

Questions and Answers from Rural Health Open Door Forum-

June 10, 2021

1. I had a question around rural health networks specific to the conditions of participation. Kind of twofold question, one, I guess very basic, what is a rural health network? And then say a few critical access hospitals or rural hospitals join together to share telecommunications or office services participation would that constitute a rural health network under the condition of participation?
 - a. A rural health network is comprised of at least one CAH and one hospital that provides acute care. Within the network, the CAH and the hospital will have an agreement related to patient referral and transfer, the development and use of communications systems including (where feasible) telemetry systems, electronic data sharing, and the provision of emergency and non-emergency transportation among the facility and the hospital. In the example provided, it is not acceptable that a group of CAHs forms a rural health network without an acute care hospital.
2. I'm looking to find someone we can liaise with to create mass vaccination sites using testing as a mechanism to bring them in and a partnership with the NBA Development League. And our company is Be Healthy Hook Diagnostics formerly of Total Access MD.
 - a. Are you currently enrolled in Medicare as a provider or supplier of health care services?
 - i. Yes.
 1. I think a lot of what we would be able to offer you it really depends on what type of provider or supplier you are. And we can certainly help provide information on how you could bill for those types of services. But I may or may not be understanding your question.
 - a. We're looking for some type of physical support because we just locked in a contract with the NBA Summer Development Leagues which brings out a lot of the general public. And we look to turn it into a mass vaccination site utilizing testing because that is some of the protocols of safety if you're going to enter the arenas to watch the game. And it's happening everywhere from Las Vegas to Idaho and Baltimore. I we just got that contract two days ago.
 - i. Might want to consider, you know, checking in with the folks at the Department of HHS, we can do this. So if you go to the Web site it's all one word we - or I should say four words brought together, wecandothis.hhs.gov. You might also be able to find some resources there in addition to our attempting to try to find a way to link you up with the right people by sending us a description.
3. Is there a office and/or a unsolicited proposal procedure one could use in order to bring this to certain people's knowledge in front of them? I'm looking for innovators, early adopters. Taking it directly to the field level is it's almost impossible to find innovators, early adopters taking it directly to the field level is, you know, it's almost impossible to find innovators or early adopters. It's a needle in the haystack. So this is, by the way this other agencies there is unsolicited

proposal. There are new ideas. I haven't found that as far as CMS or specifically the rural health care centers.

- a. This question was referred to the CMS new technology liaison team, which works with various components in CM as well as the Coverage and Analysis Group in CCSQ to facilitate stakeholder engagement. Someone from the team will reach out directly to gather some additional details and determine what information or assistance CMS may be able to offer.