31st Annual Mississippi Rural Health Conference

Sheraton Flowood | November 12-13, 2026

Wednesday, November 11, 2026

Pre-conference

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Rural Health Clinic Compliance Bootcamp: Billing, Conditions of Participation, and Survey Readiness
Speaker: Joanie Perkins, JP Consulting and Kate Hill, The Compliance Team

Description:
Maintaining compliance in today's Rural Health Clinic environment requires more than accurate billing. This interactive workshop will provide an in-depth review of Rural Health Clinic billing requirements alongside the Medicare Conditions for Certification (Conditions of Participation) that are frequently cited during state and federal surveys. Participants will explore common compliance challenges, recent survey trends, and practical strategies to identify and correct potential deficiencies before they become condition-level violations. Whether your clinic is preparing for an upcoming survey or simply strengthening its compliance program, this session will provide actionable guidance to help ensure regulatory success.

Learning Objectives:

- Review key Rural Health Clinic billing and reimbursement requirements and identify common compliance risks.
- Understand the Medicare Conditions for Certification and the operational requirements necessary to maintain compliance.
- Examine recent survey trends and the most common deficiencies that lead to condition-level citations.
- Develop practical strategies to strengthen internal compliance programs, improve documentation, and prepare for successful state and federal surveys.

12:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Golf Tournament: Rural Health Golf Tournament

Tee off with colleagues for a day of fresh air, friendly competition, and fairway fun at the Rural Health Golf Tournament! Whether you're swinging for birdie or just here for the laughs, it's the perfect way to network before the conference begins. The tournament will start with lunch at noon, with a shotgun start at 1:45 p.m. Awards will be presented for first, second and third place finishers.

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Thursday, November 12, 2026

8:30 AM
Check-in and Networking Breakfast

9:30 AM
Mississippi Medicaid Update
Speaker: Cindy Bradshaw, executive director, Mississippi Division of Medicaid

Join the Mississippi Division of Medicaid for an update on the latest developments impacting Mississippi's Medicaid program. This session will provide an overview of current policy initiatives, program changes, and key issues affecting healthcare providers across the state. Participants will gain valuable insights into upcoming priorities and have a better understanding of how Medicaid continues to evolve to meet the healthcare needs of Mississippians.

10:30 AM
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Update
Speaker: TBD

Stay informed on the latest federal policies, regulatory changes, and initiatives from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) that impact Rural Health Clinics. This session will highlight recent updates affecting reimbursement, compliance, quality reporting, and program operations, while providing insight into upcoming regulatory priorities. Attendees will leave with a better understanding of how to prepare for and respond to evolving federal requirements.

11:30 AM
Break

Noon
Awards Banquet and Annual Meeting

Join colleagues from across Mississippi celebrating excellence in rural healthcare during the Mississippi Rural Health Association's Awards Banquet and Annual Membership Meeting. The banquet will recognize outstanding individuals, organizations, hospitals, clinics, and community partners whose leadership, innovation, and service have made a lasting impact on the health of rural Mississippians. In addition to the presentation of annual awards, members will participate in the Association's Annual Membership Meeting, which will include organizational updates, the election and installation of leadership, recognition of outgoing board members, and highlights of the Association's accomplishments over the past year. This special event provides an opportunity to celebrate achievements, strengthen

professional relationships, and honor those who are advancing rural health across Mississippi.

1:00 PM
Governor's Update
Speaker: Governor Tate Reeves (tentative)

This session will provide attendees with an update on key healthcare priorities affecting Mississippi, with a special emphasis on rural healthcare and the continued implementation of the Mississippi Rural Health Transformation Fund. The session will highlight the state's efforts to strengthen rural healthcare infrastructure, expand access to care, support healthcare providers, and improve health outcomes in communities across the state. Attendees will also hear updates on other significant healthcare initiatives, policy priorities, and opportunities that will shape the future of healthcare in Mississippi.

1:45 PM
Mississippi Rural Health Day Reception

This reception will celebrate the amazing success of rural health in Mississippi as well as provide an opportunity for members to network with one another and visit with vendors. In addition, it is an opportunity for members to judge the Mississippi Rural Physician Scholars posters.

2:30 PM
Legislative Panel Discussion
Speakers: Sen. Kevin Blackwell, Rep. Sam Creekmore (tentative), Rep. Missy Mcgee (tentative)

Join a panel of state legislators for an engaging discussion on the policy issues expected to shape rural healthcare during the 2027 legislative session. Panelists will provide updates on anticipated legislation, healthcare funding priorities, workforce initiatives, Medicaid and insurance issues, and other topics affecting rural hospitals, clinics, providers, and communities throughout Mississippi. This interactive session will also offer attendees the opportunity to hear directly from policymakers, ask questions, and gain valuable insight into the legislative priorities and challenges that lie ahead.

3:45 PM
Constituency Breakout Sessions

This new session will allow small groups to form for private conversations around issues specific to their discipline. Groups will be assigned private meeting areas, and discussion will be loosely facilitated by a member of that constituency. Groups will include rural

hospital leadership, hospital staff, clinic leadership, healthcare providers, public health professionals, educators, and students.

Friday, November 13, 2026

7:30 – 8:15 AM
Check-in and Networking Breakfast

8:15 AM
Rural Hospital Panel Discussion
Speakers: Chad Netterville, others panelists to be determined…

Four hospital leaders will share their experiences navigating workforce shortages, financial pressures, and service expansion. This interactive discussion will provide real-world strategies for sustaining rural hospitals. Panelists will also address recent innovations in patient care and community partnerships.

9:15 AM
Transforming Veteran Access Through VA External Provider Scheduling (EPS)
Speakers: to be determined

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will introduce External Provider Scheduling (EPS), an innovative cloud-based platform that enables VA schedulers to book approved appointments directly into participating community providers' scheduling systems in real time. Attendees will learn how EPS streamlines referral coordination, reduces administrative burden, improves scheduling efficiency, and enhances the overall experience for both providers and Veterans. The session will also explain the onboarding process, how EPS integrates with existing referral workflows, and the security measures that protect patient information while allowing providers to maintain full control over their schedules. Whether you currently serve Veterans or are interested in expanding your partnership with the VA, this session will provide practical guidance on leveraging EPS to improve access to timely, coordinated care.

10:00 AM Break

10:15 AM
Critical Connections: Strengthening Emergency Ground and Air Medical Transportation in Mississippi
Speakers: Billy Casey, Jay Chappelle, GMR

Timely access to emergency medical transportation is a critical component of healthcare delivery, particularly in Mississippi's rural communities where distance, limited resources, and hospital closures can significantly impact patient outcomes. This session will bring together leaders from ground EMS agencies, air medical transport providers, hospitals, emergency management, and public health to discuss the current landscape of emergency transportation across the state. Panelists will explore operational challenges, workforce shortages, reimbursement issues, interfacility transfers, disaster response, and opportunities for improving coordination between ground and air services. Attendees will gain a comprehensive understanding of how collaborative planning and innovative strategies can strengthen Mississippi's emergency transportation network and improve access to lifesaving care.

11:15 AM
Hot Topic Closing Keynote: Rural Health Transformation Fund Update and Discussion + MRPSP Poster Awards

As the conference concludes, this interactive keynote will provide attendees with the latest updates on the Mississippi Rural Health Transformation Fund, including newly released guidance, implementation progress, and emerging opportunities. Participants will hear about recent developments affecting funding priorities, program administration, and project implementation across the state. The session will also offer an opportunity to discuss common questions, share lessons learned, and identify strategies for maximizing the impact of Rural Health Transformation Fund investments. Attendees will leave with timely information and practical insights to help their organizations successfully navigate the evolving program landscape.

Noon
Conference Adjourns