



Quality Connect is a monthly newsletter from Stratis Health designed to support your critical access hospital (CAH), providing updates and resources related to quality reporting and improvement efforts. To share your feedback or request to have another team member added to the list, please contact Jodi Winters – jwinters@stratishealth.org.

November 2025 – In This Edition

- [Reporting Reminders/Updates](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Contact](#)

Happy National Rural Health Day!



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2025

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to providing excellent care to your rural communities!"

[Reporting Reminders/Updates](#)

Upcoming Reporting Deadlines

- HCAHPS Q3 2025 due by January 14, 2026 (via vendor/HQR)
- EDTC Q4 2025 due by February 2, 2026 (via MHA Portal)
- OP-18 Q3 2025 due by February 2, 2026 (via HQR)
- Antibiotic Stewardship CY 2025 due by March 1, 2026 (via NHSN)
- Safe Use of Opioids CY 2025 due by March 2, 2026 (via HQR)
- HCP Q4 2025-Q1 2026 due by May 15, 2026 (via NHSN)
- OP-22 CY 2025 due by May 15, 2026 (via HQR)
- Population and Sampling is optional but encouraged

For more information on submitting MBQIP measures, refer to the [MBQIP Minnesota Quality Reporting Guide](#). Additionally, consult the [2025 Core Measure Set and Data Submission Deadlines](#) for upcoming submission deadlines.

Resources

What is the Rural Health Transformation Program?

Curious about what the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) is and how it might impact you? Stratis Health worked with the [Minnesota Physician Journal](#) in its October 2025 issue to explain what we know so far about RHTP, including what it is and what it isn't. You can [read the full article here](#) and learn more about the Minnesota plan on the [Minnesota Department of Health website](#).

MDH Announces Minnesota Rural Health Award Winners

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has recognized four health care professionals and two organizations for their significant contributions to the health and well-being of their rural communities. Huge congratulations to:

- **Rick Ash**, president and chief executive officer of United Hospital District – 2025 Minnesota Community Star Award Winner
- **Nicole Kiesow**, physician assistant from Grygla, MN – 2025 Minnesota Rural Hero Provider Award
- **Joseph Corser**, physician in family medicine and addiction medicine at Sanford Bemidji and Bagley Medical Centers – 2025 Rural Health Lifetime Provider Achievement Award
- **Ray Christensen**, physician and associate dean for rural health at the University of Minnesota Medical School – 2025 Lifetime Commitment to Rural Health Education Award
- **The Nicotine-Free Greater Mankato Coalition** (Mankato) and Elevate (Perham) – co-recipients of the 2025 Minnesota Rural Health Team Award

To learn more about these awardees and the fantastic work they are doing to

improve rural health in Minnesota, check out the [2025 Minnesota Rural Health Awards](#) webpage.

U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week

U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week (USAAW), held every November 18-24, raises awareness of the importance of appropriate antibiotic and antifungal use and the threat that antimicrobial resistance (AR) poses to people, animals, plants, and their shared environment. Antibiotic stewards can access the [latest antibiotic use and stewardship report](#) to understand tracking of antibiotic use and stewardship implementation data to evaluate progress and improve antibiotic prescribing and use. CDC's [Be Antibiotics Aware](#) national educational effort aims to optimize antibiotic prescribing and use to improve patient safety and health care quality, and to combat antimicrobial resistance by raising knowledge and awareness and motivating behavior change among target consumer and healthcare professional (HCP) audiences.

Learn More About the 2025 Rural Health Care in Minnesota Chartbook

Did you know that 40% of all primary care clinics and 22% of all specialty clinics in Minnesota are in rural areas? This information and much more can be found in the 2025 Rural Health Care in [Minnesota Chartbook](#), now available online! This is an excellent resource for data on rural Minnesota's health care system, workforce, service availability, use, and financing. The chartbook is a valuable resource for those seeking data on rural health care in Minnesota.

New Tool - Minnesota CAH Quality Measure and Reporting Crosswalk

The [Minnesota CAH Quality Measure and Reporting Crosswalk](#) is intended to provide users with a basic understanding of national and Minnesota-based quality reporting initiatives involving critical access hospitals (CAHs), including the lead organization, purpose, and measures, as well as the overlap in measures across these initiatives. If you would like assistance using the tool, please reach out via email to jwinters@stratishealth.org, and we are happy to set up a time to review.

Upcoming Events

MBIQIP Open Call for MN CAHs | January 14, 2025, 1-2 p.m. CT

[Register](#)

Stratis Health hosts open discussion calls for Minnesota CAHs to support CAHs in submitting data for core MBQIP measures, sharing promising practices with other CAHs, and having a chance to ask questions of Stratis Health staff and each other. CAHs are encouraged to review their MBQIP reports before the calls and to come with questions.

Past 2025 calls and registration [can be found on the Stratis Health website](#).

Contact

For support with your quality reporting and improvement needs, please contact Jodi Winters at jwinters@stratishealth.org.

This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$262,336 with 0.00 percent financed with nongovernmental sources. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government.

About Stratis Health

Stratis Health is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to collaborate and innovate to improve health. Stratis Health delivers data-driven insights, evidence-based interventions, and leading-edge improvement methodologies that inspire organizations and communities to achieve solutions to their most complex health improvement challenges. Visit the Stratis Health website at www.stratishealth.org for more information.



This email was sent to:

[Manage Subscription](#)

*Stratis Health, 3001 Metro Dr, Ste 280, Bloomington, MN 55425, USA
Copyright © 2020 Stratis Health, All rights reserved.*