

RURAL HEALTH CLINIC CONNECTION



Mississippi Rural Health Association Recognizes Awardees at Annual Conference

The Mississippi Rural Health Association recognized significant individuals and hospitals for dedication to excellence during the Mississippi Rural Health Annual Conference held on November 17-18, 2022 in Jackson, MS. Held during Mississippi / National Rural Health Day, these awards are presented to symbolize and recognize the superior work performed by providers, administrators and facilities that make up Mississippi rural health care system. *Awardees are as follows:*

State Legislator of the Year: **Sen. Ben Suber**

Senator Suber, among many bills, sponsored the Rural Emergency Hospital bill that will allow hospitals to convert to a new model that emphasizes emergency care in rural communities.

National Legislator of the Year: **US Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith**

Senator Hyde-Smith has once again received this award from the association due to her continued support of national legislation supporting rural health practice, including hospital funding, telehealth, reducing administrative burden, and more.

Mary Ann Sones Distinguished Leadership Award: **Paula Turner, MRHF**

The Association's top leadership award was presented to Paula Turner of North Mississippi Health Systems. Paula is a past president of the association and has been an active member for more than a decade. She has led substantial membership growth in the association and has been active in legislative support and advice to the association.

One Rural Award: **Michael Nester**

The One Rural Award is presented to Michael Nester, administrator of H.C. Watkins Hospital in Quitman, for his consistent work with the association as treasurer of the organization as well as having been very active in legislative advocacy, often traveling with the Association and MHA to Washington D.C. for legislative visits.

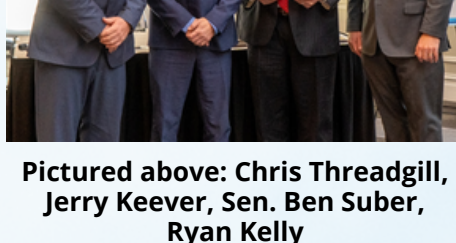
Hospital Quality Awards:

Each year, the Chartis Group recognizes the top quartile of hospitals in the nation based on quality outcomes from CMS data. The following hospitals were recognized and awarded by the Association for this exceptional quality:

Baptist Memorial Hospital – Booneville
Baptist Memorial Hospital – Calhoun
Baptist Memorial Hospital – Leake
North Mississippi Medical Center – Eupora
North Mississippi Medical Center – Iuka
Baptist Memorial Hospital – Attala

Scott Regional Hospital
Neshoba County General Hospital
North Mississippi Medical Center – Pontotoc
HC Watkins Memorial Hospital
Laird Hospital
North Mississippi Medical Center – West Point

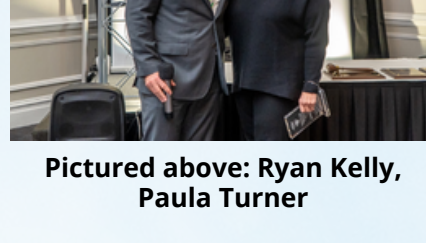
All award recipients received a recognition piece for their accomplishment. For questions or more information, please contact Ryan Kelly at 601-898-3001 or ryan.kelly@mississippirural.org.



Pictured above: Chris Threadgill, Jerry Keever, Sen. Ben Suber, Ryan Kelly



Pictured above: Chris Threadgill, Jerry Keever, Umesh Sanjanwala, Ryan Kelly



Pictured above: Ryan Kelly, Paula Turner



Pictured above: Jerry Keever, Ryan Kelly

(Click any photo above to see full size)

Local

All Mississippi RHCs Must Now Submit Cost Reports via the New Mississippi Cost Reporting Web Portal



The Mississippi Division of Medicaid (DOM) recently informed all rural health clinics in the state about a change in how to submit cost reports. DOM has contracted with Myers and Stauffer (MSLC) & Gainwell Technologies to design and build a secure Cost Reporting web portal. The web portal will be utilized by DOM to securely receive cost report submissions and supplemental information and securely transmit rate letters and policy communication directly to providers. Moving forward, all rural health clinic cost report submissions must be transmitted via the Mississippi Cost Reporting web portal.

- Click the website linked
- Scroll down to the "Cost Reporting Web Portal" section of the web page
- Click "Web Portal Registration Form 06-17-2021"
- The registration form can now be accessed in your browser's downloads screen.

This website also contains training information, user guides, and FAQ documents to help acquaint you with the web portal submission process. The completed registration form, and any questions, may be sent via email to MS_Web_Portal@mslsc.com.

[Visit Website Here >](#)

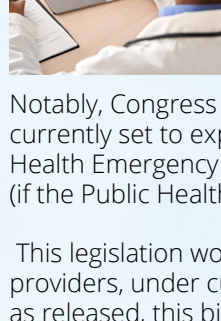


MRHA Members Support Food / Monetary Donation to Mississippi Food Network

Due to the generous contributions of Mississippi Rural Health Association members, the Association recently donated approximately 150 lbs of food and \$2,500 to the Mississippi Food Network. This effort is on behalf of Association efforts toward celebrating Mississippi Rural Health Day, calling attention to the many food deserts that exist in our state.

National

CAA, 2023 Extends Medicare Telehealth Policy Through 2024



Congress released draft text this week for the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, also known as the yearly "Omnibus" package which will fund the federal government for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2023.

Notably, Congress extended several Medicare telehealth flexibilities, currently set to expire on the 152nd day after the end of the Public Health Emergency (PHE) to now continue through December 31, 2024 (if the Public Health Emergency ends before 12/31/2024).

This legislation would allow RHCs to continue as telehealth distant site providers, under current G2025 policy, through 12/31/2024. If passed as released, this bill would also delay in-person requirements for mental health services done via telehealth until January 1, 2025 (or the end of the PHE, if later).

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Rural Health Clinic



Patient-Centered Medical Home



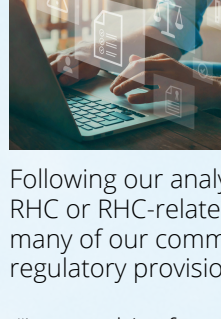
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CMS Finalizes 2023 Regulatory Updates



In November 2022, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the CY 2023 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) Final Rule. This year's rule finalizes several Rural Health Clinic (RHC) policies originally proposed in July 2022, which NARHC summarized here.

Following our analysis, NARHC submitted comments to CMS on each RHC or RHC-related provision. While CMS considered and incorporated many of our comments, we continue to lack clarity on several important regulatory provisions.

"It was a bit of a quiet year for RHC-specific policy," said Nathan Baugh, Executive Director of NARHC. "We were hoping for more issues to be clarified in the physician fee schedule rules this cycle and I remain flummoxed as to why CMS has not yet found a way to allow RHCs to do remote patient monitoring. We did get some key questions surrounding cost reporting for grandfathered RHCs solved, but we have a myriad of coding and reporting issues, from the G2025 telehealth system to our lack of ability to use category II CPT codes, that are still on our list of issues to solve with CMS."

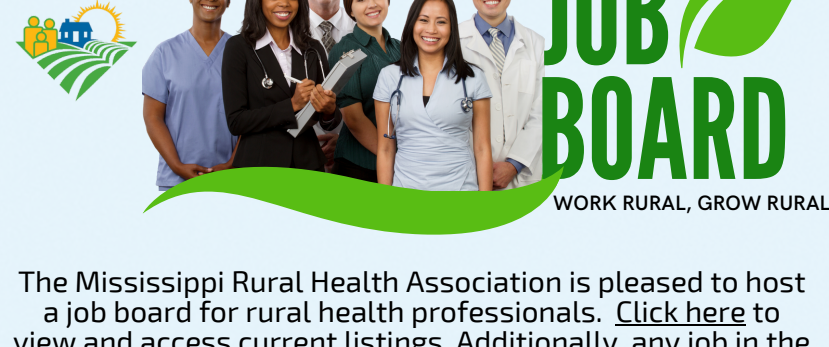
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22 Tips to Fix Declining Reimbursements

Take a look at our latest eBook built by our certified billers.

[Download](#)



The Mississippi Rural Health Association is pleased to host a job board for rural health professionals. [Click here](#) to view and access current listings. Additionally, any job in the rural health sector is now being accepted on the job board.



Become a Certified Rural Health Clinic Professional (CRHCP)

The National Association of Rural Health Clinics knows that in order for RHCs to thrive and grow, their employees, especially those in a leadership role, need the most up to date information on the federal and state guidelines pertaining to the Rural Health Clinic program. RHCs have distinctly different rules when it comes to operations and management.

The Mississippi Rural Health Association, in partnership with the State Office of Rural Health and Primary Care, recently offered scholarships for eight participants for the Spring, 2023 cohort. Although all complementary spots are now filled, we encourage clinics to participate in this excellent course to become a Certified Rural Health Clinic Professional.

[Click here to learn more.](#)



MISSISSIPPI RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION



Join us for the

2023 Rural Health Clinic Conference

May 19, 2023 | Virtual
More details coming soon...

www.MSRHA.org/events



We would like to thank our many annual sponsors who support our association in so many ways! To learn more about how our sponsors can benefit you, visit our vendor directory at www.msrha.org/sponsors.



Mississippi State Department of Health
Office of Rural Health and Primary Care

