

## Rural Health Clinics (RHCs)/Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) Continued Efforts over the Past Years

### *Definition of an Rural Health Clinic (RHC) and a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)*

Medicare-certified rural health clinics (RHC) are located in a rural areas designated as a shortage area, is not a rehabilitation agency or a facility primarily for the care or treatment of mental diseases. Federally qualified health centers (FQHC) are located in both rural/urban areas designated as a shortage area.

RHCs operate exclusively for the purpose of providing primary care services to Medicare patients located in rural and shortage areas; FQHCs provide primary care services and dental care services to rural/urban areas and shortage areas. Both RHCs and FQHCs must comply with the applicable Medicare health and safety standards found at 42 CFR Part 491, including the Conditions for Certification/Coverage (CfCs). There are approximately 4400 Medicare-certified RHCs and 8400 Medicare-certified FQHCs.

### *Accreditation Organizations with CMS-Approved RHC Deemed Status Programs*

Currently there are two:

- American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities (AAAASF)
- The Compliance Team

### *Beneficial Surveyor and RHC/FQHC Facility Online Training Courses*

The following courses are available 24/7 online via the CMS Integrated Surveyor Training Website (<https://surveyortraining.cms.hhs.gov/index.aspx>) for RHC surveyors as well as Medicare-certified RHC and may be useful:

- Rural Health Clinic/Federally Qualified Health Centers Basic Training

### *RHC/FQHC Resource Information*

<b>For More Information About...</b>	<b>Resource</b>
RHC/FQHC Regulations – Conditions for Certification/Coverage (CfCs) 42 CFR 491	<a href="https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=e29a6f8a9ca044bb56e976a23e775a8d&amp;mc=true&amp;tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title42/42cfr491_main_02.tpl">https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=e29a6f8a9ca044bb56e976a23e775a8d&amp;mc=true&amp;tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title42/42cfr491_main_02.tpl</a>
RHC Interpretive Guidelines State Operations Manual: Appendix G	<a href="https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/som107a_p_g_rhc.pdf">https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/som107a_p_g_rhc.pdf</a>