



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](mailto:jwinters@stratishealth.org).

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## Reporting Reminders/Updates

### Upcoming Reporting Deadlines

- EDTC Q1 2026 due by April 30, 2026 (via MHA Portal)
- OP-18 Q4 2025 due by May 1, 2026 (via HQR)
- OP-22 CY 2025 due by May 15, 2026 (via HQR)
- HCP Q4 2025-Q1 2026 due by May 15, 2026 (via NHSN)
- 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 [MBQIP Core Measure Set and Data Submission Deadlines](#) for upcoming submission deadlines, now updated to reflect reporting for Q3 2025 through Q2 2026.

### Optional Reporting

May 15 is also the deadline for reporting on three annual measures that are required for prospective payment system (PPS) hospitals, and are voluntary for CAHs:

- Age-Friendly Hospital Measure (via HQR) – This measure assesses hospital commitment to improving care for patients 65 years or older receiving services in

the facility.

- Maternal Morbidity (via HQR) – This measure determines if a hospital participated in a state or national perinatal quality improvement collaborative and if they implemented patient safety practices of bundles. Hospitals that attest “yes” for a given year will receive the ‘Birthday Friendly’ designation icon on the Care Compare website.
- Patient Safety Structural Measure (via NHSN) – This measure assesses how well hospitals have implemented strategies and practices to strengthen their systems or culture for safety.

More information about all of these measures, including attestation guides, can be found on [QualityNet](#).

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## Resources

### **MOUD Education Development Council Opportunity**

The Strengthening Rural Pathways to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (SRP-MOUD) program, funded through Minnesota’s Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP), is designed to expand timely, low-barrier access to MOUD across rural Minnesota. A key component of this work is developing statewide provider resources and clinical standards that reflect evolving drug supply trends and emerging best practices, with a particular focus on supporting providers in rural settings, where addiction specialty care is limited. The focus of this work will be on developing statewide resources to support the use of buprenorphine in office-based and nontraditional treatment settings, including primary care, hospitals, and community-based clinics.

Through this effort, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) will convene the MOUD Education Development Council to develop Minnesota Low-Barrier MOUD Standards of Care, including prescribing guidance and clinical best practices, and to provide recommendations to strengthen MOUD education, training, and technical assistance statewide.

These recommendations may include mentorship models, clinical consultation lines, and other supports to ensure providers, particularly in rural communities, have real-time access to expertise and ongoing guidance.

MDH is particularly interested in engaging individuals with diverse perspectives, including those from different geographic regions, practice settings, and experiences with MOUD and substance use disorder care.

Council members will have the opportunity to:

- Provide input on educational priorities and content development
- Share real-world perspectives from clinical, community, and systems-based settings
- Help advance equitable access to evidence-based treatment across Minnesota

Council members will be asked to commit approximately 1.5 hours per month for virtual meetings over 12 months. The first and final meetings will be 2 hours in length, while the remaining 10 meetings will be 90 minutes each. Limited pre-work between meetings is expected.

Application Details:

- Application deadline: May 13
- Notification of selection: May 29
- [Application link](#) (Microsoft Forms)
- Questions: [rural.transformation.mdh@state.mn.us](mailto:rural.transformation.mdh@state.mn.us)

All projects described are pending a fully approved budget.

## **Rural Health Transformation Program Notice of Grant Opportunity for Rural Hospitals**

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has announced notice of grant opportunities for:

- [Rural hospitals](#)
- [Rural federally qualified health centers](#) (FQHCs)
- [Rural tribal nations](#)
- [Rural certified community behavioral health centers/community mental health centers](#) (CCBHCs/CMHCs)

Per the announcement, Grant recipients will select activities from broad RHTP initiatives designed to advance the overarching goals of improving health outcomes and access to care for rural Minnesotans, sustainably expanding the rural health care workforce, strengthening partnerships between providers to expand service delivery in rural communities, and stabilizing rural provider financial health through strategic investments.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, with a final due date of 4:30 p.m., May 15, 2026. See the MDH [Rural Health Transformation Program Funding webpage](#) for more information. All projects described are pending a fully approved budget.

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## **Upcoming Events**

### **Workplace Violence Prevention: Protecting Our Health Care Workforce | April 30, 2026, 11 a.m.-Noon CT**

[Register](#)

Workplace violence continues to be a critical and growing challenge in health care, placing clinical and support staff at significantly higher risk than workers in most other industries. This session will equip participants with essential knowledge and tools to strengthen workforce safety and organizational preparedness. Hosted by Superior Health Quality Alliance.

### **Patient Experience and Engagement Learning and Action Network | May 11 & 26, June 9 & 23**

[Register](#)

Stratis Health is hosting a no-cost virtual learning and action network (LAN) designed to support Minnesota CAHs in identifying opportunities and implementing recommended strategies to improve patient and family engagement and experience. Topics covered may include health literacy and teach-back, service recovery, teamwork and communication, trauma-informed care, community coalitions, and patient experience best practices such as patient and family advisory councils, leadership rounding, and bedside shift report. To learn more or sign up, click the registration link above. Space is limited – open to the first 10 Minnesota CAHs to register.

## MBIQIP Open Call for MN CAHs | July 8, 2026, 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 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.

Additional 2026 calls and registration [can be found on our website](#).

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## Contact

For support with your quality reporting and improvement needs, please contact Jodi Winters at [jwinters@stratishealth.org](mailto:jwinters@stratishealth.org).

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### 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](http://www.stratishealth.org) for more information.



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