

# RURAL HEALTH PROGRAM UPDATE

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

## QUALITY CARE

Iowa hospitals participate in the Hospital Engagement Network (HEN) a federal program coordinated by the Iowa Healthcare Collaborative. In 2012, 60 hospitals doing OB delivery services did not allow early elective delivery. Today all 82 Iowa hospital with OB delivery units have a Hard Stop policy for early elective delivery. Full term delivery for infants results in healthier babies and mothers. Iowa hospitals are a national leader in this high quality care service. The FLEX program and Office of Rural Health partnered with the HEN to help ensure Strong- Healthy Babies!



Three Iowa hospitals were identified in the top 20 highest ranked critical access hospitals (CAHs) in the country, as determined by iVantage Health Analytics, recently announced by the National Rural Health Association (NRHA).

## RURAL HEALTH CLINICS

# 152

Rural Health Clinics are located in 59 underserved Iowa rural counties. These clinics are federally designated especially for Medicare clients, but they serve anyone who needs clinic services. The clinics must have either a

Physician Assistant, Nurse Practitioner, or Certified Nurse Midwife on staff. Approximately 72% are owned by hospitals. These clinics are valuable and help ensure primary care services to rural Iowans. The Iowa Office of Rural Health provides technical assistance and consultation directly to the clinics.

**State Office of Rural Health** works with key partners to explore and fund innovative means of delivering rural health services. For example, the Iowa Drug Donation Repository program is a state funded not for profit program for eligible Iowans needing assistance with prescription medications and medical supplies for little or no cost.

## DRUG DONATION REPOSITORY

Patients served

# \$13.1M Rx

\$13,070,614 in free medication and supplies

# 47K

47,454 Iowans served since 2007

*\*Totals based on number of patients served quarterly as reported by participating medical facilities and pharmacies.*

## RURAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

# 1 in 4

rural Iowans live on farms - Farmers, farm workers and farm families require medicine that offers health care, and injury prevention services. Agriculture is important in Iowa. It is a way of life and one of our main state economic engines. Keeping the farms and the land safe for farmers is an investment in the future. Rural Health Programs partner with the University of Iowa to fund scholarships for health care providers attending the Agricultural Occupational Medical and Health Training Course. The training prepares health professionals to better recognize and treat agricultural related disease and injury.

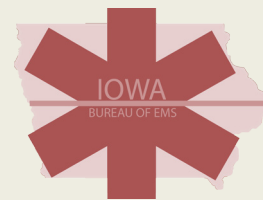


**The Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant Program (FLEX)** program provides funding to assist CAHs on quality and performance improvement activities; stabilize rural hospital finance; and integrate emergency medical services (EMS) into their health care systems. FLEX also works on the Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project (MBQIP) focused on Medicare Beneficiary Health Status improvement.

## EMS SYSTEM STANDARDS

### Flex Funding Used to Help Implement Iowa EMS System Standards

The Iowa EMS System Standards are a change initiative that provides a consistent and accountable approach to promoting and protecting the health of Iowans through EMS. The standards describe, in a tempered and realistic manner, the minimum infrastructure (county) and EMS services that all Iowans can reasonably expect from



Emergency Medical Services no matter where they live in the state. Utilizing the Iowa EMS System Standards will attain the goal of designing and implementing an integrated, measurable, sustainable state wide EMS System.

### Small Rural Hospital Improvement Plan (SHIP)

SHIP funds assisted 79 Iowa hospitals in the last grant year. A majority of the hospitals (72), focused on training and software for ICD-10 implementation. Seventeen hospitals continued work with all or part of their funds in Value Based Purchasing activities such as implementing HCAHPS. A small number of Hospitals (8), worked on activities in relation to Accountable Care Organizations. In the next grant cycle Iowa will have 82 hospitals participating in SHIP.

