connect with Crystal Barter @ barthcry@msu.edu for submission process details.

New Releases!

MBQIP 2025 Core Set Information Guide

MBQIP 2025 Submission Deadlines

MBQIP Measures List

Educational Opportunities

Upcoming Webinar: MICAH QN MBQIP Learning Session

Presented by: Nicole Freeman and Ann Loges from Telligen

When: Thursday, May 29, 2025, 12:00 – 1:00 PM (ET)

Join us for an informative session focused on the Hybrid Hospital-Wide All-Cause Readmission (HWR) measure and its relevance to MBQIP reporting. This webinar, led by experts from Telligen, will provide valuable insights and practical guidance for Critical Access Hospitals.

What You'll Learn:

- Overview of the Hybrid HWR measure

- Key data reporting elements and requirements
- How to report the measure specifically for MBQIP

Questions or need to register?

Contact Amanda St. Martin at amanda.saintmartin@affiliate.msu.edu

Don't miss this opportunity to strengthen your hospital's quality reporting efforts!

Strength of Rural Spotlight Series

Nation Outside: Expanding Trauma-Informed Peer Reentry into Rural Michigan

May Edition



Each month, we highlight an organization making a powerful impact in Michigan's rural communities.

This month, we're proud to feature **Nation Outside** and their groundbreaking *Trauma-Informed Peer-Led Reentry (TIPLR)* program.

Returning home after incarceration is never easy, but in rural Michigan, the barriers are even greater. That's why Nation Outside launched the Trauma-Informed Peer-Led Reentry (TIPLR) program in partnership with the Michigan Department of Corrections. Built by and for justice-impacted individuals, TIPLR offers critical, hands-on support from peer navigators, many of whom have lived through the reentry process themselves. In under a year, the program has reached over 800 individuals across 55 counties, with 97% successfully avoiding reincarceration.

Nation Outside is now working to expand TIPLR into more rural counties and the Upper Peninsula, where demand is growing and access to peer support is urgently needed. This is more than just a program; it's a movement that honors lived experience, promotes healing, and builds pathways to purpose through meaningful employment and community connection.

Do you have a story to share? Know a rural organization or individual making a difference?

Full Story

Upcoming MCRH Educational Events

Grand Rounds:

June 4, 2025, 12-1 PM EST

Special Populations Grand Rounds: Post Traumatic Growth & Differing Responses to Trauma

Speaker: Adam McGuire, PhD

[Register Here](#)

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

June 5, 2025, 12-1 PM EST

Pharmacy Grand Rounds: Outpatient Management of Adult ADHD

Speaker: Jill Coveyou, PharmD

[Register Here](#)

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

June 12, 2025, 12-1 PM EST

Pediatric Grand Rounds: Pediatric Readiness Across the Continuum of Care

Speaker: Samantha Wroblewski, DO, MPH & Aubree Verlinde, MSN, RN

[Register Here](#)

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

ECHO:

June 18, 2025, 12-1 pm EST

Infectious Disease Project ECHO- Latent TB

Speaker: Dr. Peter Gulick, DO

[Register Here](#)

CME Provided

EMS:

June 24, 2025, 6-7pm EST

EMS Webinar Series: Endocrine Emergencies

Speaker: Shelly Szymanski, Paramedic, EMSIC

[Register Here](#)

CME Provided

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:

[CMS Updates Hospital Policies for Fiscal Year 2025 and Finalizes a New Payment Model for Select Surgeries](#)

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](#)

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:

[Sign up for Veterans Health Updates](#)

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

[View an online copy of the new 2025 VA benefits booklet](#)

[Veteran Satisfaction and Trust in VA Telehealth Continues to Rise](#)

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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