



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.

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Reporting Reminders/Updates

Upcoming Reporting Deadlines

- EDTC Q2 2026 due by July 31, 2026 (via MHA Portal)
- OP-18 Q1 2026 due by August 3, 2026 (via HQR)
- Hybrid Hospital-Wide Readmissions Q3 2025-Q2 2026 due by October 1, 2026 (via HQR)
- HCAHPS Q2 2026 due by October 14, 2026 (via HQR)

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 Q1 2026 through Q4 2026.

Assessment Request – Help Us Improve MBQIP Support

The Minnesota Flex quality and population health support team at Stratis Health is seeking your feedback as we plan to continue supporting you with MBQIP, quality reporting and improvement, and population health activities. We will use the information

you provide to evaluate and improve the tools, resources, and assistance our team provides to support you most effectively and efficiently.

This assessment has been distributed to multiple contacts at your facility. You can choose to respond as an individual or to collect feedback from others and respond as a team. The assessment should take 5-10 minutes to complete. A PDF version of the assessment is available below for reference to help you collect input from others before submitting if you are interested in responding as a team.

- Live Assessment Link: [MN Flex Stratis Health Annual Assessment 2026](#)
- [Reference PDF of Assessment](#)

Deadline: Please respond by 5:00 p.m. CT Friday, Aug. 28, 2026.

Resources

Superior Health Quality Alliance Enrollment Extended – Limited Opportunity for Hospitals

Stratis Health, a partner in [Superior Health Quality Alliance](#) (Superior Health), is pleased to share some exciting news—the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) extended the enrollment deadline for the [Quality Improvement Network-Quality Improvement Organization](#) (QIN-QIO) [13th Scope of Work](#) (13SOW).

This means if you haven't already, your facility still has the chance to **join over 520 hospitals across the region** that have begun improving quality, safety, and outcomes with Superior Health through this initiative.

[Enroll now.](#)

We encourage you to share this time-sensitive extension with colleagues at hospitals who may not have taken advantage of this opportunity:

- [Shareable 13SOW hospital recruitment flyer.](#)
- [Shareable direct enrollment link.](#)

Funding Opportunity – Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement Program

The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy is accepting applications through Aug. 6 for the [Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement Program](#). The purpose of the program is to strengthen the quality improvement culture in small rural healthcare facilities by building capacity to effectively collect and use clinical data while implementing evidence-based approaches to improve health care quality with a particular focus on improving chronic disease outcomes.

Applicants must be non-profit or public entities located in a [rural area](#). HRSA has \$5 million for up to 20 awards, and recipients can receive up to \$250,000 per year over a four-year project period.

Visit the HHS webpages [Tips for Preparing Grant Proposals](#) and [HRSA Grants](#) for important information on pre-application requirements and guidance on submitting a well-thought-out application.

Any questions can be directed to Kristin Martinsen, kmartinsen@hrsa.gov.

MNPQC Rural IMPACT Sprint Begins in September

The Minnesota Perinatal Quality Collaborative (MNPQC) is inviting professionals working in rural health care settings and critical access hospitals to join them in September for the [Rural Improving Maternal & Perinatal Access, Care, and Teamwork \(IMPACT\) Sprint](#). During six interactive sessions, participants will engage in collaborative discussions, share successful practices, and explore quality improvement strategies to address challenges unique to rural maternity care while strengthening obstetric emergency readiness.

Attend all six sessions or join those that best fit your schedule and interests. While the content is designed for clinicians, nurses, quality improvement professionals, and hospital administrators working in rural health care settings and Critical Access Hospitals, everyone is welcome to participate.

All sprints will be held on Thursday afternoons, from noon to 1 p.m.

- September 17, 2026: Foundations of Obstetric Emergency Readiness
- October 15, 2026: Recognition & Early Warning Systems
- November 12, 2026: Team Roles, Communication & Drill Coordination
- December 17, 2026: Hemorrhage Readiness - Supplies & Systems
- January 14, 2026: Response & Transfer Coordination
- February 11, 2026: Sustainability, Data & Culture

[Learn More and Register](#)

Opportunity to Participate in National CAH Infrastructure Capital Readiness Survey

This information is shared on behalf of Stroudwater Capital Partners.

Critical access hospitals are vital to rural communities, but many face aging facilities and rising costs. To help rural health leaders plan for stronger infrastructure, Stroudwater Capital Partners, with support from the National Rural Health Association, has launched the [National Critical Access Hospital Infrastructure Capital Readiness Survey](#).

If you are a CAH CEO, CFO, financial leader, or decision-maker, your insight is incredibly valuable, regardless of where your hospital stands right now. By investing just five minutes in this survey, you'll help lift the entire rural health sector and unlock resources for your own facility.

Your hospital will receive:

- A copy of the national benchmark report – gain clear insights into how your capital plans compare with peers nationwide, helping you advocate for your facility.
- Complimentary debt capacity analysis (optional) – securely upload 2-3 years of audited financials for a free, customized roadmap showing the funding structures your organization can realistically support.

All responses are strictly confidential and only reported in aggregate.

Right now, no data like this exists, and we are working to change that by building tools and resources that provide CAHs with a clearer picture of CAH infrastructure.

[Take the 5-minute survey now](#) or [learn more about the initiative](#).

Upcoming Events

MBIQIP Open Call for MN CAHs | September 2026 – August 2027 Schedule

Registrations are open for the MBQIP Open Calls for the September 2026-August 2027 Flex Program Year. 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 asking questions of Stratis Health staff and each other. Please consider registering in advance to hold these times on your calendar. More information about the focus of each call will be shared close to the time of the event.

- September 23, 2026 | 1-2 p.m. CT - [Register](#)
- November 4, 2026 | 1-2 p.m. CT - [Register](#)
- January 13, 2027 | 1-2 p.m. CT - [Register](#)
- April 7, 2027 | 1-2 p.m. CT - [Register](#)
- July 7, 2027 | 1-2 p.m. CT - [Register](#)

Recordings of previous calls [can be found on our website](#).

Contact

For support with your quality reporting and improvement needs, please contact Jodi Winters at 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 for more information.



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