



RURAL HEALTH CONNECT

Improving the Health of Rural Communities

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Statewide Updates & News

Comments Requested: Proposed Changes to Medicare Payments to Hospitals

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released proposed updates to how Medicare reimburses acute care hospitals, Long-Term Acute Care Hospitals, and Critical Access Hospitals. There are proposals on how to implement new Graduate Medicare Education (GME) provisions in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, including how to distribute additional GME slots for rural residency training programs.

To review and submit comments, please follow the link [here](#).

Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention (NEPQR) University of Utah

The Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention (NEPQR) program at the University of Utah sent out a survey earlier this year about Opioid Use Disorder care management to in order to collect data on how primary care nurses handle MOUD and what educational resources could be helpful As a second step to this process. The NEPQR has tentatively scheduled time on June 3rd and 4th from noon to 1 p.m. MT for two feedback sessions about MOUD. The NEPQR is looking for nurses that would like to attend these sessions to discuss the primary care nurse's role in opioid use disorder. We are looking for 8-10 people per feedback session and there will be a type of incentive (most likely a \$50 gift card) for nurses willing to participate.

Please email me at harper.vanderhoek@utah.edu if you are wanting to participate and which date works best for you.

NHSC Loan Repayment Program DEADLINE EXTENSION

The deadline to submit applications for the [National Health Service Corps \(NHSC\) Loan Repayment Program](#) has been extended until Thursday, May 27 at 7:30pm

ET. The NHSC program is excited to award a record number of clinicians this year thanks to additional funding through the Biden Administration's American Rescue Plan.

NHSC Scholarship Program & NHSC Site Application

The [NHSC Scholarship Program](#) is accepting applications through **May 11, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. ET**. For more information on the application process or questions, please follow either link below. If you want to apply, please follow the link [here](#).

The NHSC Site Application application deadline is **Tuesday, May 25, at 11:59 p.m. ET**. For assistance, please follow the link to [HRSA's Site Application Webinar](#)

Veteran-Focused Competency Courses Available Online

Community providers who treat Veterans are invited to take a variety of self-paced, accredited online courses, offered 24/7 through VHA TRAIN MISSION Act (MA) Curriculum, to help meet MISSION Act 131 and 133 competency standards. Sections 131 and 133 require VA to ensure all community providers treating Veterans meet certain requirements regarding opioid prescribing practices and meet certain competency standards.

These courses available on VHA TRAIN MA provide training and resources in the areas of military culture, suicide prevention and other Veteran-related topics, equipping community providers with general knowledge about mental and physical health diagnoses commonly found in the Veteran population.

Click [here](#) for a flyer of available courses.

OPCRH Program Updates

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

- The State Primary Care Grants Program application cycle will close **May 10, 2021**. Please submit any questions in advance to opcrh@utah.gov.
- The Health Care Workforce Financial Assistance Program (HCWFAP) is available and accepting applications. For more information, please visit our [website](#) or email us at opcrh@utah.gov

Webinars & Upcoming Events

University of Utah Project ECHO

Current Project ECHO Sessions

Endocrinology:

May 4 : Hypothyroidism, Katie Kaput, DO For questions reach out to Genevieve Ellis, genevieve.ellis@hsc.utah.edu

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN BY ZOOM](#)

COVID-19:

May 10: Vaccine Hesitancy, Panel Discussion

May 24: Update on Treatments for COVID-19, Emily Spivak, MD For questions reach out to Sarah Day, sarah.day@hsc.utah.edu

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN BY ZOOM](#)

Pediatrics:

May 5: Return to sports after COVID, Dongngan Truong, MD

May 12: Chest Wall Abnormalities, Katie Russell, MD

May 19: Management of Pediatric GU Emergencies, Howard Kadish, MD, MBA

May 26: Intellectual Disability, Paul T. Stevens, MD If you have pediatric questions please reach out to Jared Price, jared.price@hsc.utah.edu

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Funding Opportunities

[HHS Announces Nearly \\$1 Billion from American Rescue Plan for Rural COVID-19 Response](#)

[Emergency Broadband Benefit Program](#)

Toolkit Highlight



Free Telehealth Certification Courses

The Northwest Regional Telehealth Resource Center is offering multiple telehealth certification courses for free. You can find the resources by following the link [here](#).



Connections for Community Care Project

Funded by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP), this project will provide Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) across the nation with easy access to and technical assistance (TA) for comprehensive, community-centric COVID-19 onsite testing and is *available at no cost*.

National Organization of State Office of Rural Health (NOSORH) will work with State Offices of Rural Health (SORH) to develop and implement strategies to enhance local, state, and national collaboration as well as provide targeted, individualized, community-centric technical assistance (TA) to participating RHCs.

Accessing additional information or getting started with the program is as simple as sending an email expressing interest to rhccovidtestinginfo@nosorh.org.



Rural Suicide Prevention Toolkit

The Rural Suicide Prevention Toolkit compiles evidence-based and promising models and resources to support organizations implementing suicide prevention programs in rural communities across the United States.

The modules in the toolkit contain resources and information focused on developing, implementing, evaluating, and sustaining rural suicide prevention programs. There are more resources on general community health strategies available in the [Rural Community Health Toolkit](#).

[To access the toolkit, please follow the link here.](#)

National Organizations

[Human Services to Support Rural Health](#)

[Oral Health in Rural Communities](#)

[Overdose Data to Action \(RFA-CE19-1904\)](#)

[HRSA US Fact Sheet by State](#)

[Rural Health Care Professional Job](#)



[CONTACT US](#)

The OPCRH provides support to our stakeholders and clients in the form of hands-on support, economic impact analysis, research, community health needs assessments, and healthcare workforce needs assessment. We also provide technical assistance and pertinent information on student loan repayment programs and grant opportunities

If you would like to be a part of our newsletter in the future and/or would like to submit a success story, announcement, or communicate any other information to us or your rural health partners, please contact Colton Gordon, OPCRH Program Specialist 801-230-6570, coltongordon@utah.gov

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