

2025 Rural Health Clinic Conference

May 16th, 2025



MISSISSIPPI
RURAL HEALTH
ASSOCIATION



Agenda

9:00AM

State and Federal Legislative Update

Zil Romero – National Rural Health Association

Explore current rural health—related legislation at both the state and federal levels, and understand how proposed bills may impact your clinic.

10:00AM

RHC Survey Tips and Strategies

Kate Hill – The Compliance Team

Learn common deficiencies found in Rural Health Clinic surveys and gain practical strategies to improve compliance ahead of your next survey.

10:45AM

Bridging the Distance: Revolutionizing RHC Healthcare with Remote Patient Monitoring

Tanya Tucker, RN – Clinical Programs Manager

Carly Brown – Clinical Pharmacist

This session addresses the challenges of managing chronic disease in rural settings and presents how Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM) can help patients improve their outcomes and manage their conditions more effectively—especially in medically underserved areas.

11:30AM

Building Leadership in Your Rural Health Clinic

Jeff Harper - Inquiseek

Gain insights into building strong leadership within your clinic and developing the next generation of healthcare leaders in rural communities.

12:15PM

Medicaid Update Roundtable

Presented by Medicaid and Medicaid Managed Care representatives

Get the latest updates from Medicaid and managed care representatives and bring your questions to this interactive discussion.

1:30PM

Medicare Advantage Value-Based Contracting in RHCs

Bruce Shephard and Stewart B. Garner

Learn about the limitations of standard Medicare Advantage reimbursement and how value-based contracting can enhance revenue opportunities for rural health clinics.

2:15PM

Developing an Offensive Strategy for the Revenue Cycle

Dr. Keith Stokes and Glenn Krauss

Most hospitals take a defensive approach to payer denials, but this session encourages a proactive “offense strategy” by strengthening provider documentation and revenue cycle processes to minimize denials and improve financial health.

3:00PM

RHC Roundtable Discussion

Joanie Perkins, Manda Griffin, Blair Marble, Jessica Hunt

Join an open forum with experienced rural health professionals to discuss hot topics, share real-world challenges, and collaborate on solutions that impact RHCs across Mississippi.

4:15PM

Conference Adjourn

Speakers



Zil Romero

National Rural Health Association



Zil joined NRHA staff in 2020. He assists in analyzing 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 relationships with the state level advocates to promote policies around rural health. He previously served on the program services team where he assisted with activities related to State Rural Health Associations, the National Rural Oral Health Initiative, and the All of Us Research Program. He joined NRHA after working as an intern on Capitol Hill for multiple members of congress. Zil has a bachelor's degree in communication, legal institutions, economics, and government from American University's School of Public Affairs.

Kate Hill, RN

The Compliance Team



Kate Hill, RN is a graduate of Albert Einstein Medical Center School of Nursing in Philadelphia, PA. As an Army Nurse, Kate served in Viet Nam (27th Surgical Hospital in Chu Lai) where she was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service. Kate has worked with orthopedic patients in several capacities including Head Nurse of Orthopedics in Newark, NJ., followed by Biomet working in various capacities. Kate joined The Compliance Team (TCT) in early 2012 to direct TCT's rural health clinic accreditation program and has fallen in love with Rural. As VP of Clinical Services, she has spearheaded the TCT Rural Health Clinic Accreditation program combining her clinical expertise, business acumen, and passion for delivery of the best care possible to every patient. She presently serves on the Board of the National Association of Rural Health Clinics. Kate also works with clinics in TCT's PCMH program and is ensuring that a PCMH accreditation is being increasingly rewarded by payers.

Tanya Tucker, RN, BSN

UMMC Center for Telehealth



Tanya is the Clinical Programs Manager at the UMMC Center for Telehealth, where she oversees the Remote Patient Monitoring and Chronic Care Management programs. In her role, Tanya manages a team of Telehealth Coordinators and RN Care Coordinators to ensure the efficient delivery of high-quality care through telehealth solutions. With 25 years of experience in healthcare, Tanya is dedicated to improving patient outcomes through the use of technology and innovative care practices. She is passionate about advancing chronic disease management and supporting patients through telehealth.

Carly Brown, PharmD, CPAHA

University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy



Carly is a Clinical Pharmacist at the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy. She currently provides medication management for patients enrolled in the Remote Patient Monitoring program at the UMMC Center for Telehealth, collaborating closely with a team of physicians and nurses to deliver comprehensive patient care through telehealth solutions. With a strong focus on patient well-being, she plays a pivotal role in bridging clinical pharmacy and telehealth to improve patient care.

Jeff Harper

InQuiseek Consulting



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, NRHA, and HFMA. He is a regular speaker/presenter at NARHC, MRHA, OSRHA, FRHA, IRHA, GRHA and TORCH.

Bruce Shepherd

FocusPoint Strategy Partners



Bruce Shepherd is the Managing Partner at FocusPoint Strategy Partners, where he leads organizations through strategic transformation with a focus on value-based care, market expansion, and operational performance. With nearly a decade of leadership experience in both provider and vendor environments, Bruce has a proven track record of developing innovative solutions to complex healthcare challenges. His background includes executive roles at PayrHealth and Community Health Systems, where he drove revenue growth, spearheaded partnerships, and enhanced care delivery models. Bruce is passionate about aligning payors, providers, and community stakeholders to create sustainable, patient-centered healthcare systems.

Stewart B. Garner, MSHA, CMPE

Kassouf CPAs and Advisors



Stewart is a passionate and driven Principal in Kassouf's Healthcare Tax and Advisory Group. He helps clients make informed business decisions and find innovative solutions to increase profitability and efficiency. His areas of emphasis include but are not limited to operational assessments of practice workflows, process improvement initiatives, EHR/PM system implementation and optimization, revenue cycle management, payer enrollment, bundled payment models, and HIPAA privacy and security compliance.

Glenn Krauss BBA, RHIA, CCS

Core CDI / 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

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.

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