

Ch-ch-ch-changes (Turn and face the strange) (continued)

Some of the major announcements from Medlearn Matters recently are accumulated in this table.

Topic	Number	Link
Billing Chapter 13	MM9442	https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/MM9442.pdf
Chronic Care Mgmt.	MM9234	https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/MM9234.pdf
Cost Report UPL = \$81.32	MM9347	https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/MM9347.pdf

Medlearn Matters also produces a weekly newsletter that is full of links to valuable information for every Medicare provider called MLN Connects Provider News. The link below is to the most recent issue and includes a link to subscribe to this valuable newsletter.

<https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Outreach/FFSProvPartProg/Provider-Partnership-Email-Archive-Items/2016-01-07-eNews.html?DLPage=1&DLEntries=10&DLSort=0&DLSortDir=descending>

One important notice that ALL RHCs should review and complete this process immediately is from a recent announcement from HHS on the extension of the Essential Community Provider (ECP) Petition deadline for entities to submit their petition to be on the 2017 list of Essential Community Providers until January 15, 2016. The petition is very easy to complete and may be accessed https://data.healthcare.gov/ccio/ecp_petition. Here are some links that will help you understand the process: [list of FAQs](#) and [detailed instructions](#).

Medlearn Matters also produces Fact Sheets on just about every subject that Medicare is involved in. Just Google whatever the subject matter you are looking for with the words “Medicare Fact Sheet” and you will typically find a concise, understandable document about the subject matter that you are interested in. For example, search for Rural Health clinics, you would find this RHC Fact Sheet:

<https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/RuralHlthClinfctsht.pdf>

CMS Rural Health Open Door

CMS offers Rural Health Open Door teleconferences every six weeks or so. The next one is scheduled for Thursday, January 14, 2016 at 2:00pm is as follows: Announcements & Updates; RHC and FQHC Updates; CMMI Accountable Health Communities Model Update. This agenda is subject to change. If you wish to participate, dial 1-800-837-1935 Conference ID 37066618. Here is the website for more information.

https://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/outreach/opendoorforums/odf_ruralhealth.html

RHC Technical Assistance Webinars from HRSA and NARHC

HRSA and the NARHC have partnered for many years providing technical assistance to Rural Health Clinics through teleconferences and webinars. These presentations are archived and assessable from the HRSA website. The next call/webinar will be held on Tuesday, January 19th from 2:00pm – 3:00pm EASTERN. The call/webinar will be on the new Chronic Care Management (CCM) benefit and how RHCs and their patients can benefit from this new service. To participate on the call, phone 1-800-779-1416 and use the passcode 4343459. Here is a link to the archives of previous calls and webinars: <http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth2/policy/confcall/>.

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National Association of Rural Health Clinics

Of course there is the National Association of Rural Health Clinics which is the voice of RHCs in Washington, DC. NARHC offers two institutes each year in the spring and fall which provide invaluable updates and in-depth information for rural health clinic administrators and providers. Here is a list of upcoming events <http://narhc.org/events/> with the next one occurring in San Antonio, Texas on March 14th to the 16th. Here is the link to information on the conference including an agenda & costs: [NARHC Spring Institute - March 14-16, 2016](#).

If you cannot make the conferences, there is the List Serve that provides timely information and updates as well as an opportunity to ask questions and submit feedback to other RHCs throughout the country. If you are not familiar with what a list serve is it is a mail list which allows its members to communicate through email posts. To post a question on list serve, you must first be signed up on the list serve. To sign up for list serve, [click here](#). The list serve is free to join.

However, remember RHCS need representation on a national level. The numbers bear out that RHCs/FQHCs are the most cost effective way to provide healthcare to vulnerable populations. That story needs to be told and your membership in the NARHC will help tell that story.

Conclusion

There you have it: a lot of resources to help you stay abreast with change. David Bowie has done his part to change the world through his music and cultural influence on generations (where is that Ziggy Stardust costume hidden in the confines of my closet). We still have a lot of work to do. RHCs exist to provide healthcare to people in rural and underserved areas and we have been doing our mission well. However, with the added pressures of hospital closings due to unintended consequences of the ACA (Affordable Care Act), RHCs are being called upon more than ever to change the way they fit in the provision of healthcare to vulnerable populations. The mission is difficult and the resources few. Hopefully, this article will help you to find & seek out the information and guidance you require to plot your path to success in this new and turbulent environment we call healthcare in 2016.

Mark R. Lynn, CPA (inactive)
Healthcare Business Specialists, LLC
marklynnrhc@gmail.com