



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

- 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)
- EDTC Q3 2026 due by October 30, 2026 (via MHA Portal)

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.

Last Call for Feedback! 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 your feedback to evaluate and improve the tools, resources, and support our team provides to support you as effectively and efficiently as possible.

We have distributed this assessment to multiple contacts at your facility. You may respond individually or 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 if you'd like to collect input from others before submitting 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 on Friday, Aug. 28, 2026.

2026 Minnesota Rural Health Award Nominations

Who do you know who has made a significant contribution to improving the health of people in Minnesota? We want to hear about them!

Nominations are now open for the 2026 Minnesota Rural Health Awards.

Please [make your nominations](#) in the following categories by Sept. 30:

- **Hero Award** - Nominate an individual
- **Team Award** - Nominate a team or group
- **Lifetime Achievement Award** - Nominate an individual

Nominees can have contributed to rural health in any capacity--in a career position or as a volunteer, as a health care provider or administrator, through policy development, or in practice.

Areas of impact could include, but are not limited to, healthcare and health programs, rural health policy, legislation, rural health equity, improved patterns of health care delivery, cooperative efforts, achieving efficiencies to avoid duplication of services, collaborative efforts to reach common goals, education, and lasting impact on people and areas served.

Minnesota's 2026 award recipients will be announced on [National Rural Health Day](#), Nov. 19. Visit [Minnesota Rural Health Awards](#) for more information and to read about the 2025 awardees.

For additional information, please contact health.orhpc@state.mn.us.

Resources

New Rural Mobile Health Care Toolkit

The Rural Health Information Hub, in collaboration with the NORC Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis, has released a new [Rural Mobile Health Care Toolkit](#). This free resource helps organizations improve health care access in rural communities through mobile healthcare services by sharing practical tools, implementation models, and examples of successful rural programs.

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 that, if you haven't already, your facility still has the chance to **join over 540 hospitals across the region** that have begun improving quality, safety, and outcomes with Superior Health through this initiative.

Complete the form to secure your spot before enrollment closes on August 26:
[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](#).

Upcoming Events

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

Registration is 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. We will share more information about the focus of each call closer to 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](#).

MNPQC Rural IMPACT Sprint Begins in September

The Minnesota Perinatal Quality Collaborative (MNPQC) invites 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](#)

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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