

*29th Annual* 

# MISSISSIPPI RURAL HEALTH CONFERENCE 2024

**November 20-22, 2024 | Vicksburg, MS**



MISSISSIPPI  
RURAL HEALTH  
ASSOCIATION



# Event Agenda



## Pre-Conference Workshop

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

### 10:00AM ● RHC Billing / Coding Update

John Burns, ARCH Pro Coding

This workshop will update rural health clinics with strategies and best practices for coding procedures and billing claims.

### RHC Regulatory Compliance and its Impact to Patient Care & Safety

Christy Stewart, The Compliance Team

This session will update rural health clinics with regulatory best practices and compliance measures to maximize patient care.

### 2025 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule Update

Jeff Harper

This session will update rural health clinics with physician fee schedule information.

4:00PM ●

## DAY ONE Main Conference

Thursday, November 21, 2024

### 8:00 AM ● Registration and Vendor Discovery

Breakfast will be served.

### 9:00 AM ● Breakout Session 1

#### Track 1 - How RPM Can Benefit RHCs and Communities

Dr. Xiaoxu Kang

This session will review Remote Patient Monitoring services including benefits, reimbursement, key factors to ensure success, and red flags to avoid.

#### Track 2 - Balancing Patient Care and Education at the Jackson Free Clinic

Dr. Kaitlyn Barber

This session will review preclinical students' impact on clinic efficiency and how to balance student education and patient care.

### 10:00 AM ● Breakout Session 2

#### Track 1 - Driving Increased Revenue Through Billable Care Management Programs

Brandy Hoell MSN, RN, CCM

The discussion will focus on the opportunities and structured program development required to successfully implement care management services in your organization. This track includes understanding how to create new revenue streams through billable care management services and gaining knowledge about CMS goals for population health.

#### Track 2 - Reducing Challenges and Barriers for Patients with Pre-Diabetes and Diabetes

Hillary Meier

This track will highlight the Delta Health Alliance's success, challenges, best practices, and resources that have benefitted participants all with the help from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

## 11:00 AM ● Breakout Session 3

### Track 1 - Implementation of TeleCritical Care in Two Critical Care Access Hospitals in Mississippi

Dr. Andrew Wilhelm

This track will help participants understand the TCC framework, including technology, integration, and roles of involved parties, evaluate the program's impact on patient outcomes, transfer rates, and provider capabilities, and identify challenges and best practices for implementing TCC in other rural areas.

### Track 2 - Vaping and Our Youth: Understanding and Addressing the Teenage Epidemic

Beverly Johnson

This track will provide healthcare professionals with the knowledge and tools to address vaping among teens and young adults. This includes understanding recent trends and statistics, recognizing health risks and long-term effects, and exploring effective communication strategies for engaging with staff, parents, and teachers about the dangers of vaping.

## 12:00 PM ● Break / Vendor Discovery

## 12:15 PM ● Awards and Annual Business Meeting

Lunch will be served.

## 1:00 PM ● Keynote Presentation: Navigating the Financial Frontier: Transforming Rural Healthcare, One Community at a Time

Quentin Whitwell

This session will explore the balance between providing healthcare services to rural communities and achieving financial stability. CEO and Founder of Progressive Health Group (PHG), Quentin Whitwell will discuss strategies that the PHG team is taking to improve rural healthcare across the nation. Participants will learn what Rural Emergency Hospitals (REH) are and how Progressive Health Group (PHG) is changing rural healthcare starting in Mississippi.

## 1:30 PM ● Mississippi Rural Health Day Reception / Vendor Hall

## 2:30 PM ● Breakout Session 4

### Track 1 - Addressing Hospital Financial Headwinds Through Clinical Revenue Cycle Redesign

Glenn Krauss RHIA, CCS & Keith Stokes, MD

This track will address financial challenges in healthcare can be greatly improved through a coordinated clinical revenue cycle. Traditionally, the revenue cycle operates in isolation, but integrating its five key components—Physician Advisor, Case Management, Utilization Review, and Coding—can enhance efficiency and reduce payer denials, leading to better financial outcomes.

### Track 2 - The Changing Landscape of Rural Oral Health – Policy and Innovations

Piper Martin and Zil Joyce Romero

This track will explore how to improve access to oral health in rural and underserved areas through various policies and programs. It will cover topics such as community water fluoridation, Medicaid payment policies, and workforce strategies, with a focus on current efforts in Mississippi and the U.S. The National Rural Oral Health Initiative will also be discussed, including its impact and resources.

## 3:30 PM ● Break / Vendor Discovery

## 3:45 PM ● Breakout Session 5

### Track 1 - Struggles and Opportunities of Mississippi's Critical Access Hospitals

Steve Marinelli

This presentation from a Mississippi rural hospital CEO will analyze the major challenges faced by Mississippi's critical access hospitals and demonstrate why they are pivotal to the health of rural communities.

### Track 2 - Addressing Rural Food Insecurity Through Community Lead Program Design: Lessons from the MS Delta

Natalie Minton, Jillian Morrison, and Sophie Hathaway

This session will focus on tackling food insecurity in rural Mississippi, specifically in the Mississippi Delta, through community engagement and program design by the Community First Research Center (CREW) at the University of Mississippi and its partners.

## 4:45 PM ● Downtown Vicksburg Trolley Tour\*

## 5:30 PM ● Downtown Vicksburg Reception\*

These events are optional. Registration is required.

# DAY TWO

Friday, November 22, 2024

**8:00 AM ● Registration and Vendor Discovery**

**8:45 AM ● Plenary Session 1: Patient Advocacy in Diabetes Care: A Journey of Listening and Empowerment**

Lorie Mills

This session will detail a personal journey through the complexities of the healthcare system, highlighting the gap between hearing information and truly listening to it. The author reflects on how both they and their healthcare providers often heard but did not fully understand the underlying messages. They discovered that inaccurate data and generic documentation often fail to capture the true patient experience. This realization led them to advocate for themselves and others, confronting both systemic issues and personal barriers to effective listening. Their ongoing journey emphasizes the importance of listening to improve care quality and overall well-being.

**9:45 AM ● Plenary Session 2: Seeking Solutions for the Maternal Health Crisis: Development of Community-Based FM-OB Training Programs**

Melissa Stephens

After several studies were conducted in the years 2016-2020 on women's health and reproductive care outcomes, the MMRC or Mississippi Maternal Mortality Review Committee released a report on maternal deaths during that time. This session will explore the results of the survey, how to understand the results and ways to move forward with these results.

**10:30 AM ● Break / Vendor Discovery**

**10:45 AM ● Plenary Session 3: Embracing the Changes to a Successful Intensive Outpatient Program**

Melissa Sawyer, RN, MPH

2024 has brought many changes to the Intensive Outpatient Program world, and knowing the changes will ensure compliance and promote integrity for your hospital. Know the good, the bad, and the ugly of these changes.

**11:30 AM ● Hot Topics Panel Discussion**

Rachel Sellers, Lorie Mills, Gainwell staff

- Understanding Patient Privacy Through HIPAA
- Mobile Clinics
- Medicaid Gainwell Issues

**12:15 AM ● Conference Adjourns**





# SPEAKERS



## John Burns

Vice President - ArchPro Coding

John Burns, Vice President of Audit & Compliance Services at ArchPro Coding, brings over 25 years of expertise in the healthcare industry. His career is dedicated to clinical documentation improvement, accurate coding, and optimizing and managing compliance risks for healthcare organizations across the United States. In his role at Arch Pro Coding, John oversees documentation and coding reviews, helping clients enhance their compliance and efficiency. He provides professional audit services and delivers customized training to a wide variety of healthcare practitioners, addressing areas such as documentation, coding, and billing compliance. His strategic guidance helps mitigate risks and ensures alignment with industry standards.



## Christy Stewart

The Compliance Team

Christy Stewart works at The Compliance Team, specializing in rural healthcare. Raised on a farm in rural Missouri, she has a strong connection to the hardworking, honest people in these communities and identifies with the mission of Rural Health Care providers. Guided by a Christian upbringing, Christy values family, faith, and hard work. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her family, pets, and friends, and loves traveling—especially to the mountains. She's driven by a deep sense of responsibility but admits to being occasionally frustrated by the feeling that there's never enough time to get everything done. Christy's favorite quote, "Busier than a cranberry merchant at Christmas," sums up her busy life. She enjoys reading WWII history and true crime books and is a big fan of Clint Eastwood's films. In short, Christy Stewart is a dedicated professional with a strong commitment to family, rural healthcare, and making the most of life's simple joys.



## Jeff Harper

Principal, InQuiseek

Jeff Harper, for the past forty years, has been a business leader and innovator. During his emerging career, his accomplishments include: Leading a regional CPA Firm as Managing Partner of a regional for 8 years; Providing 10 of strategic financial leadership as CFO to produce four start-ups which are all currently ongoing; Navigating and heavily negotiating through 12 mergers & acquisitions; Serving as President of 50-million-dollar international corporation for 3 1/2 years earning INC 5000 for two consecutive years; Creating a new business unit in Asia which presently employs 50 FTEs; Worked with Hospitals and Physician Practices in both urban and rural areas; Recognizing the importance of strengthening and preserving healthcare in local communities. Jeff Harper is a principal of InQuiseek Consulting, a Louisiana-based firm that provides a wide range of consulting services across a variety of healthcare facility types. He is certified in Healthcare Compliance. Harper's diverse experience gives him a unique perspective to address opportunities for improved operational performance and cultural transformation. He has membership in NARHC, MRHA, and HFMA. He is a regular speaker/presenter at NARHC, MRHA, OSRHA, FRHA, IRHA, GRHA and TORCH.



## Dr. Xiaoxu Kang, PhD

Founder and CEO - KangarooHealth

Xiaoxu Kang is CEO and Founder of KangarooHealth. Dr. Kang was inspired by a traumatic experience with her father's care after an elbow surgery. A lack of simple follow-up and monitoring measures led to her father ultimately losing mobility in his arm, an outcome that should have been easy to avoid. The ordeal led Dr. Kang to create KangarooHealth, with the goal of reducing adverse events like the one her family experienced and improving consistent, proactive care for all. Dr. Kang is a healthcare innovator with nearly two decades of experience in healthcare and 20+ national and international awards. She received her PhD and medical training from Johns Hopkins University.



## Kaitlyn Barber

Extension Professor - Mississippi State University

Kaitlyn Cheyann Barber is from Poplarville, MS, and graduated from Mississippi State University with a degree in biochemistry. She worked as an academic advisor at Pearl River Community College before beginning medical school. Kaitlyn is a dedicated aspiring medical professional currently pursuing a degree in medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, where she is in her second year. She is passionate about pursuing Med-Peds (Internal Medicine and Pediatrics) to engage in mission work. Kaitlyn has been deeply involved in the Jackson Free Clinic, serving on the Community Garden Committee and serving as a Patient Navigator, a Community Outreach Navigator, and now as a Preventative Health Navigator.

---



## Brandy Hoell MSN, RN, CCM

Partner/CEO- Population Health, Trilogy Revenue Cycle Solutions

As a strategic Revenue Cycle leader with a career of demonstrated high achievement in implementing Population Health programs including Accountable Care Organizations, Alternative Payment Models, Value-Based Purchasing programs, and restructuring Care Management models to generate new revenue streams.

As a professional registered nurse with a certification in case management, Brandy is uniquely qualified in Managed Care, reducing the length of stay, decreasing denials, as well as tracking and trending KPIs with analytics for performance monitoring. She has served as Director of Case Management, Patient Access, and Clinical Documentation Improvement in addition to providing leadership at a regional level to assist clients in program development and process improvement to meet strategic goals. Brandy earned a Bachelor of Nursing Science (BSN) at Northwestern State University of Louisiana and holds a Master of Nursing Science (MSN) from American Sentinel University. She received her Case Management Certification (CCM) from the

Case Management Society of America (CMSA) in 2005 and served as co-chair of the Central Mississippi Transition of Care Coalition from 2015-2017. Brandy has been a speaker at multiple HFMA conferences and has published an article regarding real revenue opportunities in performing population health programs. She has a passion for promoting programs to support strategic goals for revenue growth along with providing a focus on improvement in patient outcomes.

---



## Hilary Meier

Vice President - Delta Health Alliance

Hilary Meier is the Vice President of Health at Delta Health Alliance, where she leads efforts to improve access to healthcare and education in the Mississippi Delta. With a deep commitment to transforming the region, Hilary collaborates with a dedicated team of employees, partners, and volunteers to address the long-standing health and education disparities. Her work is driven by a belief in the power of community and the potential for positive change in the lives of Delta residents.

---



## Dr. Andrew Wilhelm, DO

Critical Care Specialist - UMMC

Andrew M. Wilhelm, DO, is a pulmonary and critical care specialist at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. He completed his medical education and residency at UMMC and his fellowship at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. His clinical interests include COPD and critical care medicine, and he sees patients in various outpatient and inpatient settings. Dr. Wilhelm has held leadership roles in critical care medicine, including serving as the Medical Director of the Medical Intensive Care Unit and Conerly Critical Care Hospital. He was also instrumental in UMMC's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Wilhelm is a member of several professional organizations, including the American College of Chest Physicians, the Society of Critical Care Medicine, and the American Thoracic Society.



## Beverly Johnson

**Project Director - The Mississippi Tobacco Free Coalition of Bolivar/Sunflower County**

Beverly Johnson is Project Director for the Mississippi Tobacco Free Coalition of Bolivar/Sunflower Counties for the Delta Health Alliance. For over 10 years, Mrs. Johnson has led the coalition in assisting nine cities and Delta State University (DSU) in passing a comprehensive smoke-free ordinance. Because of her dedicated efforts in bringing awareness to the harmful effects of tobacco use, there is a decrease in tobacco use among teens and fewer citizens are being exposed to secondhand smoke. Mrs. Johnson is a graduate of Jackson State University with further studies from DSU. She has a license in social work and works alongside her husband Darryl in a Christian ministry. Together, they are the proud parents of three children and three grandchildren.



## Quentin Whitwell

**CEO at Progressive Health Group LLC**

Quentin Whitwell, a licensed attorney and entrepreneur in Mississippi and the District of Columbia, is an experienced operator and healthcare entrepreneur. As CEO and Founder of Progressive Health Group, Quentin has been a trailblazer in supporting rural healthcare across the US. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services view him as a subject matter expert on the topic of healthcare provision in rural areas, and he has deployed six of the country's first twenty Rural Emergency Hospitals with more underway. In addition to his extensive healthcare experience in management and day-to-day operations, Quentin has litigated in court and advocated in the halls of State Capitols and the U.S. Congress on numerous issues facing providers and operators. Quentin spent many years in service in Jackson, Mississippi as a Jackson City Councilman, and a founding member of the Parham Bridges Tennis Foundation before moving back to his hometown of Oxford, Mississippi. Quentin was the 2005 recipient of the MS Business Journal's "Top 40 Under 40" award, the 2023 recipient of the MS Business Journal Top CEO Award and is a member of the Ole Miss Hall of Fame. In addition to serving on the William Magee Center advisory board, he serves on the Board of Trustees for Oxford University United Methodist Church.



## Glenn Krauss BBA, RHIA, CCS, CCS-P, CPUR, CCDS, C-CDI, C-DAM, C-PA

**Creator and Founder of Core- CDI and Co-Founder of Top Gun Audit School**

Glenn Krauss is a well-recognized & respected subject matter expert in the revenue cycle with an emphasis & focus upon collaborating & working closely with physicians in promoting, advocating for, educating & achieving sustainable improvement in clinical documentation that accurately reflects & reports the communication of fully informed coordinated patient care. He possesses 25 plus years of progressive practical hands-on experience in clinical coding & documentation improvement, subscribing to the philosophy that quality of medical record documentation strongly correlates with overall quality of care & the overall achievement of a high performing revenue cycle. What sets Glenn apart in the clinical documentation improvement arena is the recognition of clinical documentation effectiveness, accuracy, completeness & contextual consistency as fundamentally integral with all components of the revenue cycle.



## Keith Stokes, MD

**Chief Executive Officer - DocuComp**

Keith Stokes is a board-certified physician with a diverse career that includes experience as a clinic medical director, hospital chief of staff, hospitalist, consultant, and physician advisor. Dr. Stokes is a graduate of Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. He completed an internship and a residency in Family Medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi. He is currently employed as a hospitalist at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, Holmes County. Dr. Stokes performs Peer-to-Peers with payer Medical Directors as part of his hospitalist duties and responsibilities. He has served as a consultant for numerous hospitals, primarily focused in the areas of Case Management, Utilization management, Denials and Appeals, and Clinical Documentation Improvement. Dr. Stokes is CEO of DocuComp, LLC and a member of the steering committee for the Association for Integrity in Health Care Documentation. Dr. Stokes is also a member of the Society of Hospital Medicine and the American College of Physician Advisors. He has presented at various conferences on topics of Clinical Documentation Integrity, Denials Avoidance, and a Multidisciplinary approach to the Revenue Cycle.





## Piper Martin, MPH

Director - Child Health and Development Project: Mississippi Thrive!, UMMC

Piper Martin serves as the Program Services Coordinator at the National Rural Health Association. In her role, she primarily supports the programmatic efforts for the 44 State Rural Health Associations, National Rural Oral Health Initiative, and the Rural Veteran's Interest Group. She has previously worked at the Bipartisan Policy Center as a Health Coverage and Payment Intern and at the PAN Foundation as a Health Equity Intern. Piper received her Master of Public Health concentrating in Health Policy and Management from George Washington University's Milken Institute School of Public Health.



## Zil Joyce Dixon Romero

State Government Affairs Manager - the National Rural Health Association

Zil Joyce Dixon Romero is the State Government Affairs Manager at the National Rural Health Association, a national nonprofit membership organization that consists of a diverse collection of individuals and organizations, all of whom share the common bond—an interest in rural health. NRHA works to provide leadership on rural health issues through advocacy, communications, education, and research. In his role, Zil is responsible for analyzing national rural health trends at the state level, identifying model legislation, developing and executing effective strategies to engage with state government officials and stakeholders, and building upon his relationship with the State Rural Health Associations to advocate for policies that promote rural health. Zil is particularly passionate about health equity, rural oral health, and finding pragmatic solutions through evidence-based best practices. Zil became a member of NRHA following his graduation from American University. He previously participated in the Obama Foundation's 2023 Leaders USA program and has interned on Capitol Hill for several Members of Congress. During his time there, he focused on a range of issues, including healthcare, education, and communication.



## Steve Martinelli

Chief Executive Officer - Choctaw Regional Medical Center

Steve Martinelli earned a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Millsaps College, where he studied from 1989 to 1992. With a wealth of experience in finance and healthcare management, Steve has held several key roles throughout his career. He has been the Chief Executive Officer of Choctaw Regional Medical Center since 2020. Prior to this, he served as Interim Chief Financial Officer at both Choctaw Regional Medical Center and Baptist Memorial Health Care, where he successfully transitioned a critical access hospital to new ownership and implemented processes to stabilize its financial condition. Steve has also served as Chief Financial Officer for Colbert County Healthcare Authority and as Owner/Partner at Martinelli Financial Services/Watts & Associates CPA Firm. Earlier in his career, he was Chief Financial Officer and Controller/Finance Director at Health Management Associates, Inc. – Northwest MS Regional Medical Center. Throughout his career, Steve has demonstrated expertise in financial management, revenue cycle processes, cost reduction, and business strategy.



## Sophie Hathaway, MS, CHES

CEO at Progressive Health Group LLC

Sophie is a Master of Science student in the Department of Global Health and Population pursuing a concentration in women, gender, and health. Sophie's research is focused on advancing health equity in rural communities using mixed methods to capture the heterogeneity of the U.S. rural experience. She is currently involved in projects at the Lancet, Harvard Law School's Mississippi Delta Project, Lavender Lab at the University of Maryland, and the National Rural Health Association. Sophie's project will focus on evaluating the impact of the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi's Feed Fund, a grant program established to assist food distributors in northwest Mississippi during COVID-19. These findings will contribute to a larger investigation of the current food distribution funding opportunities available in the Delta and barriers to participation that food pantries and food banks may have.



## Lorie B. Mills, RHIT, CCS

Owner and Sr. Consultant at LBM Consulting, LLC



Lorie Mills, RHIT, CCS, is the owner and Sr. Consultant at LBM Consulting, LLC in Hattiesburg, MS. She has served three terms as president of the Mississippi Health Information Management Association (MSHIMA) and has been an active member of the MSHIMA Board of Directors for 13 years. Lorie has also served on the Advocacy and Policy Committee of AHIMA for three years and has been a member of the House of Delegates of AHIMA for nine years.

Throughout her career, Lorie has spoken at events hosted by the Mississippi Hospital Association, Mississippi HIM Association, Tennessee HIM Association, and the Mississippi Health Care Finance Association. She co-authored the article "Red Flags for Myocardial Infarctions Coding and CDI," published in the July 2019 Journal of AHIMA, and contributed to a project with The American College of Cardiology to develop ICD-10 code I5A, Non-traumatic myocardial injury, which was included in the October 2021 coding updates. Since beginning her career in 1994, Lorie has specialized in coding and documentation integrity, with a strong focus on provider education. She has three children and resides in Hattiesburg, MS.

---

## Melissa R. Stephens, MD, MS, FAAFP, DABFM

Chief Executive Officer - DocuComp



Melissa R. Stephens, MD, MS, FAAFP, DABFM, is a family physician and educator with extensive experience in clinical practice and academic medicine. She graduated with distinction from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine in 1998 and completed her family medicine residency at the University of Kansas in 2001. Dr. Stephens spent over a decade caring for underserved patients across the Midwest, Pacific

Northwest, and Mississippi Gulf Coast. In 2015, she joined William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine (WCUCOM) as Associate Professor of Clinical Sciences, where she earned multiple awards, including the WCUCOM Outstanding Clinical Faculty Award. In 2023, she became Associate Dean of Population Health at WCUCOM and continues to lead several initiatives, including Tar Wars and Child Advocacy Studies Training. Dr. Stephens is now Program Director of the EC-HealthNet Family Medicine Residency Program in Meridian, Mississippi, where she is working to launch the state's first Rural Maternal Health Fellowship. She serves on several key boards, including the Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians Foundation and the Mississippi Physician Workforce Advisory Board. Dr. Stephens is a Diplomate of the American Board of Family Medicine and a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

---

## Melissa Sawyer, RN, MPH

Owner/President - Crossway Consultant Group, LLC



Melissa Sawyer is an independent consultant with over 25 years of experience in behavioral health and accountable care organizations (ACOs). She served as Corporate Director of Behavioral Health at Pioneer Health Services from 1998 to 2014, and later as Corporate Care Coordination Officer at Pioneer Health Alliance until 2017.

In 2017, Melissa founded Crossway Consultant Group, LLC, where she is currently Owner and President. She also works as Director of Quality at Myriad Health Alliance ACO since 2021, focusing on quality improvement and patient outcomes. Melissa specializes in helping healthcare organizations enhance care coordination and improve behavioral health services.

# SPONSORS

## Diamond Level



THE MISSISSIPPI CENTER  
FOR RURAL HEALTH AND  
POPULATION STUDIES

## Gold Level



## Silver Level



## Bronze Level



## In-Person Exhibitors



## Online Exhibitor



Mississippi is among the most rural states in the nation. To celebrate quality healthcare delivered through Mississippi's rural hospitals and rural health clinics, Governor Phil Bryant signed a proclamation in 2015 declaring November 20th of each year to be Mississippi Rural Health Day.



Access to preventative and emergency care is essential to those in rural areas. The Mississippi Rural Health Association expresses its gratitude to all rural hospitals, rural clinics, FQHCs, and individuals who contribute to the success of rural healthcare. This November 20th, thank a rural health hero!

Happy Mississippi Rural Health Day!



# National Rural Health Day

Celebrating the **Power of Rural!**®



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024



#PowerOfRural | [powerofrural.org](http://powerofrural.org)

## Keynote Presentation

### Quentin Whitwell

#### Navigating the Financial Frontier: Transforming Rural Healthcare, One Community at a Time

This session will explore the balance between providing healthcare services to rural communities and achieving financial stability. CEO and Founder of Progressive Health Group (PHG), Quentin Whitwell, will discuss strategies that the PHG team is taking to improve rural healthcare across the nation. Participants will learn what Rural Emergency Hospitals (REH) are and how PHG is changing rural healthcare starting in Mississippi.





# INTRODUCING MISSISSIPPI'S ANTIBIOTIC STEWARDSHIP HONOR ROLL

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RECOGNIZE  
YOUR HOSPITAL FOR:

- Meeting CDC's Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship
- Promoting optimal use of antibiotics
- Preventing antibiotic resistance

VISIT [bit.ly/MSDHASHonorRoll](https://bit.ly/MSDHASHonorRoll) OR SCAN  
FOR MORE INFORMATION



## Thank you!

### Another fantastic year for rural health...

We extend our deepest gratitude to all of our sponsors who generously supported this year's Mississippi Rural Health Conference. We also want to thank each and every attendee for their enthusiastic participation in this event. Without your support and involvement, this successful conference would not have been possible.



MISSISSIPPI  
RURAL HEALTH  
ASSOCIATION



## Stay connected!

### Follow the MRHA on social media!



Mississippi Rural Health Association



@MSRuralHealthAssociation



Mississippi Rural Health Association



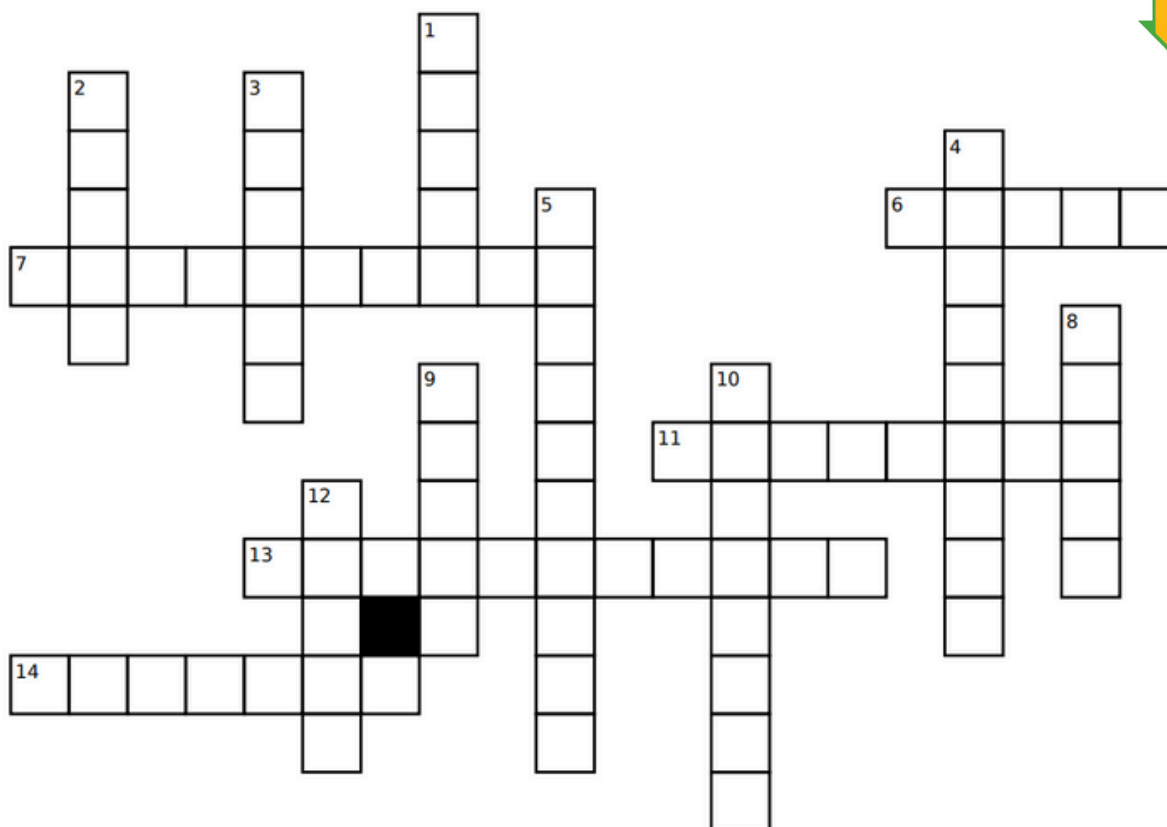
@MississippiRHA **NEW**



Please share any photos taken with #MSRuralHealth2024

# Rural Health Crossword 2024

Health terms, state regions, and conference must-knows!

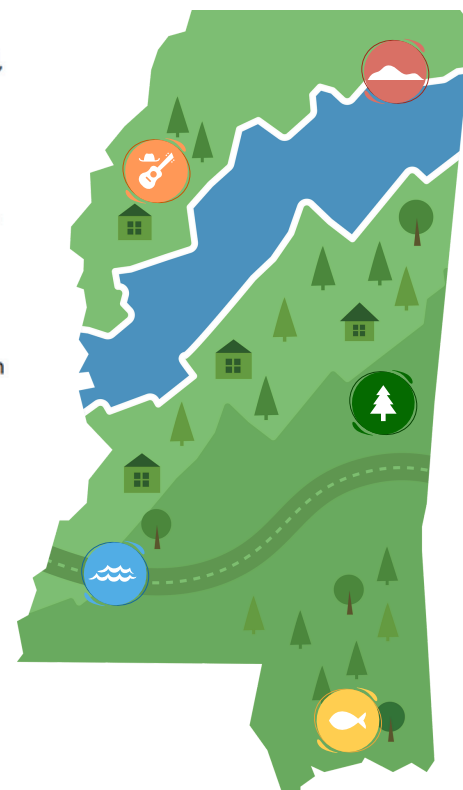


## Down:

1. The "Birthplace of the Blues."- this region in MS is known for its lively culture, delicious food, and diverse ecosystem.
2. Home to Starkville and the world-class Pearl River Resort in Choctaw.
3. A trained and licensed professional who diagnoses and treats patients with physical, mental, and emotional conditions.
4. A city in western Mississippi. It's known as the site of a key Civil War battle.
5. Your MRHA \_\_\_\_\_ grants you access to educational resources, a weekly newsletter, and more.
8. A person trained to care for the sick or infirm, especially in a clinic or hospital setting, either independently or under the supervision of a physician, surgeon, or dentist.
9. The Mississippi region home to Biloxi, Gulfport, Laurel, and Hattiesburg. Known as a retirement destination, the beaches and marshlands attract tourists and wildlife alike.
10. An institution providing medical and surgical treatment and nursing care for sick or injured people.
12. Central Mississippi includes the southern part of the Mississippi River and the area surrounding Mississippi's capital city of Jackson. This region goes by two names, one "Capital" and one \_\_\_\_\_.

## Across:

6. A region in northeastern Mississippi, at the Appalachian foothills, where Tupelo, Oxford, and Corinth are located.
7. The improvement of health via the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and cure of disease, illness, injury, and other physical and mental impairments in people.
11. The month of both Mississippi's Rural Health Day and National Rural Health Day.
13. A southern state that celebrates its Rural Health Day on the 20th of each November
14. The optional tour excursion ride being taken at the end of Day 1 of the Mississippi Rural Health Conference.



1. Delta 3. Doctor 5. Membership 6. Hills 8. Nurse 9. Coast 10. Hospital 11. November 12. River 13. Mississippi 14. Trolley

## Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines, typical of notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.



MISSISSIPPI  
**RURAL HEALTH**  
ASSOCIATION



#MSRuralHealth2024