



RHC BRIEFS

February 2020

Plan 2020 with RHC Educational Opportunities

IRHA Spring into Quality Symposium March 18th

<https://www.indianaruralhealth.org/events/2020/03/18/in-person-events/spring-into-quality-symposium-and-rural-health-clinic-workshop/>

IRHA Annual Conference June 16-17 includes special RHC sessions. Save the Date

<https://www.indianaruralhealth.org/events>

NARHC Spring Institute – San Antonio March 18-20

<https://www.web.narhc.org/assnfe/ev.asp?ID=412>

NARHC Fall Institute – Phoenix Oct. 26-28

<https://www.web.narhc.org/narhc/Events.asp>

NARHC's New Online Introduction to RHCs Course in 45 minutes [Learn more](#)

NARHC's Certified Rural Health Clinic Professional Online Course [Learn more](#)

IRHA Lunch & Learn Webinars - noon to 1pm:

[Identifying Grant Opportunities for Substance & Opioid Use Disorders](#) *February 26*

[Opioid Use Disorder - An Overview](#) *March 4, 2020*

[E-cigarette Use in Rural Indiana](#) *March 11, 2020*

[Medication-Assisted Treatment Waiver Training](#) *March 17, 2020*

[Rural Reach: A strategic communication approach to reaching the rural poor](#) *March 25, 2020*

News

IRHA's March 18th Spring into Quality Symposium

Once again, the IRHA spring program agenda offers training and inspirational sessions for rural hospitals and clinics. Review the entire agenda which is attached to this email.

There will be breakout sessions for rural health clinic staff:

- Stacy Cook with attorneys Barnes and Thornburg will help us find answers to HIPAA compliance issues.
- Sharon Shover with IN Hospital Association will talk about RHC billing. Sharon plans to share some new billing information.
- Joanie Perkins, Compliance Officer for North Sunflower Medical Center in Ruleville, MS, has performed many mock surveys for clinics in Indiana. She will talk about a readiness checklist and the Program Evaluation including recent changes to the Program Evaluation.

Questions are welcomed during or after presentations.

Review the entire agenda to view the presentations for the RHC breakout (page 2) and presentations offered in the general session. You may focus on the RHC sessions or attend presentations from both sessions.

NURSE Corps Loan Repayment Program

Loan repayment assistance for registered nurses, nurse practitioners, advanced practice nurses, and nursing school faculty who agree to work in underserved areas.

Geographic coverage: Nationwide

Application **Deadline: Mar 12, 2020**

Sponsors: Bureau of Health Workforce, Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Indiana General Assembly Update

Over 1400 bills were considered during this session! The 2020 Indiana General Assembly has reached its halfway mark. Bills that have successfully been voted through their chamber of origin will move on to be heard, debated and potentially amended on the other side.

While only a portion of bills crossed over, it is important to note that language from failed bills may still find a home in the bills that made it to the second half of the legislative session. Below are a few health-related bills that were able to cross over; click on each to learn more and track it throughout the rest of the process:

Senate Bills

- [SB 1: Tobacco and vaping smoking age.](#)

- [SB 3: Health care provider billing.](#)
- [SB 4: All payer claims data base.](#)
- [SB 142: Medicaid reimbursement for schools.](#)
- [SB 184: Nonprofit agricultural organization coverage.](#)
- [SB 246: Mental health services.](#)
- [SB 337: Various insurance and health care matters.](#)

House Bills

- [HB 1004: Balanced billing for medical care.](#)
- [HB 1006: Regulation of tobacco products.](#)
- [HB 1042: Pharmacy benefit managers.](#)
- [HB 1176: First Steps program.](#)
- [HB 1207: Pharmacy matters.](#)
- [HB 1336: Telemedicine.](#)
- [HB 1372: Various insurance matters.](#)

To view all the proposed bills and their status, click: <http://iga.in.gov/legislative/2020/bills/>

Public Charge Final Rule Takes Effect

After months of deliberation that stalled its implementation, the U.S. Supreme Court voted on a narrow 5-4 margin to allow a new rule on Public Charge to take effect. The rule is issued under the authority of the Department of Homeland Security and implemented by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). It would give immigration officials more latitude to either deny entry to the country or Legal Permanent Resident (green card) status to immigrants deemed likely to rely on government assistance. Its effective date will be February 24, 2020.

Previous rules on public charge decisions looked primarily at the use or likely use of certain cash benefit programs. The new rule expands that, adding non-cash benefits such as Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) & housing vouchers through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to this list of government assistance types that may be considered.

The rule does not apply to every immigrant or immigration decision, however. This includes Legal Permanent Residents, Emergency Medicaid recipients, pregnant women and women 2 months postpartum, most refugee and asylum applicants, human trafficking and domestic violence victims. Use of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) or Medicaid for children under 21 may also not be considered in Public Charge determinations.

(Policy resource – Covering Kids and Families)

Recruitment – Scholarship:

Get Free MAT Training and Receive NHSC Award Preference

The [DATA 2000 Waiver](#) (also called a MAT Waiver) helps improve access to OUD and substance-use disorder (SUD) treatment. It allows clinicians to dispense or prescribe narcotic medications like buprenorphine in settings

other than an opioid treatment program (OTP). <https://nhsc.hrsa.gov/loan-repayment/nhsc-sud-workforce-loan-repayment-program.html>

Free Medication-Assisted Treatment Training Resources Help Clinicians Secure Loan Repayment Awards.

Opioid-related drug overdoses claim more than 130 lives every day in the United States. Prevention and access to treatment for opioid addiction and overdose reversal drugs are critical to fighting this epidemic. This includes increasing the number of clinicians who are eligible to prescribe or dispense buprenorphine, a medication approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat opioid dependency.

Eligible clinicians who are passionate about treating opioid and substance use disorders can receive free medication-assisted treatment (MAT) training through the Providers Clinical Support System (PCCS). PCCS provides MAT training for several different provider disciplines, including physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants. After completing the training, eligible clinicians can request a Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 (DATA 2000) waiver to treat opioid dependency with approved buprenorphine products.

A DATA 2000 waiver can help clinicians provide medication-assisted treatment to those that need it most and clinicians can secure tens of thousands of dollars to repay student loans. The Health Resources and Services Administration recently launched two new loan repayment programs, the Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Program (SUD Workforce LRP) and the Rural Community LRP.

The SUD Workforce LRP offers eligible clinicians up to \$75,000 and the Rural Community LRP offers up to \$100,000 in student loan repayment awards in exchange for three years of service at an NHSC approved site providing SUD services.

Clinicians with a DATA 2000 waiver may receive priority funding when they apply to either of these programs.

Take this step to help combat the opioid epidemic, enhance your clinical training at no cost, and position yourself for success during the next SUD Workforce and Rural Community loan repayment program application periods.

For more information about MAT training and the DATA 2000 waiver the NHSC-PCSS MAT Training webpage.

For the latest information on HRSA's loan repayment programs, including application periods and eligibility requirements, visit the NHSC Loan Repayment Program webpage. Apply by April 23rd.

Resources – Tools

Using a Sliding Fee Scale for Patients?

Federal regulations do not require RHCs to offer a sliding fee scale to their patients, unless they have providers on staff receiving National Health Service Corps Scholarships or Loan Forgiveness. Many clinics, however, do choose to offer a sliding fee scale or a similar discount. If you have not updated your fee scale, the 2020 Federal

Poverty Guidelines is available at <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>. This link also includes a copy for 125% of the FPL.



There is an abundance of resources for starting a full preventive initiative for heart, stroke and related, tobacco cessation. The first three bullets offer printable resources for quick and easy patient educational handouts, and there are social media resources to add to your Facebook page! To refresh your memory of Medicare-covered services, visit the [Preventive Services](#) website.

- [Million Hearts®](#): An HHS initiative to prevent a million heart attacks and strokes
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Heart Disease](#) website
- [American Heart Month](#) webpage

Last week's RHlhub posted a wealth of examples of successful rural interventions used throughout the nation. Why re-invent the wheel? These shared with the hopes that others will replicate them in their community.

[Chronic Disease in Rural America: Heart Disease & Stroke](#) – find statistics and data on rural disparities and examples of rural prevention and treatment programs. (This one includes a project and quit resource for veterans.)

[Rural Cardiovascular Disease Models & Innovations](#) – features a variety of interventions that are helping rural communities address heart health, including 2 evidenced-based, 5 effective, 4 promising, and even more emerging programs.

The Rural Health Information Hub is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Sign up to receive RHlhub This Week at ruralhealthinfo.org/updates.

Indiana Rural Health Association

<https://www.indianaruralhealth.org/rural-health-clinics>

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