



Rural Rounds Summary

JULY 8, 2026

About Us

Rural Rounds was started as a way to connect rural health leaders across the nation in order to tackle the real-world issues facing rural healthcare today. You no longer have to feel isolated and you don't have to fight your battles alone!

We know that leading a clinic in Rural America brings its own challenges and it can often feel very isolating. So, every Wednesday from 9am to 10am CST, rural health leaders from across the United States come together virtually to discuss hot topics or challenges that are facing their clinics and organizations. This is a safe zone for leaders to ask questions, share ideas, and learn from their peers.

Summary of Today's Rural Rounds

Thank you to those who brought important topics to today's discussion. Below is a summary of what we discussed.

Upcoming Medicare Telehealth Billing Changes

- CMS recently released changes to how RHCs will bill for “medical” telehealth services starting with dates of service 10/1/2026 and after. We are still awaiting full guidance on the changes, but based on what was given by CMS we know the following:
 - CPT G2025, will no longer be used starting with DOS 10/1/2026 and after
 - RHCs will bill “medical” telehealth services with one of the allowable telehealth codes to represent the services performed, along with modifiers 93 (audio only) or 95 (audio-visual). For a full list of approved telehealth codes visit [List of Telehealth Services | CMS](#)
 - RHCs will NOT apply the CG modifier to any “medical” telehealth claims
 - RHCs will receive the separate “medical” telehealth rate regardless of the telehealth service performed. Currently, the rate is \$97.53.
 - RHCs should work with their EHR/PM vendors now to ensure that their system has been updated to meet the new regulations/specifications
 - RHCs should work with their cost report preparer, as “medical” telehealth services will still need to be carved out/reclassified on the cost report (visits and expenses).
 - Behavioral Health services will remain as is and you will continue to bill one of the approved behavioral health telehealth CPT codes along with Rev Code 900, CG modifier, and applicable 93 or 95 modifier. For these services you will receive your All Inclusive Rate (AIR) and the visits and expenses will NOT be carved out on your cost report.

- For more information on the changes see [MLN Matters Article 14468](#)

Weight Management Programs within an RHC

- As of 7/1/2026 and through 12/31/2027. Medicare is now covering certain GLP-1 medication at a \$50.00 through the Medicare GLP1 Bridge program. For more information on the program please visit [Weight loss drugs | Medicare](#) or [Medicare GLP-1 Bridge | CMS](#).
- There are obesity management codes that are billable in an RHC that you can receive the AIR for. There is criteria that must be met in order to bill these codes and there must be face-to-face visits with an MD, DO, NP or PA to qualify to receive the AIR for these services.
- If RHCs are receiving patient weight management medications to administer in the office it is recommended to have the patient sign a consent to allow you to manage the storage (i.e. disposing of expired medications). If you would like a copy of a sample consent please email info@empowerruralhs.com.
- It is not recommended to purchase these GLP-1 medications and bill for them directly. For Medicare, you would not be able to recoup the cost of the medication, as you will only receive 20% of the charge. It is recommended to send a script to the pharmacy and then the patient can administer themselves or have administered in your clinic. There will be no reimbursement for Medicare administrations unless able to bill incident to a face-to-face visit the same day or within 30 days before or after. Reimbursement will be 20% of the charge for the administration.
- Some RHCs are running weight management clinics outside of their normal RHC hours to allow for cash payment and avoid commingling concerns. If you are considering this please work with your cost report preparer to ensure costs and visits are being excluded.
- If you are offering weight management services during your RHC hours, it is important not market these services as a separate business. There are also FDA regulations around marketing of compounded weight loss medications.
- Look for future discussions specifically on how to bill for weight management in an RHC, as well as other potential revenue streams that are allowable.

ADHD/"QB" Testing

- A question was asked on if you can bill for "QB" testing for ADHD in an RHC.
- Per discussion, this test can be performed on patients ages 6 to 64.
- It was unclear at time of discussion, what the specific codes were that would be billed. More to come on if this can be billed to Medicare. Medicaid will be state specific on reimbursement.

Passport Program in Montana for Medicaid

- If any one has information on the recent changes to the Passport Program for Medicaid in Montana, please send email to info@empowerruralhs.com. There are clinics that have questions on these changes and would like to connect.

Billing of Allergy Serum in an RHC

- Clinics that are offering allergist services had questions on how to bill for the allergy serum if the serum is prepared by an outside company and sent to the office. The office would be expected to bill for the serum.
- In an RHC, if billing for the serum for a Medicare patient, it would have to be billed with a face-to-face visit within 30 days before or after. The only reimbursement from Medicare would be 20% of the billed charges for the serum, plus 80% of the AIR for the face-to-face visit. This is often found to not be enough to cover the cost of the serum.
- For Medicaid this would be state specific, but often found to not be cost effective.
- It is recommended to have serum mixed and billed for outside of the RHC if possible. It is unclear as of yet if there are companies that will mix serum and bill the patient's insurance directly. If any one has experience, please email info@empowerruralhs.com.

Patient Brought In or 3rd Party Medications

- If you are housing medications that are brought in by the patient or sent to the office by a 3rd party to administer to your patients (i.e. allergy serums or GLP-1) it is recommended that you obtain a written consent from the patient to management the safety of that medication (i.e. disposal of expired medications). If you would like a copy of a sample consent please email info@empowerruralhs.com.

Hormone/Testosterone Replacement Therapy/Pellets

- If your RHC is housing testosterone pellets make sure you are following controlled substance management regulations, as these are considered a controlled substance.
- For more information on Medicare coverage of Testosterone Replacement Therapy visit [Does Medicare Cover Testosterone Replacement Therapy? - Medicare.org](https://www.medicare.org/coverage/testosterone-replacement-therapy)
- If you would like discuss hormone replacement/pellets and how to operate in an RHC, be looking for future discussion opportunities on this subject.

Topic Suggestions

If you would like to suggest a topic for upcoming Rural Round sessions, please visit www.empowerruralhs.com/ruralrounds to submit your topic. Submissions should be submitted each week by Tuesday at 3:00pm CST to be added to discussion for that week.

Invitation to Rural Rounds

If you know of someone who would benefit from attending Rural Rounds, please direct them to sign up at www.empowerruralhs.com/ruralrounds.

Recording of Past Rural Rounds

Rural Rounds, starting 7/15/2026 will be recorded for those unable to attend. To access the recordings please visit www.empowerruralhs.com/ruralrounds1. The videos will be posted within 24 hours after the session. A summary of the session will be emailed to all invitees, as well.

Contact

If you need further information on any topics discussed today or need further assistance, please email info@empowerruralhs.com

If you would like speak with any consultants participating in Rural Rounds, please contact them directly. No one participating in Rural Rounds will be directly solicited to purchase services. If you have any concerns, please email info@empowerruralhs.com to discuss.