



MICHIGAN RURAL HEALTH CLINIC MONTHLY BULLETIN

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August 2026

A few words from Jill

It is hard to believe August is already here. I hope you have been able to enjoy some of Michigan's summer along the way. This month's newsletter brings together timely updates, upcoming educational opportunities, and practical resources for Michigan's Rural Health Clinics.

I encourage you to [register for the next Michigan Rural Health Clinic Quality Network Quarterly Meeting on August 27 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. ET.](#) The virtual meeting will feature Rural Health Transformation Program updates, including upcoming funding opportunities; practical de-escalation strategies for rural health teams; and guidance on HCC coding to help clinics capture the true complexity of their patients. [View the meeting agenda.](#)

I hope you will join us for an afternoon of learning, updates, and connection with RHC colleagues from across Michigan.

Thanks,

Jill



2026 RURAL MICHIGAN PALLIATIVE CARE SUMMIT

September 24, 2026 | Grayling, MI



Registration is open for the **Rural Michigan Palliative Care Summit**, taking place **September 24** at **Kirtland Community College**. This one-day event will bring together rural healthcare professionals to explore practical strategies for expanding access to palliative care, improving care coordination, and supporting patients with serious illness. Sessions will cover payment and sustainability, interdisciplinary care, dementia, communication, and community-based models. MCRH is applying to receive CME, SW and CHW credits, 4-6 credits depending on approval

[Learn More](#)

[Register](#)

Michigan Medicaid Work Requirement Resources

As Michigan prepares to implement federal Medicaid work requirements and more frequent eligibility reviews, rural providers and community partners continue to have questions about how these changes may affect the people they serve. MCRH has gathered state guidance, outreach tools, educational webinars, and research to help partners stay informed and support their communities.

[Read the Full Story](#)

Proposed 2027 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Includes Key RHC Updates



The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the Calendar Year 2027 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Proposed Rule on July 14. While these policies are not yet final, the proposed rule includes several changes that could affect Rural Health Clinics beginning in 2027.

Of particular interest to RHCs, CMS proposes recognizing Diabetes Self-Management Training (DSMT) and Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) as qualified preventive services. This change would allow RHCs to receive the All-Inclusive Rate for these services when provided as stand-alone billable visits.

CMS also proposes continuing certain telehealth flexibilities for RHCs through December 31, 2027, including delaying the in-person visit requirements associated with certain mental health services.

Additional proposals affecting Medicare providers include:

- A projected 1.19% decrease to the conversion factor for qualifying Alternative Payment Model participants and a 1.68% decrease for nonparticipants
- Changes to remote patient monitoring billing that would limit the use of third-party contractors or vendors
- Changes to the office/outpatient evaluation and management visit complexity add-on code
- Revised calculations for practice expenses
- New codes for advance care planning
- Additional changes to the Medicare Shared Savings Program

These provisions remain proposals and may change before CMS issues the final rule. RHC leaders and other interested organizations are encouraged to review the proposed policies and submit comments to CMS by September 14, 2026.

The 2026 3RNet Academy Registration is Now Open!



Registration for the 2026 3RNet Academy is now open! The 3RNET Academy 2026: Strategic Marketing for Recruitment is a six-part webinar series designed for healthcare

HR professionals and recruitment leaders in rural and underserved communities. Grounded in the Recruiting for Retention framework developed by 3RNET, this year's focus equips participants with modern marketing strategies to attract mission-aligned healthcare providers in a competitive workforce environment.

The Michigan Center for Rural Health is covering the cost of the academy for all of our partners in rural Michigan!

Questions? Reach out to [Kyra](#) for answers!

[Learn More and Register](#)

Billing & Coding Updates for Michigan RHCs



Several Medicare and Medicaid billing changes require attention from Michigan Rural Health Clinics over the coming months. Review the updates below for important effective dates, preparation steps, and additional guidance.

Review Medicare Preventive Vaccine Billing Practices

Since July 1, 2025, RHCs have been required to bill Medicare Part B preventive vaccines and their administration at the time of service for patients with Original Medicare. This includes influenza, pneumococcal, hepatitis B, and COVID-19 vaccines.

Although these services are paid outside the RHC All-Inclusive Rate, accurate claims are still important for cost reporting. Improper billing may prevent vaccine and administration costs from being included in the clinic's Medicare cost report reconciliation, potentially affecting reimbursement.

RHCs should review their current billing workflows to confirm that vaccine and administration claims are submitted correctly and associated costs are properly captured. [Read the billing overview](#) from Health Services Associates, or [review the official CMS guidance](#).

Michigan Medicaid Behavioral Health Billing Changes Begin September 1

Michigan Medicaid Bulletin MMP 26-30 introduces new enrollment and billing requirements for certain limited licensed, non-physician behavioral health providers. The changes take effect September 1, 2026, and apply to RHCs and several other provider types.

Eligible services provided by properly supervised limited licensed behavioral health providers within an RHC will continue to qualify for reimbursement through the All-Inclusive Rate methodology. Beginning September 1, institutional claims must identify the supervising provider in the Attending Provider field and the limited licensed provider who performed the service in the Other Provider/Rendering Provider field.

The bulletin also establishes billing codes for Level of Care Utilization System and Michigan Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Screener assessments provided to fee-for-service beneficiaries:

- MichiCANS Screener: H0002
- LOCUS: H0031

Currently enrolled limited licensed providers must also update their CHAMPS information with their supervising provider's NPI and association by November 1, 2026, to avoid disenrollment and claim denials. [Review Michigan Medicaid Bulletin MMP 26-30.](#)

RHC Telehealth Billing Changes October 1

Beginning October 1, 2026, RHCs will no longer use HCPCS code G2025 to bill for distant-site telehealth services. Clinics must instead report the individual CPT or HCPCS code that describes the service provided, along with the appropriate telehealth modifier.

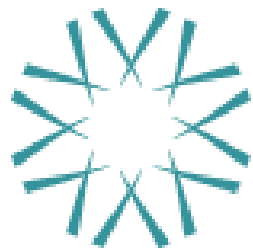
RHC billing teams should review the new requirements, confirm which modifiers apply, and update internal billing systems and workflows before the effective date. [Read the full telehealth billing overview](#) from Health Services Associates.

Major Maternity CPT Coding Changes Coming in 2027

RHCs that provide obstetrical services should begin preparing for a significant coding transition. Effective January 1, 2027, the American Medical Association will eliminate the long-standing global maternity care CPT codes. Providers will instead report separate CPT codes for antepartum care, labor and delivery, and postpartum services.

Current maternity coding guidance remains in effect through December 31, 2026. Clinics do not need to change their billing practices yet, but this is a good time to educate billing staff, evaluate workflows, and prepare for implementation. [Learn which codes are changing and what your clinic can do to prepare](#) on the Health Services Associates blog.

Updated Rural Hospital and Clinic Finance Guide Available



NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH RESOURCE CENTER

The updated *Small Rural Hospital and Clinic Finance 101 Guide* is now available from the Technical Assistance and Services Center (TASC).

Designed for readers with varying levels of financial experience, the guide provides an introduction to rural health care finance, including payment structures, intervention strategies, and the top 10 financial indicators for Critical Access Hospitals. It can help rural health professionals strengthen their understanding of key financial concepts and support the financial performance of CAHs and Rural Health Clinics.

[Access the Guide](#)

Provider Alert: Recalled Toys May Contain Asbestos

Health care providers should be aware of a nationwide recall involving “Orb Funkee” squeeze toys sold at Walmart and Ollie’s Bargain Outlet. The sand inside the toys may contain tremolite, a form of asbestos. Patients should be advised to stop using and safely dispose of the recalled products immediately.

There is currently no testing or imaging that can determine exposure or future health risk. Providers should document any reported asbestos exposure in the patient’s medical record. Patients or clinicians with questions may contact the MDHHS Environmental Health Hotline at 800-648-6942 and ask to speak with a toxicologist.

[Learn More](#)

Free Tuberculosis Infection ECHO Course for Primary Care Teams



Primary care team members interested in strengthening their ability to test and treat patients for tuberculosis infection, also known as latent TB, are invited to participate in the Regional Tuberculosis Infection ECHO Course this fall.

This free, six-session virtual course will connect primary care professionals with tuberculosis experts from the Global Tuberculosis Institute, Brown University ECHO hub, and participating health departments. Sessions will cover patient risk assessment, testing options, treatment and monitoring, common challenges, and considerations for children, pregnant patients, and unhoused populations.

Sessions will be held on select Thursdays from September 3 through December 10, 2026, from 12:15–1:15 p.m. ET. Participants may receive up to six CME credits.

[Register](#)

Kidney Grand Rounds | *Managing Complications of Chronic Kidney Disease: What to Watch for and When to Refer*



NATIONAL KIDNEY
FOUNDATION®

Join the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan and Michigan State University on **August 19 from 12:15–1:15 p.m. ET** for a Grand Rounds webinar on managing complications of chronic kidney disease. This practical session will explore how primary care teams can recognize and manage common CKD complications, balance cardiovascular and kidney-protective therapies, and identify when a referral to nephrology is warranted.

Register

More Kidney Education

2026 NEMI Regional Food Summit



Join farmers, health professionals, food producers, educators and community leaders for the free 2026 NEMI Regional Food Summit on September 9 at the UAW Conference Center in Onaway.

The summit will feature practical sessions on strengthening Northeast Michigan's food system, including regenerative agriculture, food-as-medicine strategies, business development and access to funding. The event runs from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., followed by an optional farm tour from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Lunch is provided, and travel stipends are available for farmers.

Register & Learn More



The Northern Michigan Opioid Response Consortium (NMORC), a program of MCRH, is committed to strengthening recovery housing across our region by providing technical assistance, training, and resources to support recovery home operators. We invite you to join us for the NMORC Recovery Housing Forum on September 22 from 4:00–7:00 p.m.

to connect with recovery housing professionals, learn best practices, and collaborate to enhance recovery support throughout Northern Michigan.

[Learn More](#)

[Register](#)

NEW MDHHS Opioid Settlement Matching Initiative Announced

Great news coming out of Lansing - Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is looking to **maximize** impact of state and local opioid settlement funding by recently launching a Local Government Opioid Settlement Matching Fund Initiative.

This Initiative opens counties and municipalities receiving opioid settlements funds to propose **individual or regional projects** that may be eligible to receive coordinated investment with MDHHS. Local governments must first commit their local opioid settlement funds in order to be eligible for the state matching funds. Matching fund ratios will vary based on several factors including: project category, demonstrated need, readiness, and alignment with state priorities.

Beginning in August, MDHHS will begin accepting letters of intent on a rolling basis. Submissions are due by 11:59 PM on the 15th of each month.

[Learn More](#)

New MDHHS Videos Support Prediabetes Awareness



The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has released two new videos explaining prediabetes, why it matters and two steps individuals can take right away: complete the one-minute prediabetes risk test and find a Michigan-based Diabetes Prevention Program.

Available in **30-second** and **three-minute** versions, the videos can be shared by RHCs and customized with information directing patients to local Diabetes Prevention Programs. Access the videos on the [MDHHS Diabetes website](#) under “[People with Prediabetes](#)” and “[DPP Delivery Organizations](#).”

Sustainable Digital Chronic Disease Management | Webinar



Join NRHA on **Wednesday, September 2, from 2–3 p.m. ET** to explore practical strategies for implementing sustainable remote patient monitoring (RPM), chronic care management (CCM), and advanced primary care management (APCM) programs. Rural telehealth leaders will share lessons for improving chronic disease outcomes, reducing acute care use, and addressing common workflow, staffing, billing, and technology barriers.

Register & Learn More

Top Provider Enrollment Mistakes in Rural Primary Care & Behavioral Health — And How to Fix Them



Join NARHC for a **free webinar on August 31 at 2 p.m. ET** focused on common provider enrollment mistakes in rural primary care and behavioral health. Experts from Health Services Associates will share strategies to prevent denials, reduce credentialing delays, improve payer workflows, and streamline enrollment processes.

Questions can be directed to webinars@narhc.org

Register Today

New Toolkit at RHHub: Rural Mobile Healthcare

Rural
Mobile Healthcare
Toolkit



The Rural Health Information Hub (RHIhub), in collaboration with the NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis, has released a free [Rural Mobile Healthcare Toolkit](#). The toolkit explores the benefits and challenges of mobile healthcare and offers practical resources for planning and implementing a program. It also highlights successful mobile healthcare models from rural communities across the country.

Additional Resources

Publications & News

- [As Alpha-gal Syndrome Spreads, Rural Providers Are on the 'Front Line'](#)
- [Data Sources & Tools Relevant to Rural Health](#)
- [Michigan WIC Program increases income threshold, more families may now qualify.](#)
- [Food and Health: Time Spent Eating, Acquiring Food, Preparing Meals, and Being Physically Active Among U.S. Adults, 2022-2023](#)
- [Postoperative Pain Management in Rural Communities](#)
- [When Policy Exists but Practice Fails: Rethinking Cognitive Screening as a Public Health Delivery Problem](#)
- [Rural at Heart: Making Golden Years Brighter](#)
- [Seasonal Influenza & COVID-19 Vaccine Pricing for 2026–2027 Season](#)

Funding Opportunities

- [Older Adults Home Modification Grant Program | Application Deadline: Aug 31, 2026](#)
- [Consolidated Grant Program to Assist Children and Youth Affected by and to Engage Men and Youth in Preventing Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking | Application Deadline: Sep 8, 2026](#)
- [Mobility, Access, and Transportation Insecurity Program | Letter of Intent \(Required\): Aug 21, 2026 | Application Deadline: Sep 30, 2026](#)



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.

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