
**Rural Health:
A National Update**

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Overview of Presentation

- What's Happening in Washington
- Regulatory Activity Effecting Rural
- Emerging Rural Health Policy Issues
- Rural Health Programs, Resources, Tools

About ORHP



- Role of the Office of Rural Health Policy
 - Voice for Rural within HHS
 - Administers Rural Health Grant Programs
 - Makes Policy Recommendations
 - Facilitates Rural Health Research

HHS Priorities

- Value-driven Health Care
- Medicare & Medicaid Modernization
- Health Information Technology
- Prevention
- Emergency Response and Preparedness
- Personalized Health Care



HHS Hubert Humphrey Building
Washington, D.C.

HRSA Goals

- Improve Access to Health Care
- Improve Health Outcomes
- Improve the Quality of Health Care
- Eliminate Health Disparities
- Improve the Public Health and Health Care Systems
- Enhance the Ability of the Health Care System to Respond to Public Health Emergencies
- Achieve Excellence in Management Practices



HRSA Headquarters

Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008



- Staves off Medicare physician pay cut
- Extends a number of physician provisions:
 - Physician Quality Reporting Initiative
 - Scarcity area bonus payment
 - Floor on the work geographic adjuster
- Rebases Sole Community Hospitals
- Extends Section 508 Wage Index Reclass
- Minor changes to Medicare Advantage
- Moves toward Mental Health Parity



Key Rural Regulatory Issues

- Inpatient Hospital Payment
- Outpatient Hospital Payment
- Physician Payment
- Rehab Payment
- Psych Payment
- Skilled Nursing Facility and Long Term Care Payments
- Ambulance Fee Schedule
- Medicare Advantage
- Medicare Part D
- Rural Health Clinics
- Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Medicaid Waivers
- Medicare GME

Inpatient Hospital Payments

- FY09 Final IPPS Regulation
 - Published 7/31/08; Effective 10/1/08
- 4.7% Market Basket Update w/quality data
 - Payments to rural hospitals increase 3.9%
- Key Proposed Changes:
 - Transition to Medicare-Severity DRGs
 - Minor wage index changes
 - Expanded quality measures: 30 FY09, 42 FY10

Outpatient Hospital Payments

- CY 2009 Proposed Regulation Effective 1/1/09
 - 3.6% Overall payment increase
 - Payments to rural hospitals increase 3.6%
 - 7.1% add-on for rural SCH
 - Hold-harmless Payments for Small Rural Hospitals
 - New OPSS Quality Reporting starting CY2009
 - Includes 5 "transfer measures" relevant for rural
 - Includes CAH on a voluntary basis!

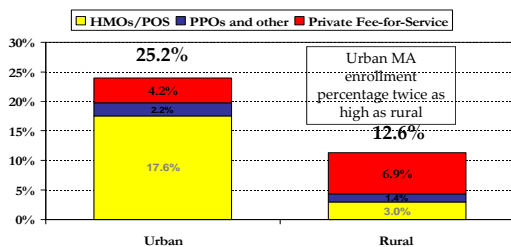
Rural Regulatory Activity

- Rural Health Clinic (RHC) Regulation
 - Updated Participation Requirements and Payment Provisions
 - Shortage area and non-urban requirements
 - Allow RHC to contract with mid-level practitioners
 - Clarify commingling provisions
 - Quality Assurance/Performance Improvement
- Proposed Designation of Medically Underserved Populations/Areas (MUA/MUP) and Health Professional Shortage Areas Health (HPSA)

Emerging Rural Health Issues

- Medicare Advantage
- Rural Community Rx Viability
- Federal Quality Initiatives- Medicare Value Based Purchasing
- CMS Recovery Audit Contractors

Medicare Advantage Enrollment in Urban and Rural areas, June 2008



SOURCE: RUPRI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis, <http://www.unmc.edu/rupri/health/>.



Rural Community Rx Viability



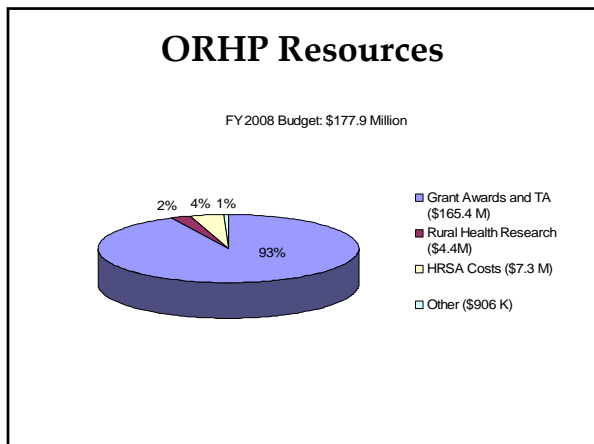
Source of provider data: National Council for Prescription Drug Programs, 2007.
Source of rural designations: Office of Rural Health Policy, Health Resources and Services Administration, 2005.
Map produced by the RTPI Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis, cartography by Nicole Veronick, 2007.
Note: Alaska and Hawaii not to scale.

Federal Quality Initiatives

- Inpatient Hospital Reporting- FY09 30 measures
- Outpatient Hospital Reporting- FY09 7 measures: 5 Emergency Department Transfer
- Physician Quality Reporting Initiative
- Value-Based Purchasing: November 21, 2007 Report to Congress

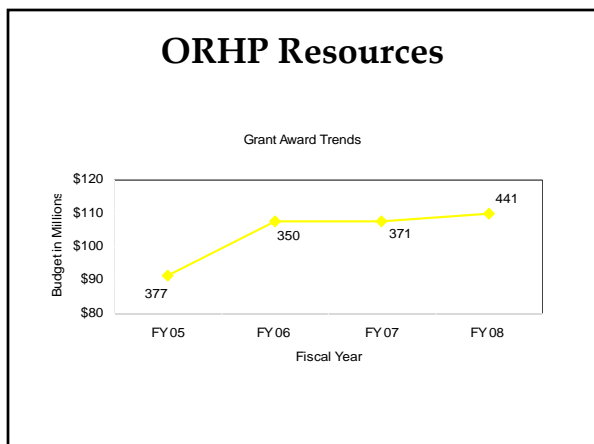
Medicare Recovery Audit Contractors (RAC)

- Purpose: Ensure correct payments to providers and suppliers
- Demo implemented in CA, NY, FL, SC, MA
 - 85% of overpayments collected from inpatient
 - Results recouped \$992.7m in overpayments
- TRHCA of 2006 requires expansion to all 50 states by 2010



FY08 Rural Budget

	FY07 Actual	FY08 Actual	FY09 PB
Policy/Research	\$8,731,000	\$8,737,000	\$9,000,000
Outreach	\$38,885,000	\$48,885,000	\$0
Flex	\$63,494,000	\$23,538,000	\$0
SORH	\$8,141,000	\$8,141,000	\$8,000,000



ORHP Teams

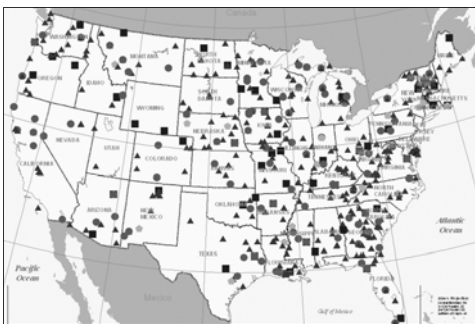
- **Community-Based Team**
 - 10 grant programs
- **Hospital- State Team**
 - 4 grant programs
- **Policy-Research Team**
 - 2 grant programs



Community-Based Team

- Rural Health Services Outreach
- Rural Health Network Development
- Rural Network Development Planning
- Delta States Development Network (Delta)
- Small Rural Provider Quality Improvement
- Radiation, Exposure, Screening and Education Program (RESEP)
- Black Lung Clinic Program (BLCP)
- Delta Health Initiative (DHI)
- Rural AED (RAED)
- Frontier Extended Stay Clinic (FESC)

Rural Health Grants 2002-2007



- ▲ Rural Health Outreach Grants
- Rural Health Network Planning Grants
- Rural Health Network Development Grants
- ◆ Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement Grants

ORHP Resources

- Targeted Technical Assistance Workshops
 - Seven states have not received an ORHP Community Based Grant in the past 5 years (WY, PA, OK, ID, CO & TN)
 - Grant Workshops will be coordinated through State Offices of Rural Health

FY 08 Community-Based Grants



FY09 Community-Based Grants

- Rural Health Outreach
 - Up to \$150k, \$125k, \$100k/Year for Three Years
 - Applications due October 16, 2008
 - Expect to make up to 90 Awards
- Rural Network Planning
 - Up to \$85,000 for One Year
 - Applications due September 15, 2008
 - Expect to make up to 20 Awards
- Rural Quality: next competition in FY 2010
- Network Development: next competition in FY 2011



<http://ruralhealth.hrsa.gov/funding/GrantPrograms.htm#providers>

Hospital-State Team

- State Offices of Rural Health (SORH)
- Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant (Flex)
- Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP)
- Critical Access Hospital HIT Network Grants (CAH-HIT Network)

Flex Program & CAHs

- Total of 1,296 CAHs as of September 2008
- MIPPA Flex Program Changes
 - Extends Flex program thru 2010 for \$50m
 - Authorizes support for QI, PI, benchmarking
 - CAH Transition to Skilled Nursing Facilities
 - Providing Mental Health Services to Veterans
 - Frontier Community Health Integration Demo

Policy-Research Team

- **Rural Health Research Centers (RHRC)**
 - FY08 Award Six New RHRC grants:
 - Maine Rural Health Research Center
 - North Carolina Rural Health Research Center
 - South Carolina Rural Health Research Center
 - Upper Midwest Rural Health Research Center
 - WWAMI Rural Health Research Center
 - West Virginia Rural Health Research Center
- **Targeted Rural Health Research Grants**
 - 2008 Topics: Rural Health Clinics, Frontier Health Service Delivery, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Rural Health Leadership, Allied Health Workforce, and Public Health

Rural Health Research Gateway

Want to know more about past and ongoing studies?

<http://www.ruralhealthresearch.org/>

- Impact of CAH Conversion on Hospital Finances and Mix of Inpatient Services (9/08)
- Hospital size, uncertainty, and pay-for-performance (2/2007)
- The adoption of HIT by rural hospitals (5/2007)
- Effect of rural hospital closures on community economic health (8/2006)

National Advisory Committee on Rural Health & Human Services

- An External Policy Voice
- Public advisory panel of 21 nationwide rural health experts for HHS Secretary
- Produces an annual report
 - 2008 Report is a 20-Year Retrospective
 - 2009 Topics: Medical Home, Workforce, At-risk Kids



<http://ruralcommittee.hrsa.gov>

ORHP 2008 Priorities

- Workforce
- Quality Improvement
- Health Information Technology (HIT)

CAH HIT Network Grants



**CAHIT States in red
 For more information, please visit:
<http://ruralhealth.hrsa.gov/funding/flexpurpose.htm>

Addressing 2008 Priorities: HIT

Working with HRSA's
 Office of Health
 Information
 Technology



The AHRQ Portal
<http://healthit.ahrq.gov>

Addressing 2008 Priorities: Workforce

- Planning for a 2009 National Rural & Underserved Workforce Summit
- AHEC Collaboration
- Rural Medical Educators
- NCSL Meeting
- Continued partnership with 3RNet

Addressing 2008 Priorities: Quality

- Flex Re-Authorization
- Patient Safety and Clinical Pharmacy Collaborative
 - Eligible entities include HRSA grantees, CAHs & RHCs
 - First of Four Training Sessions Early August



2008 Special Projects

- Quantifying the Impact of Outreach, Network and Quality Grants
- Using Network Planning Grants to Promote FQHC-CAH Collaboration
- Working Towards a Definition of Frontier
- Technical Assistance Manuals for ...
 - Mental Health Best Practices
 - FQHC-CAH Collaboration
 - Rural HIV AIDS Best Practices

HRSA Intergovernmental Affairs

Mission: To facilitate and coordinate HRSA's programmatic interaction with organizations that represent units of State and local government

Purpose:

- 1) Provide the HRSA Administrator with a single point of contact on all activities related to important State and local governmental, stakeholder association and interest group activities.
- 2) Coordinate Agency cross-Bureau cooperative agreements and activities with organizations representing units of State and local governments
- 3) Interact with health-focused Federal Commissions
- 4) Serve as primary liaison to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.

Tools and Resources

- Applying for Grants
- Must go through: www.Grants.gov
- Register early



<http://www.Grants.gov>

Tools and Resources: Rural Assistance Center



One-Stop Shopping

- Funding Info
- Resource Guides
- Best Practices

<http://raconline.org>

1-800-270-1898/info@raconline.org
Hours – Monday – Friday 8 AM – 5 PM CT

Tools and Resources: RHC TA Series

- Help for Rural Health Clinics through free quarterly technical assistance conference calls
- Past topics include billing, pandemic flu, HIT, etc.



A Rural Health Clinic in Michigan

http://www.narhc.org/members/orhp_series.php

Tools and Resources: 340B Drug Pricing Program

- Provides outpatient and ER drugs at reduced cost.
- HRSA Pharmacy Services Support Center (PSSC) provides free consultative services about program.
- HRSA Office of Pharmacy Affairs (OPA) guides application process.



<http://pssc.aphanet.org/>
<http://www.hrsa.gov/opa/>

Tools and Resources: Access to Capital

- HUD and USDA
- Model Plans available
- Capital Replacement Manual under development



HUD's Health Care Facilities Web site:
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/hosp/hsghospi.cfm>
 Critical Access Hospital Prototype:
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/hosp/prototype.pdf>

Tools and Resources: Workforce

- National Health Service Corps
 - Physicians, Dentists, Psychologists, Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants
- J1-Visa Waivers & Conrad 30 Program
- Nursing Loan Repayment
- Nursing Scholarships



<http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/>

Tools and Resources: 3RNet



<http://www.3rnet.org>

Tools and Resources: Mental Health

Best Practices Models

- Website from SAMHSA
- Includes rural filter

Mental Health

Reimbursement

- A new guide from SAMHSA



<http://www.nrepp.samhsa.gov/find.asp>

Tools and Resources: EMS



A New EMS Resource

<http://www.ems.gov/>

Contact Information

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