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Given article text here The page provides essential information for clinics seeking Medicare participation as rural health clinics (RHCs). It includes links to relevant laws, regulations, and compliance guidelines. To qualify as an RHC, a clinic must be located in a rural area with a shortage of medical services, serve patients primarily through primary care services, and meet specific requirements outlined in the 42 CFR 405 and 491 standards. The State Survey Agency reviews the application and supporting documents to determine if the clinic meets these criteria. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Regional Office (RO) consults with relevant agencies, such as the Census Bureau and Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), to validate the rural area designation and shortage area determination. Key requirements include: * Location: The clinic must be in a rural area designated as a shortage area. * Medical Direction: A physician providing medical direction may be the clinic's owner, employee, or under an agreement with the clinic to fulfill these responsibilities. * Staffing: A nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or certified nurse midwife must be available to provide patient care services at least 50% of the time the clinic operates. Rural health clinics must have a nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or certified nurse-midwife available to provide patient care services for at least half of the clinic's operating hours. Existing clinics can apply for a temporary waiver if they struggle to hire these professionals within a 90-day period. A new request for a waiver cannot be made before six months after a previous waiver has expired. For feedback or questions about using this website, click on the "Website Feedback" button below. To comment on the content, use the "Content Feedback" button and follow the instructions to contact the issuing agency. Relevant guidelines can be found in various manuals and documents, including: * Medicare Benefit Policy Manual Chapter 13 * State Operations Manual Chapter 2 * State Operations Manual Appendix G * Medicare Claims Processing Manual Chapter 9 * Rural Health Clinics Center on CMS * MLN Fact Sheet - Rural Health Clinics Additionally, there are resources available for intensive outpatient program services, medical telehealth, and behavioral health via telehealth.

Rural health clinic rules. Rural health clinic regulations. Rural health regulations.