SYLLABUS
RURAL HEALTH LAW
Course Number 5297
Session Sum I
TTH 1515 – 1730
3 BLB

Instructor and Contact information:

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Course Description and Focus:  This course will focus on the unique issues of the rural community and how health policy, laws and regulations impact health care services in those areas. Students will be required to read the assigned materials prior to each class and be prepared to discuss them. There will be several guest lecturers who will address traditional health law topics such as corporate practice of medicine, Medicare fraud and abuse, antitrust and similar laws and regulations as they apply to the rural health care provider. Other guest lecturers are experts in rural health care and public health issues.

Prerequisites:  Second year and above, preferred. Completion of torts, contracts, administrative/constitutional law and corporations helpful.

Objectives of the Course:  To expose the students to health law issues as they apply to the rural health care setting. Upon successful completion of the course the student will:

- Be familiar with the major legal issues in rural health.
- Understand the impact of State and Federal health policies on the rural health care provider
- Be familiar with public rural health programs.
- Understand the current and evolving structure of health care systems in rural areas.

Student comprehension of the course material will be demonstrated by student participation in class, presentations that are based on case study assignments and assigned readings on a particular health topic as well as a final examination. The final examination will be in essay form (3-5 questions) covering lectures, case studies and reading assignments.
Grades

Grades will be computed as follows:
- Classroom participation and case study presentation 40%
- Final examination 60%

Total 100%

Class Schedule and Readings

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<th>DATE</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 30</td>
<td>Introduction and Overview of Course and</td>
<td>Review of Syllabus</td>
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<td>Expectations</td>
<td>Case Study #1</td>
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<td>Rural Public Health Resources, Rural Demographics in Texas</td>
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<td>June 1</td>
<td>What is Rural Public Health?</td>
<td>Readings</td>
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<td>Class Discussion of Case Study #1</td>
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<td>WEEK TWO</td>
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<td>June 6</td>
<td>Health Laws and Rural Implications</td>
<td>Case Study #2</td>
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<td>Topic: Kickback and Self-Referral Liability under the False Claims Act – Application to Rural Providers</td>
<td>Readings</td>
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<td>June 8</td>
<td>Health Regulations and Rural Implications</td>
<td>Readings</td>
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<td>HIPAA and Privacy, Antitrust, Corporate Practice of Medicine, Class Discussion, Case Study #2</td>
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<td>WEEK THREE</td>
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<td>June 13</td>
<td>Health Disparities</td>
<td>Case Study #3</td>
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<td>Topic: Addressing Disparities in Access, Quality and Financing of Health Care – Urban vs Rural from a legal and ethical perspective.</td>
<td>Readings</td>
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<td>June 15</td>
<td>Rural Communities and Access to Public Health Services</td>
<td>Case Study #3</td>
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<td>Case Study #3</td>
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<td>WEEK FOUR</td>
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<td>June 20</td>
<td>Rural Health Facilities and Financing Health Care</td>
<td>Readings</td>
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<td>June 22</td>
<td>Overview of Federal and State Funding Programs for Rural Health Services: Critical Access Hospitals and Medicaid, Medicare and CHIP, Case Study #4</td>
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<td>Case Study #4</td>
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**WEEK FIVE**

- June 27 Wild Card (Topic to be recommended by Class)
- June 29 Proposing Solutions – interactive discussion
  Review of topics for final
- June 30 EXAMINATION
ISSUES IN RURAL PUBLIC HEALTH LAW

Regulating Health Care – Rural Perspectives

Anti-kickback and Stark
Antitrust
Corporate Practice of Medicine
Rural Health Care Entities
Public Law and Rural Health care

Public Health and Rural Health

Financing Rural Health Care

Medicare/Medicaid
CHIP

Rural Health Facilities

Critical Access Hospitals
Federally Qualified Health Centers
Rural Health Clinics

Creating Access for rural communities

Health Networks
Remote Medicine
Rural Health Resources

Rural Primary Care Hospitals: Experience Offers Suggestions for Medicare's Expanded Program. HEHS-98-60. 15 pp. plus 5 appendices (11 pp.) February 23, 1998. Reviews the rural primary care hospital (RPCH) program, assessing compliance with the requirements that RPCHs have an average length of stay of 72 hours or less and that physicians certify that inpatients are expected to be discharged within 72 hours.

The Rural Information Center (RIC)

Provides information and referral services to local, state, and federal government officials; community organizations; health professionals and organizations; rural electric and telephone cooperatives; libraries; businesses; and rural citizens working to maintain the vitality of America's rural areas:
[A national clearinghouse for collecting and disseminating information on rural health issues, research findings related to rural health, and innovative approaches to the delivery of rural health care services.]

- The Rural Information Center Health Service (RICHS) is a joint project of the Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP), Department of Health and Human Services, and the National Agricultural Library (NAL), United States Department of Agriculture. Operating as part of NAL's Rural Information Center (RIC), RICHS collects and disseminates information on rural health issues. RICHS provides free customized assistance such as performing database searches on rural health topics and funding resources, referring users to organizations or individuals for additional information, furnishing selected publications, and posting a wide variety of timely information on the Internet (funding resources, conference announcements, bibliographies, directories, and full-text documents).
http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/richs/

- Economic and Rural Development Resources: (RICHS)
A rural health information clearinghouse known as the Rural Information Center Health Service (RICHS) providing current sources of information for publications, organizations, research, funding and Internet links by subject.

Rural Hospital Information Resources

A valuable site offering publications, organizations, and funding on rural health. These publications are available online or can be ordered from the distribution center.
Federal grant opportunities related to rural health: Bulletins, publications, and websites offering funding resources for rural health. http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/richs/funding.htm

Federal Office of Rural Health Policy guide
The Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP) promotes better health care service in rural America. The Office works both within government at federal, state and local levels, and with the private sector -- with associations, foundations, providers and community leaders to seek solutions to rural health care problems. It includes the following sites:

http://www.nal.usda.gov/orhp/
[Publications with ordering information or with links to full text.]

http://www.nal.usda.gov/orhp/pubs.htm
[Publications on the Web from HRSA.]

http://www.muskie.usm.maine.edu/mrhrc/d_indexMRHRC.html
[Rural Health News Publication with informative articles on rural health topics.]

http://www.nal.usda.gov/orhp/CHIP2.htm
[Reasons why rural health is important on enrolling rural children in CHIP and Medicaid.]

http://www.shepscenter.unc.edu/research_programs/rural_programs/phy.html
[Facts about Rural Physicians

http://www.nal.usda.gov/orhp/policy.htm
[Policy helps shape rural health by advising the Secretary of Health and Human Services on major issues such as the effects of Medicare and Medicaid on rural citizens' access to health care.]

The National Advisory Committee (NAC) on Rural Health Advises the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services on the provision and financing of health care services in rural areas.

Who is it?
The Committee is made up of rural physicians, nurses, educators, researchers, hospital and clinic administrators, and policy experts. The Chair of the Committee is former Iowa Governor Bob Ray. The Committee was established in 1987 at the same time as the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy and serves as a voice within the Department for rural health.

What does it do?
The Committee studies and makes recommendations on issues affecting health care in rural areas such as shortages of health care providers, limited access to health care services and the financial viability of struggling rural health care systems. http://www.nal.usda.gov/orh
Capital assistance funding: A Rural Health Resource Guide
This guide is designed to help hospitals, clinics, community health centers, and other rural health providers learn more about various funding options to meet their capital needs. It is not intended to be comprehensive, but to represent examples of federal grants, direct loans and loan guarantee programs, foundation funding and other resources that may be potential sources of capital support. http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/richspub/capasist.htm

Rural Health Services Funding: A Resource Guide
A resource guide for information to specific inquires including assistance in economic revitalization issues: local government planning projects; rural health issues; funding sources; and other related issues for the purpose of monitoring the quality or rural life. http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/richspub/ric41.htm

State Rural Hospital Flexibility Program
The State Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant Program is a major national initiative to strengthen rural health. http://www.rupri.org/srhf-eval/

Rural Policy Research Institute.
RUPRI is a very detailed site that utilizes an inter-disciplinary approach to facilitate understanding of the rural impacts of public policies and to provide decision support to rural residents. http://www.rupri.org/

HRSA's Office of Rural Health Policy
Works within the DHHS and with other Federal agencies, States, national associations, foundations, and private-sector organizations to seek solutions to health care problems in rural communities. It also assists the Secretary in developing rural health finance policy. In particular, the office advises the Secretary on how the Medicare and Medicaid programs affect access to health care for rural populations. http://www.hrsa.dhhs.gov/xrural.htm

THA – Texas Hospital Association
Texas Hospital Association offers educational programs for health care professionals, and is a resource for patient and financial data on Texas hospitals.

THA's mission is to provide leadership in advocacy, information and education to enable hospitals and integrated health care systems to deliver superior, cost-effective, health-care, which enhances individuals and their communities. http://www.thaonline.org/aboutTHA/thapubhome.html

AHA – American Hospital Association
The American Hospital Association (AHA) is the national organization that represents and serves all types of hospitals, health care networks, and their patients and communities. http://www.aha.org/default.asp
Health Law and Policy Institute
Use the Health Law Perspectives Search Engine to search Health Law Perspectives for articles on specific topics of interest. The Health Law and Policy Institute is widely regarded as one of the top health law programs in the country.
http://www.law.uh.edu/healthlaw/

National Health Law Program
The National Health Law Program is a national public interest law firm that seeks to improve health care for America's working and unemployed poor, minorities, the elderly and people with disabilities. NHeLP serves legal services programs, community-based organizations, the private bar, providers and individuals who work to preserve a health care safety net for the millions of uninsured or underinsured low-income people.
http://www.healthlaw.org


A list of South Central Texas hospitals with websites
http://www.hetcat.uthscsa.edu/09050000.html

The National Network for Health
A cooperative State Research Education and extension system helping rural America face crisis with valuable informative web sites. Offering comprehensive definitions and explanations about health issues. http://www.nnh.org

National Rural Network
Promotes communication and cooperation between non-governmental organizations for Rural America. The NRN is a group non-governmental organization that are rural stakeholders who can provide policy-makers and the public with the full breadth of the issues that compose the new rural reality in America.
http://www.nationalruralnetwork.org/

Journal of Rural Health: a quarterly journal published by the NRHA, offers original research encompassing evaluations of model and demonstration projects to improve rural health, statistical comparisons of rural and urban differences, and mathematical models examining the use of health care services by rural residents. Summaries of recently published rural health research discuss the objectives, geographical focus, database, and methods and outcomes of the research to improve rural health.
http://www.nrharural.org/pagefile/rh.html
LEGISLATIVE / REGULATORY INFORMATION

Recent federal legislation relevant to rural health
http://www.nal.usda.gov/orhp/legislate.htm

Bills and Legislation
Balanced Budget Act 1997
The Balanced Budget Act affects hospitals both in rural and urban areas. Resources in this section focus on those implications and on the application of the BBA regulations.

HealthLaw.com's BBA Page
Links to government information, full-text of the BBA, information about implications for Medicare, Medicaid and CHIPS. http://www.healthlaw.org/bba.shtml

Full Text of the BBA
http://www.healthlaw.org/bba.shtml#fulltext
http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c105:H.R.2015.ENR:

House Speaker's Balanced Budget page
http://speakernews.house.gov/budget.htm

BBA Medicaid Provisions
http://www.healthlaw.org/bba.shtml#Medicaid

BBA Medicare Provisions
http://www.healthlaw.org/bba.shtml#medicare

BBA Child Health Provisions
http://www.healthlaw.org/bba.shtml#child

HFCA BBA Regulations
http://www.healthlaw.org/bba.shtml#regs

Office of Rural Health Policies

HIPAA - Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act 1996.
Designed to improve continuity of health care both for businesses and individuals, guarantee the availability of health coverage for small employers, and prevent discrimination in enrollment and premiums against employees and dependents based on health status.
Health Care Financing Administration
Page provides links to bulletins, regulations, correction notices and eligibility certificates.
http://www.hcfa.gov/medicaid/HIPAA/usergroups/sreg.asp

Full text of HIPAA 1996 in .pdf format
http://www.hcfa.gov/medicaid/HIPAA/source/HIPAASTA.pdf

Medical Privacy

Medical Records Institute.
Information about the on-going search for standards for the electronic patient record, with an emphasis on insuring privacy.
Site is still being developed but will have legislative information when complete.
http://www.medrecinst.com/

Electronic Privacy Information Center
Site contains links to recent news, information on medical privacy law and policy, laws, research, along with other information. http://www.epic.org/privacy/medical/

Office for Civil Rights

Search Tools

Medline Literature Searches
Click on the links below to search the National Library of Medicine's Medline database for recent print articles on topics pertaining to rural health and legislation.

Rural Health AND (Texas OR Americas) AND Legislation


Google - Government Search Engine
Searches government websites. Enter terms without any joining words (ie - AND, OR, etc. will be ignored). Click SEARCH. http://www.google.com/unclesam/

Northern Light - Search Engine
Enter search terms, click SEARCH. Results will be shown on the right hand side of the screen. Notice that NorthernLight has organized the results into folders (along the left-hand column). Click on a folder to see the subset of your results contained within. http://www.northernlight.com
Texas State Legislature - Bill Search
Allows searching by author/sponsor, bill number, committee, subjects, or a combination of these methods. http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlo/billsrch/search.htm

Thomas - U.S. Congress on the Internet
Allows searching by bill no., phrase. Includes current and previous congresses, committee information, congressional records, and legislation (bill summaries and status, texts, etc.). http://thomas.loc.gov

http://thomas.loc.gov/tfaqs/homepage.html
[For help searching Thomas, look at the Frequently Asked Questions page]

Publications

Office of Rural Health Policies
CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS

The Critical Access Hospital (CAH) is an alternative approach for rural hospitals to help maintain access to essential health services. This approach offers a degree of regulatory flexibility and cost-based reimbursement in exchange for limitations on the amount of inpatient services. This program is administrated by the Department of Health through the Office of Rural Health. Listed below are World Wide Web Resources that provide information on regulations, application process, existence of present and future CAH, and links for finding additional information.

TEXAS: Critical Access Hospital Program
From the Center for Rural Health Initiatives Home Page (now www.orca.tx.state.us), select Programs and Critical Access Hospital Program for a brief description of the CAH program with contact person and link to application package.

National Resources

Location of Critical Access Hospitals
Map of the U.S. showing all CAH hospitals as of May 19, 2000.
http://www.shepscenter.unc.edu/research_programs/Rural_Program/maps/cahnew2.html

List of Critical Access Hospitals
http://www.rho.arizona.edu/cah/cahhospitals.html

Balanced Budget Refinement Act Legislation Impacts Rural Hospitals
Synopsis of the 1999 BBRA provisions affecting critical access hospitals by the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health.
http://www.ruralcenter.org/nosorh/cahinfo.html

This is a December 1999 report from the Rural Policy Research Institute explaining how the policy changes of the Balanced Budget Refinement Act of 1999 affects the rural health care delivery systems. Scroll down to Table of Contents, select part A. Choices For Small Rural Hospitals. Section 403 deals with Improvements in the CAH program.
http://www.rupri.org/pubs/archive/reports/P99-11/

American Hospital Association CAH
Contains an update of CAH legislation, a directory of CAH resources, FAQ’s concerning certification, conversion, credentialing, grants, licensure, networks, personnel, plan development and reimbursement, an explanation of the grant program, state association links, and state health plans online. http://www.aha.org/MemberServ/cah.html
Rural Hospitals, Health Care Systems Strengthened By $13 Million In Grant Awards

Health Care Financing Administration
This memorandum outlines initial CAH program authorized by the BBA of 1997 along with FAQ’s about the CAH program. http://www.hcfa.gov/facts/rhfmemo2.htm

U.S. Government Codes For Critical Access Hospitals
From the Legal Information Institute
Search these documents by selecting Edit from the browser, then Find (on this page), enter Critical Access Hospital in the query box and click Find Next.

Sec. 1395cc. Agreements with providers of services
http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/42/1395cc.html

Sec. 1395x. Definitions
http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/42/1395x.html

Sec. 1395y. Exclusions from coverage and Medicare as secondary payer
http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/42/1395y.html

Sec. 1395f. Conditions of and limitations on payment for services
http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/42/1395f.html

Sec. 1320b-4. Nonprofit hospital or critical access hospital philanthropy
http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/42/1320b-4.html

Sec. 1395i-4. Medicare rural hospital flexibility program
http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/42/1395i-4.html

Sec. 1320a-7a. Civil monetary penalties
http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/42/1320a-7a.html

Sec. 1395n. Procedure for payment of claims of providers of services
http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/42/1395n.html

Sec. 1395e. Deductibles and coinsurance
http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/42/1395e.html

From the U.S. Government Printing Office
This subpart of the Code of Federal Regulations Title 42 revised as of October 1, 1998, sets forth the conditions that a hospital must meet to be designated as a CAH.
Additional Readings

North Carolina Rural Health Research and Policy Analysis Publications
Download findings brief entitled The Role Of CAH Status In Mitigating The Effects of New Prospective Payment Systems Under Medicare, January 2000. Examines rural hospitals that may qualify as CAH and identifies facilities at risk due to Medicare’s expansion of prospective payment systems (PPS) to non-acute settings. Scroll down to FB60. http://www.shepscenter.unc.edu/research_programs/Rural_Program/papers.html

Critical Access Hospitals Bibliography

Community decision-making about critical access hospitals: lessons learned from Montana's Medical Assistance Facility Program.
Abstract of an article in the Journal of Rural Health, Spring 1999. The purpose of this study was to examine rural community decision-making regarding MAF conversion from the perspectives of key informants who were involved in the decision-making process. The article is available from Medline. http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov:80/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list_uids=10511754&dopt=Abstract

The Medicare Critical Access Hospital program: the first year.

Current Projects
Scroll down to the seventh article to read an abstract of a current project at the North Carolina Rural Health Research Program entitled Evaluation of the Rural Hospital Flexibility Act and the Critical Access Hospital Program. Includes contact information. http://www.shepscenter.unc.edu/research_programs/Rural_Program/projects.html

Recently Completed Projects
TELEMEDICINE

Telemedicine is the use of telecommunications to transfer medical information for diagnostic and educational purposes. Telemedicine can be used to bridge the distance barrier in delivering healthcare to rural populations. Specific rural telemedicine applications include monitoring chronic health conditions, providing support to rural primary care clinicians, providing access to a physician specialist, and allowing healthcare professionals to participate in continuing medical education. By using the rural health online toolkit, the rural health administrator has the necessary information to learn about telemedicine and make an informed decision about the viability of telemedicine as a healthcare delivery option.

General Telemedicine Resources

This reference is a comprehensive guide on all aspects of telemedicine including technology, planning, and evaluation. Written by the National Library of Medicine and the Division of Health Care Service, Institute of Medicine.
http://www.nap.edu/books/0309055318/html/index.html
http://books.nap.edu/books/0309055318/html/239.html#pagetop [Glossary of telemedicine terms]

American College of Radiology (ACR) Standards for Teleradiology
The standards adopted by the American College of Radiology, effective 1/1/99, governing the practice of teleradiology.

Legislation and Reports – Federal and State of Texas
Federal

1997 Telemedicine Report to Congress
This 1997 report to Congress by Secretary of Commerce Michael Cantor was required by the Telecommunications Reform Act of 1996. This report includes findings from federally funded telemedicine projects and the technical, legal, and political issues surrounding telemedicine.
http://www.ntia.doc.gov/reports/telemed/index.htm
http://www.ntia.doc.gov/reports/telemed/letsec.htm
[Message from Commerce Secretary Kantor]

http://www.ntia.doc.gov/reports/telemed/execsum.htm [Executive Summary]

http://www.ntia.doc.gov/reports/telemed/intro.htm [Introduction]

Exploratory Evaluation of Rural Applications of Telemedicine, 1997
This report, published by the Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP), is a nationwide assessment on the status of telemedicine in rural areas and the effects of telemedicine on rural healthcare. http://www.hrsa.dhhs.gov/Newsroom/publications.htm


http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c106:S.2505:
[S.2505 - Telehealth Improvement and Modernization Act of 2000]

http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c106:S.770:
[S.770 - Comprehensive Telehealth Act of 1999]

http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c106:H.R.3146:

http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c106:S.980:
[S. 980 - Promoting Healthcare in Rural Areas Act of 1999]

http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c106:H.R.1746:
[H.R. 1746 - School and Libraries Internet Access Act of 1999]

http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c106:H.R.1344:
[H.R. 1344 - Triple-A Rural Health Improvement Act of 1999]

http://www.hcfa.gov/regs/bbra/title4.htm:
Legislative Issues In Telemedicine
This site provides a summary of all 1999-2000 Texas legislation involving telemedicine. http://tie.telemed.org/legal/state/#t

- **1999 Texas S.B. 560**
  Full summary of Texas Senate Bill 560 regarding the availability of telecommunications infrastructure to rural institutions at rates comparable to urban institutions. http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/cgi-bin/tlo/

- **Rural Health Program**
  Full summary of Texas Senate Bill 1398 defining telemedicine consultations. Bill also creates advisory committee to guide telemedicine policies. http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/cgi-bin/tlo/
RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

Recruitment and retention are two critical issues to the maintenance of a strong rural hospital clinical workforce that includes physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners and nurses. Recruitment is the securing of health professionals, whether it is through community-based programs like the East Texas Area Health Education Center’s (AHEC’s) Health Careers Promotions activities or through searches beyond the community using resources like the National Recruitment and Retention Network (3R Net) database. Retention is the utilization of resources and programs to support the hospital’s health professionals and to promote a positive work environment. The retention topic includes subtopics like Continuing Medical Education (CME) resources, information dissemination resources, and practice management support resources. Also, it includes information on locum tenens programs, which allow existing health professionals to take vacations without leaving the hospital understaffed and preceptorship programs, which allow the health professionals to take on an educational role. Additionally, information on loan repayments and J-1 visa waivers is included.

Journal of Rural Health - Recruitment/Retention Subject Bibliography
This bibliography contains Journal of Rural Health articles from 1985-1998 related to rural health workforce recruitment and retention. Articles are not available online, but ordering information is included. http://www.nrharural.org/search/subj/Recruitment.htm

Recruitment
3R Net
The National Recruitment and Retention Network (3R Net) is made up of 45 state organizations such as State Offices of Rural Health, AHECS, Cooperative Agreement Agencies and State Primary Care Associations. These not-for-profit organizations help health professionals locate practice sites in rural areas throughout the country. Click on a state to browse employment opportunities by state. (Note: Requires registration, but registration is free.) http://www.3rnet.org/docs/states.html http://www.3rnet.org/docs/about.htm [Explains how to add your organization to their database.]

East Texas AHEC – Health Careers Promotion
This site explains the recruitment programs the East Texas AHEC program supports, including a series that helps young people from rural areas become interested in medical professions. http://www.etxahec.org/hcp/index.htm

National Health Services Corps – Automated Information Retrieval
This searchable database produced by the National Health Services Corps, allows users to search for NHSC Scholar Opportunities (HP) and NHSC Loan Repayment Opportunities (LR). It is updated regularly so as to accurately represent which communities are actively recruiting. Does require initial registration, but registration is free. To begin search, click on Search AIR (vacancies, profiles) at the top of the page.
National Rural Health Association – Physician Recruitment and Retention
This issue paper produced by the National Rural Health Association (NRHA) is an overview of physician recruitment initiatives and retention problems. It includes a description of government initiatives, private organization and community initiatives, and the economic and social issues facing rural physicians. It includes an extensive bibliography. http://www.nrharural.org/dc/issuepapers/ipaper13.html

New England Journal of Medicine – Recruiting News Online
This online article from the publishers of the New England Journal of Medicine includes tips for recruiting physicians to a rural area. The necessity of an appealing, yet honest ad is highlighted. http://www.nejm.org/classifieds/recruit.htm

University of Nebraska Medical Center – Recruiting New Rural Practitioners
The Rural Faculty of the University of Nebraska Medical Center compiled this information. It includes tips to recruit better locally and includes some retention information. http://www.unmc.edu/FamilyMed/rural/recruit/introd.htm

Retention

CME

American Medical Association – CME Locator Home-study Search Criteria
This site allows users to search for CME courses based on the subject and type (i.e. available through the Internet). It includes the course objectives, cost, AMA credit hours, contact information, and a link for Internet based courses. http://www.ama-assn.org/iwcf/iwcfmgr206/SESSION

http://www.ama-assn.org/cmeselec/courses.htm
[Listed the online CME courses available through the AMA.]

Texas Medical Association – CME
This site lists CME resources compiled by the Texas Medical Association. It highlights ethics CME programs sponsored by TMA that satisfy the ethics CME requirement for Texas license renewal. http://www.texmed.org/cme/default.asp
http://www.texmed.org/cme/cmeCourses/cmeSearchArea.asp
[TMA CME search page. Features calendar of CME opportunities in Texas and library resources that are available through loan.]

Boston University School of Medicine – Internet Based CME
This site offers a variety of Internet based courses that were developed by Boston University School of Medicine faculty for 1 AMA credit hour each. This site includes a well-developed Dermatology course list. http://www.bumc.bu.edu/www/busm/cme/ibcme.htm
National Institutes of Health – CME Online
These courses have been developed by the National Institutes of Health and are worth 1 AMA credit hour each. http://odp.od.nih.gov/consensus/cme/cme.htm

American Psychiatric Association – CME Credit Online
This site lists online symposia available from the APA. These courses are delivered through the RealPlayer. http://www.apa.onlinecme.org

American Heart Association – Continuing Medical Education
This site lists online CME courses created by the AMA. It specifically addresses cardiovascular disease and stroke. http://www.americanheart.org/Scientific/CME/

Information Dissemination

National Information Center for Health Services Administration – News Updates
Compiled by a consortium of health organizations, this site contains links to current medical news. It divides the sources into subtopics, like news for health care executives, news for health law professionals, and news for health information management. http://www.nichsa.org/public/articles/index.html?Cat=3

http://www.nichsa.org/
[National Information Center for Health Services Administration home page.]

Rural Information Center Health Service (RICHES) – Publications
Compiled and produced by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, this page lists documents that are available on the web or can be ordered through the HRSA Information Center. http://www.nal.usda.gov/orhp/pubs.htm [Documents that are available on the web.]

http://www.nal.usda.gov/orhp/publist.htm
[Complete publication list. Includes ordering information]

Rural Policy Research Institute – Most Recent Publications
This page lists the most recent publications produced by the Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI). RUPRI is an institute that interprets the rural impact of public policies. http://www.rupri.org/pubs/recent.html
http://www.rupri.org/
[RUPRI home page]

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – News and Public Affairs
This site contains links to the HHS press releases, fact sheets, and speeches. It includes audio clips from HHS officials and public service announcements. http://www.hhs.gov/news/
Journal of the American Medical Association
JAMA is a peer-reviewed general medicine journal. This site contains the full-text of the JAMA from November 1998 until present. http://jama.ama-assn.org

Physician’s News Digest – Texas Edition

Practice Management Support

Family Practice Management
Family Practice Management (FPM) is the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)’s free online practice management journal. It is published 10 times per year and includes links to interactive quizzes through which members of the AAFP can earn CME credit. http://www.aafp.org/fpm/index.html [Current Table of Contents link.

Health Care Financing Administration – HCFA Forms
This site includes many of the HCFA forms in PDF format, which may be printed out. This site includes Patient's Request for Medicare Payment and Health Insurance Claim form. http://www.hcfa.gov/forms/

University of South Carolina - Health Economics Tutorials
This site offers several interactive tutorials related to economics and health administration. The faculty at the Department of Health Administration from the University of South Carolina created all of the tutorials. http://hadm.sph.sc.edu/COURSES/ECON/Tutorials.html

American Medical Association – Legal Issues for Physicians
This site offers tips for the physician regarding legal issues, including a link to a page, which offers tips for evaluating professional liability insurance. http://www.ama-assn.org/physlegl/legal/busmgmt.htm

Medscape – Medical Office Management
This site is an information hub for medical practice management. It includes full text articles on medical office practice, including subsection entitled Computers & Technology and Business of Medicine. http://medoffice.medscape.com/home/network/mom/mom.html

Texas Medical Association – Practice Management
This site presents a set of resources for practice management, including information on quality improvement resources, medical savings accounts, and patient privacy. http://www.texmed.org/pmt/prs.asp
Locum Tenens

New England Journal of Medicine – Locum Tenens
This online article from the publishers of the New England Journal of Medicine explains why a facility might choose to recruit a physician in a locum tenens position. It includes what to look for in a locum tenens recruitment firm and the characteristics of physicians who succeed in this type of position. http://www.nejm.org/classifieds/locum.htm

American Academy of Family Physicians – A Physicians Guide to Locum Tenens
This article from the American Academy of Family Physicians describes the reality of being a locum tenens physician and offers tips on how to make it a positive experience. http://www.aafp.org/fpm/990200fm/41.html

American College of Physicians – American Society of Internal Medicine – Locum Tenens
From the Career Counseling section of the American College of Physicians – American Society of Internal Medicine website, this page offers information regarding the benefits and difficulties of being a locum tenens physician, including a link to more information on malpractice insurance. http://www.acponline.org/counseling/locumtenens.htm

Center for Rural Health Initiatives Interim Study (now Office of Rural and Community Affairs) See: www.orca.state.tx.us
This page provides notice that the Center for Rural Health Initiatives has been charged with coordinating and completing a study of physician relief services. Locum tenens will be included in this study. Site includes contact information to participate in the study or for more information. http://www.crhi.state.tx.us/pdf/rh1_reporter/sept_76.html

Preceptorships

American Academy of Family Physicians - Rural Physicians as Educators: Why Take On Another Job?
This full text online article from the American Family Physician offers reasons for a rural physician to become a preceptor. Explains that although there may be an increased to the physician in time and billing, the rewards of enhanced recruitment and retention of partners as well as professional satisfaction are great. Includes a bibliography. http://www.aafp.org/afp/100196/med_soc.html

Society of Teachers of Family Medicine – Office-based Teacher
This site has the full text of the column "For the Office-Based Teacher of Family Medicine" from the journal, Family Medicine. These columns address specific issues related to preceptorships. http://www.stfm.org/teacher/hub.html

University of North Carolina School of Medicine - Expert Preceptor Interactive Curriculum
This site is an online faculty development system for preceptors of health-professions students. It is arranged by module and may be used for reference or it may be completed
for CME credit. If used as a reference, user must register, but registration is free. If used for CME credit, user must register and registration is $30.00 per module. If user registers for all 10 modules, registration is $270.00. http://www.med.unc.edu/epic/

West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine - Journal Articles for Rural Preceptors/Community Hospital Attendings
Helen H. Baker, Ph.D., Director of Educational Development at West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine compiled this bibliography of articles related to rural preceptorship. Many of these articles are available full text online. http://www.wvsom.edu/ClinicalSciences/FacDev/articles.htm

Loan Repayment
National Health Services Corps – Loan Repayment
This site explains loan repayment and other benefits that the National Health Services Corps (NHSC) offers to eligible health professionals who serve at qualifying sites. This service is not restricted to physicians. http://www.bphc.hrsa.dhhs.gov/nhsc/Pages/about_nhsc/3B5_loan.htm

National Health Services Corps – State Loan Repayment
This site explains a state loan repayment program that the NHSC offers to health professionals through funds provided to states. This service is not restricted to physicians. http://www.bphc.hrsa.dhhs.gov/nhsc/Pages/about_nhsc/3B6_stloan.htm

Association of American Medical Colleges - State and Other Loan Repayment/Forgiveness and Scholarship Programs
This site offers a state-by-state compilation of U.S. programs that offer loan repayments. http://www.aamc.org/about/gsa/stloan/start.htm

American Academy of Family Physicians – Funding Resources for Practicing in Underserved Areas
This site described financial aid programs, scholarships, fellowships, grants, awards and other incentives to attract and retain health care personnel in scarcity areas on a state-by-state basis. The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) compiled these resources. http://www.aafp.org/special/resource/index.html

J-1 Visa Waivers
Texas Department of Health, Community Oriented Public Health – J1 Visa Waiver
This site offers comprehensive information on obtaining a J-1 visa waiver for foreign medical graduates. It includes a link to Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA’s) and Medically Underserved Areas (MUA’s) that are available for J-1 visa waivers as well as a link to the necessary forms. http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/coph/chprj1.htm
3R Net – J-1 Visa Waivers
Compiled by the National Recruitment and Retention Network (3R Net), this site offers a USDA note regarding J-1 visa waivers, links to U.S. government contacts, and a list of shortage areas with contact information. http://www.3rnet.org/docs/j1_detail.htm

US State Department – Services – Visas
This site offers important information regarding J Visa waivers, including which address to use and status inquiries. http://travel.state.gov/jvw.html
Federal Laws

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U.S. Code

BALANCED BUDGET ACT OF 1997: TITLE IV--MEDICARE, MEDICAID, AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROVISIONS
Subtitle C--Rural Initiatives
Sec. 4201. Medicare rural hospital flexibility program.
Sec. 4202. Prohibiting denial of request by rural referral centers for reclassification on basis of comparability of wages.
Sec. 4203. Hospital geographic reclassification permitted for purposes of disproportionate share payment adjustments.
Sec. 4204. Medicare-dependent, small rural hospital payment extension.
Sec. 4205. Rural health clinic services.
Sec. 4206. Medicare reimbursement for telehealth services.
Sec. 4207. Informatics, telemedicine, and education demonstration project.
42 USC Sec. 1396i, Certification and approval of rural health clinics
42 USC Sec. 1320b-4. Nonprofit hospital or rural primary care hospital philanthropy

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CFR

42 CFR PART 5, DESIGNATION OF HEALTH MANPOWER SHORTAGE AREAS
Sec. 5.1 Purpose
Sec. 5.2 Definitions
Sec. 5.3 Procedures for designation
Sec. 5.4 Notification and publication of designations

42 CFR PART 405, SUBPART X - RURAL HEALTH CLINIC SERVICES
Sec. 405.2401 Scope and definitions
Sec. 405.2402 Basic requirements
Sec. 405.2403 Content and terms of the agreement
Sec. 405.2404 Terminations of agreements
Sec. 405.2410 Beneficiary entitlement and liability
Sec. 405.2411 Scope of benefits
Sec. 405.2412 Physicians' services
Sec. 405.2413 Services and supplies incident to a physician's
Sec. 405.2414 Nurse practitioner and physician assistant services
Sec. 405.2415 Services and supplies incident to nurse practitioner and physician assistant services
Sec. 405.2416 Visiting nurse services
Sec. 405.2417 Visiting nurse services: Determination of shortage
Sec. 405.2418 Applicability of general payment exclusions
Sec. 405.2425 Payment for rural health clinic services
Sec. 405.2426 All-inclusive rate
Sec. 405.2427 Annual reconciliation
Sec. 405.2428 Allowable costs
Sec. 405.2429 Reports and maintenance of records
Sec. 405.2430 Beneficiary appeals
Sec. 410.165 Payment for rural health clinic services

42 CFR PART 491, SUBPART A: RURAL HEALTH CLINICS
Sec. 491.1 Purpose and scope
Sec. 491.2 Definitions
Sec. 491.3 Certification procedures
Sec. 491.4 Compliance with Federal, State and local laws
Sec. 491.5 Location of clinic
Sec. 491.6 Physical plant and environment
Sec. 491.7 Organizational structure
Sec. 491.8 Staffing and staff responsibilities
Sec. 491.9 Provision of services
Sec. 491.10 Patient health records
Sec. 491.11 Program evaluation

News & Reports

Rural Primary Care Hospitals: Experience Offers Suggestions for Medicare's Expanded Program (Letter Report, 02/23/98, GAO/HEHS-98-60).


Health Professions Education: Role of Title VII/VIII Programs in Improving Access to Care Is Unclear (Letter Report, 07/08/94, GAO/HEHS-94-164). During the past decade, the supply of nearly all health professionals has increased faster than has the population. For most health professions, however, data are unavailable to show whether this increased supply has translated into more access to care in rural and underserved areas.


Antitrust and Rural Health Formation of regional integrated service networks-or is it the development of monopolies and the sanctioning of monopolistic practices?

APA: Rural Health in America The purpose of this document is to express the commitment of the American Psychological Association, its Task Force on Rural Health, and its Office of Rural Health to fair and equitable access to health and mental health services for all Americans.
Centre for Rural Social Research - Rural Society Rural Society is a quarterly journal of rural social issues. It is a fully refereed academic journal, but designed to be accessible to a broad readership.

Consumer Choice and the Rural Hospital This two-year, cross-sectional study, conducted from July, 1993 through June, 1995, will investigate the association of hospital-specific consumer perceptions, preferences and behaviors of residents of small, rural communities served by single hospitals.

HHS: Survey Shows Promise and Challenge of Rural Telemedicine
NADO: TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ITS IMPACT ON RURAL AMERICA
Telecommunications has significant potential to contribute to economic development in rural America.

Rural Information Center Health Service (RICHS) Publications
RICHS: Rural Health Newsletters This bulletin lists national and state newsletters that address rural health issues.

Rural Health Care: listserv@MUSOM01.mu.wvnet.edu Rural Health Care Discussion List. Send the following message to: subscribe RuralNet-L Your Name

RWHC Monthly Executive Director Reports Full text online versions of these reports.

RWHC: A Pause On The Road To Rural Hospital Equity This year has seen a number of important congressional, administrative and judicial events related to rural hospitals' quest for payment equity under Medicare's Prospective Payment System (PPS).

RWHC: Medicare's Disproportionate & Inequitable Impact On Rural Health The small portion of Medicare expenditures for rural communities makes it difficult for them to gain the attention needed to solve long-standing rural equity issues.