

# Annual Rural Health Clinic Summer Summit

## The Compliance Team

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# NRHA

**Your voice. Louder.**

NRHA is a national nonprofit membership organization with more than 21,000 members, made up of a diverse collection of individuals and organizations with the common goal of ensuring all rural communities have access to quality, affordable health care.

**Our mission is to provide leadership on rural health issues.**

# What We Fight for on Behalf of Rural

- Investing in a Strong Rural Health Safety Net
- Reducing Rural Healthcare Workforce Shortages
- Addressing Rural Declining Life Expectancy and Inequality



# Regulatory Updates

# Recent Regulatory Activities

- **CY 2024 Policy & Technical Changes to Medicare Advantage proposed rule.**
- SAMHSA Medications for Opioid Use Disorder proposed rule.
- CMS Advancing Interoperability and Improving Prior Authorization proposed rule.
- **DEA Expansion of Induction of Buprenorphine via Telemedicine proposed rule.**
- FCC Rural Healthcare Program proposed rule.
- FY 2024 Skilled Nursing Facility Prospective Payment System proposed rule.
- FY 2024 Inpatient Prospective Payment System proposed rule.

# Recent CMS Guidance

## RHC guidance from CMS on urbanized area

- CMS interim [guidance](#) for RHCs re: “urbanized area” definition
  - Using 2010 and 2020 Census for eligibility determinations.

## CMS COVID-19 Health Care Staff Vaccination Requirements Final Rule

- Final rule removes requirement all health care staff at CMS-certified facilities be vaccinated against COVID-19.
- This Moving forward, CMS will encourage vaccination through quality reporting measures.

# Looking Ahead

- Medicare Physician Fee Schedule
  - Changes to the regulations to include MFTs and Mental Health Counselors
  - Creation of Intensive Outpatient Services code and special payment rules
- Minimum staffing standards for nursing homes
- Outpatient Prospective Payment System
- OPPS Remedy for 340B Drugs Purchased in CYs 2018 – 2022

# Updates from Congress



# Support the Rural Health Infrastructure: RHCs

- [S. 198/H.R. 3730](#), Rural Health Clinic Burden Reduction Act
  - Modernizes RHC physician supervision requirements by aligning them to state scope of practice laws governing PA and NP practice.
  - Removes a requirement that RHCs must “directly provide” certain lab services on site and allows RHCs to satisfy this requirement if they have *prompt access* to required lab services.
  - Removes a redundant requirement that RHCs employ a PA or NP and allows RHCs to satisfy the PA, NP, or CNM utilization requirements through a contractual agreement.
  - Fixes “urbanized area” in the statute.
  - Allows RHCs to provide a majority of behavioral health services if they are located in a mental health-Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA).
- Developing RHC quality reporting program with enhanced payment
- More on the rural hospital infrastructure can be found [here](#)

# Strengthen the Rural Health Workforce

- Expand the Medicare Graduate Medical Education (GME) program
  - [S. 230/H.R. 83 Rural Physician Workforce Production Act](#)
  - [S. 665 Conrad State 30 and Physician Access Reauthorization Act](#)
  - [H.R. 751 Fair Access in Residency Act](#)
- Support development and capacity of health care providers
  - [H.R. 2761 Reintroduce Improving Care and Access to Nurses Act](#)
- Support loan repayment programs
  - [S. 940 Rural America Health Corps Act](#)

# Address Rural Health Equity

- Expand Access to Maternal Health Services
  - [S. 948 Healthy Moms and Babies Act](#)
- Permanently Expand Telehealth Provisions
  - [CONNECT for Health Act](#)
    - Including in person payment parity for RHC and FQHC services
- Expand Access to Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
  - [S. 1673/ H.R. 1666 Protecting Access to Ground Ambulance Medical Services Act](#)
- Support Rural Public Health Capacity
  - Reauthorize and increase funding for new CDC Office of Rural Health

# 2024 President's Budget

- Key rural elements of [President's 2024 budget](#)
- NRHA 2024 Appropriations requests
  - CDC Office of Rural Health - \$10m
  - Increases Rural Maternal & Obstetric Management Strategies – \$24.6m
  - Rural Hospital infrastructure and sustainability
    - USDA Technical Assistance Program - \$5m
    - Financial and Community Sustainability for At-Risk Hospital Program - \$10m
    - Rural Hospital Stabilization Pilot Program - \$20m
  - Rural Residency Planning and Development Program- \$14.5m
  - Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant Program - \$73m
  - Behavioral Health and SUD treatments
    - Rural Communities Opioid Response Program - \$165 million
    - Rural Health Clinic Behavioral Health Initiative - \$10 million

# 2023 Farm Bill

- Sent Farm Bill requests letter to House and Senate Agriculture Committee leadership
- Requests include:
  - Addressing hospital capital, capacity building grants/loans
  - Supporting Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN)
  - Developing farmer and agriculture worker crisis hotline
  - Supporting and increasing funding for nutrition programs like SNAP, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, and Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program
  - Addressing childcare

# New Advocacy Resources

- **Legislative Agenda**
  - Summary of key rural health legislation and priorities
    - Broken down by our three policy pillars (health equity, workforce, and hospital infrastructure)
- **Hospital Bills One-Pager**
  - Breakdown of our key rural hospital infrastructure bills
  - Great to use for as a leave behind or follow up
- **FY24 Appropriations Priorities One-Pager**
  - Breakdown of NRHA's appropriations requests
  - Great to use for as a leave behind or follow up



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