



MICHIGAN RURAL HEALTH CLINIC MONTHLY BULLETIN

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Happy spring, Michigan Rural Health Clinic Network!

Thank you to everyone who attended last month's RHC Quality Network meeting. If you missed it or would like to review the recording and slides, log in or register for the [MI RHC Collective](#), our new online platform for staff working in Michigan Certified Rural Health Clinics. The Collective was created to support connection, learning, and collaboration among RHC professionals. It was great to see so many of you in person at the quarterly meeting and at the 29th Annual Michigan Rural Health Conference!



It can be hard to step away from the office for in-person events like these, and we appreciate your continued support for the Michigan Center for Rural Health's work. The power of face-to-face conversations, learning, and connection is energizing for our office, and I hope it is for you too. Check out MCRH's monthly newsletter next Thursday for a recap of the event, including photos!

In other news, spring is a busy time in Michigan, and Aleah, our Projects & Communications Coordinator, and I have been traveling around the Lower Peninsula this month visiting clinics participating in our second cohort of the Chronic Kidney Disease Learning Collaborative. This second cohort includes Gibson Family Health Clinic in Newberry; Kalkaska Medical Associates in Kalkaska and Mancelona; and Trinity Health System Northern Michigan RHCs in Hart, Ludington, Shelby, and Whitehall. In partnership with the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan, our third cohort just held its first collaborative session on April 29! Please email me if you are interested in learning more, or check out our [Managing Chronic Kidney Disease \(CKD\): Resources for Rural Providers Toolkit](#).

This month's newsletter is short and sweet. If you have any feedback on how we can improve our communications, please reply to this email.

Public health, healthcare workers, and our communities are under a great deal of pressure right now. At MCRH, our mission is to coordinate, plan, and advocate for improved health for Michigan's rural residents and communities. This has been our mission for 35 years as of 2026. The State Office of Rural Health Program continues to

demonstrate the importance of rural resiliency and healthcare coordination. **As discussed during the quarterly meeting in April, funding opportunities through the Rural Health Transformation grant are coming soon.** This Michigan Department of Health and Human Services grant includes \$173 million to be expended during this abbreviated grant year from December 29, 2025, through October 30, 2026. The Michigan Center for Rural Health is prepared to support Michigan's Certified Rural Health Clinics through this grant year and in the years to come. This includes having a dedicated team member to assist RHCs with RHTP applications. Please keep an eye out for upcoming communications from our office about ways to engage in this work.

Thanks,

Jill



Accurate documentation, billing, and coding are critical to the financial stability of Michigan's Rural Health Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Clinics (FQHC), local public health agencies and Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs). This class is specifically designed for coders, billers, EHR professionals, clinical personnel (MD, DO, NP, PA, RN), facility and financial managers.

What's Covered:

- Clinical documentation and coding best practices
- Billing compliance and maximizing reimbursement
- Medicare, Medicaid, and commercial payer strategies
- Hands-on practice with essential coding resources

Who Should Attend?

- Coding, billing and revenue cycle staff
- Facility and financial managers
- Quality reporting professionals
- Clinical providers (MD, DO, NP, PA, RN)

The 2025 Bootcamp received great reviews. Participants praised the balance of practical instruction and broad perspective. ***"I loved that it was billing and coding so that each department could see what the other must do. Certainly, it helps bridge some gaps in communication,"*** one attendee noted. Another reflected on the value of peer learning: ***"Networking with other billers working at other facilities is very helpful. Knowing others may struggle with the same complications and denials helps me understand it's not just our system."***

Providers also attended the 2025 Bootcamp and found it eye-opening. One shared, ***“This has been amazing and opened my eyes to how my work impacts others down the line. I wish more of this would be taught in the early education and internship phases of my career.”*** Their presence underscored the importance of connecting documentation at the point of care with the downstream processes of coding and billing.

This intensive training will focus on clinical documentation, coding, and billing to ensure compliance, optimize reimbursement, and prepare participants for optional certification.

Registration Fee: \$70 (valued at \$499) CEUs: 11 CEUs approved by ArchProCoding & AAPC

Program Schedule:

June 9 | Day 1: 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

June 10 | Day 2: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Location: Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, Mount Pleasant, MI 6800 Soaring Eagle Blvd, Mt Pleasant, MI 48858

Room block closes on May 18th.

[Learn More & Register](#)

Michigan Medicaid Releases CPT/HCPCS Code Updates Effective April 2026



The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recently released Medicaid Bulletin MMP 26-15 outlining new and updated CPT/HCPCS code coverage changes impacting a broad range of provider types, including Rural Health Clinics (RHCs), Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), outpatient hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, and physician practices.

The bulletin includes:

- Coverage of new CPT/HCPCS codes effective April 1, 2026
- New coverage of existing procedure codes
- Retroactive coverage for select services back to January 1, 2026
- Discontinuation of several HCPCS procedure codes effective March 31, 2026

Of particular interest to rural providers, RHCs and FQHCs were identified as eligible billers for several newly adopted codes. In addition, MDHHS announced retroactive coverage for select dental and medical procedure codes, which may create opportunities for rebilling or claims adjustments where appropriate.

The bulletin also serves as a reminder for organizations to review:

- Chargemaster updates
- Billing system edits
- Prior authorization requirements
- Coding workflows
- Claims reprocessing opportunities

Hospitals, clinics, and billing teams are encouraged to review the full bulletin carefully and coordinate with coding, finance, compliance, and outpatient departments to ensure systems and workflows are updated accordingly.

[Read the Full Bulletin](#)

Superior Health Quality Alliance



Superior Health Quality Alliance believes good health requires great connections. We serve as the bridge between the important goals of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the unique needs of our local communities. Drawing on decades of experience, we are dedicated to supporting clinics, nursing homes, and hospitals by providing premium, hands-on quality improvement assistance to help achieve health care quality and safety goals for Medicare beneficiaries.

As the CMS Quality Innovation Network – Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) for the Great Lakes Region, Superior Health provides no-cost technical assistance to providers in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. This includes support for chronic disease management, behavioral health integration, patient safety, care coordination, and health care quality—all aligned with CMS national goals. See the attached flyer to learn more about how we assist outpatient clinics. To access this assistance, please complete the enrollment form to begin the process or reach out to info@superiorhealthqa.org for more information.

[Learn More](#)

[Complete the Enrollment Form](#)

New Kidney Grand Rounds



The NKFM is collaborating with MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine to offer free CME/CEU learning opportunities through a monthly Kidney Grand Rounds series from April through September.

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

The next session is on June 17
Integrating CKD into the Cardiometabolic
Continuum!

CDC: New Data on Chronic Conditions



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provide data on the prevalence of heart disease, cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and stroke among adults age 45 and older by level of rurality, using data from the CDC's 2024 National Health Interview Survey.

[Read the Study](#)

NKFM Finding Your Way – A Roadmap to Social Systems



The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan (NKFM) is currently working to better understand the unique realities rural health workers and residents face as they navigate social systems and access essential resources. As they work to develop the next edition of *Finding Your Way – A Roadmap to Social Systems and Resources*, NKFM is gathering insight directly from those serving rural communities to help shape a resource that is practical, relevant, and grounded in real-world experiences.

The updated guidebook aims to simplify complex application processes, clarify eligibility requirements, and connect residents with available supports. As part of this effort, NKFM is specifically seeking feedback on barriers unique to rural communities, gaps in available resources, and the tools or information that would make it easier for both providers and community members to navigate basic needs.

Input from rural partners will help ensure the resource reflects the realities of rural life and supports stronger access to care and services across Michigan communities.

Feedback can be submitted by clicking the link or scanning the QR code.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Shaun Taft at staft@nkfm.org.

Take the Survey

Expand Your Expertise in Quality and Patient Safety with Free Access to IHI Open School



Members of the Michigan Critical Access Hospital Quality Network have a special opportunity to deepen their knowledge of patient safety and quality improvement through the [Institute for Healthcare Improvement \(IHI\) Open School](#).

Through the Michigan Center for Rural Health free spots are available for members to complete a curated series of online learning modules and earn the Basic Certificate in Quality and Safety. These self-paced, interactive courses build foundational skills that strengthen quality improvement work in rural healthcare settings, making them an excellent fit for both new and experienced team members.

MCRH encourages hospital quality leaders to take advantage of this opportunity to stay current with best practices that drive improved outcomes for patients. This program offers practical, applicable tools for day-to-day improvement efforts while also providing nationally recognized certification.

Participants who complete the required modules will earn the IHI Basic Certificate in Quality and Safety, a credential that demonstrates commitment to excellence in patient care.

To learn more or reserve your free spot, contact Amanda St. Martin, Hospital Programs Manager, at amanda.saintmartin@affiliate.msu.edu.

Nurse Engagement Strategies That Are Helping Rural Hospitals Cut Early Turnover



Wednesday, June 3, 1:00 - 2:00 pm CST

Rural healthcare leaders know the cost of losing good nurses — especially new graduates. With nearly 30% of new nurses leaving their first job within a year, it's time to look beyond the usual fixes. In this educational session, you'll explore what's working in rural hospitals right now — from stronger onboarding to building a culture of engagement that keeps nurses invested long after orientation ends.

Nicole Weathers, MSN, RN, NPD-BC, a nursing professional development specialist with over a decade of experience supporting rural hospitals, will share research-backed insights and practical strategies rural facilities are using to reduce turnover and build stronger teams — even with limited resources.

You'll leave with:

- Evidence-based insights into why new graduate nurses leave — and what keeps them engaged.
- Practical engagement strategies rural hospitals are using to improve retention.
- A clear understanding of how structured transition programs — including nurse residencies — fit into a broader rural workforce strategy.

Bring your questions — and leave with ideas you can put to work immediately.



Share the RHC Newsletter

This newsletter is designed for Rural Health Clinics in mind, but we know the value doesn't stop at your inbox.

If you find these updates helpful, consider forwarding the newsletter to others on your team or in your network who work in or support Rural Health Clinics. Whether it's a provider in your primary care clinic, a biller or coder managing RHC claims, or a colleague interested in rural health - sharing is a simple way to strengthen connections and keep everyone informed.

Know someone who should be added to the list? They can [subscribe here](#) or reach out to us directly.

Additional Resources

Here are some topics impacting the RHC Community in Michigan this month.

Funding Opportunities

- [National Main Street Center](#)
- [AHRQ Small Research Projects to Advance the Science of Primary Care \(R01 and R03\)](#)

Resources:

- [Personal Protective Equipment for Influenza A \(H5N1\) in High-Risk Farm Settings: Proceedings of a Workshop](#)
- [Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Database: April Update](#)

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