

THE ACCESS Update

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## Iowa Children Continue to Benefit from Dental Sealant Program

Tracy Rodgers, RDH, BS – Community Health Consultant

A dental sealant is a plastic resin applied to the chewing surface of permanent back teeth, literally “sealing” a tooth from the threat of a cavity. When applied shortly after permanent molar teeth erupt in the mouth at ages 6 and 12, sealants can be highly effective. But not all children have access to regular dental care and are at risk of costly and painful tooth decay. As a way to offer preventive dental sealants to children at greatest risk for cavities, school-based dental sealant programs are conducted through public health organizations – providing primary prevention to age-appropriate children at the locations where they can be found five days a week: schools!



During the past school year, more than 7,300 Iowa children participated in the Iowa Department of Public Health’s school-based dental sealant program, and over 24,500 sealants were placed. The program was administered through contracts with six local public health organizations: Black Hawk County Health Department, Hawkeye Area Community Action Program, Lee County Health Department, Mid-Iowa Community Action, Mid-Sioux Opportunity, and Trinity Muscatine Public Health.

Iowa’s program appears to be making a difference in the health of our children. Program data shows a decline in the number of children found to have untreated decay – 13 percent this year compared to 21 percent during the 2007-2008 school year. We are also seeing more children with an identified payment source for dental care than in the past – just 13 percent of children were uninsured this year compared to 25 percent five years ago.

For more information about school-based sealant programs, contact the Oral Health Center at 1-866-528-4020. You can access the 2012-2013 year-end report for the IDPH school-based sealant programs at: <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/OHDS/OralHealth.aspx?prog=OHC&pg=Reports>.

## Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Waiver Program Announcement

A J-1 Visa is a type of visa defined by United States immigration law. The J-1 Visa allows physicians who have attended medical school in other countries to come to the United States to complete their education. When an individual's J-1 Visa expires, they are required to return to their home country for a two-year period. Through a program called the Conrad 30 J1 Visa Waiver program, physicians may request to have this requirement waived. State public health departments may consider recommending waivers for up to 30 physicians each year in exchange for their commitment to provide access to care for underserved populations. Iowa participates in this program through the formal review and recommendation process.

An updated J-1 Visa Waiver/Conrad 30 Program Review and Recommendation Process for the State of Iowa has been posted to the Primary Care Office webpage, available at <http://www.idph.state.ia.us> by choosing Primary Care Office out of the A-Z Index.

One highlight includes acceptance of request packages one month earlier than previous years. Request packages will be accepted beginning Tuesday, September 3, 2013.

The Iowa Department of Public Health appreciates the efforts of attorneys, employers and physicians who work through the Conrad 30 J-1 Visa Waiver Program to provide access to quality affordable health care for Iowa's underserved populations.

## Iowa Participates in National Rural Health Clinic Sentinel Project

The Health Resources and Services Administration, [Federal Office of Rural Health Policy](#) funded a project to develop relevant rural health clinic quality measures for monitoring program performance. The project is to supplement the limited existing data on the rural health clinic program and to gain a better understanding of ongoing operational, clinical and quality activities, and needs of RHCs. [The University of Maine Rural Research Center](#) will coordinate the project.

To do this, the project will work with representatives from state offices of rural health and state rural health associations in 10 states as well as the National Association of Rural Health Clinics to:

- work directly with a steering committee to establish implementation (The Iowa Office of Rural Health is on the steering committee)
- determine viable quality performance measures
- develop and address "on the ground" data on the challenges and issues facing RHCs
- serve as pilot sites to test and refine these measures
- approximately 100 RHCs nationwide will be selected to enter performance measures into database
- analysis and report on the success of performance measure data submission

The Iowa Office of Rural Health has been in communication with the Iowa Association of Rural Health Clinics Board about the project.

This is a unique opportunity for Iowa rural health clinics to be involved at the grass roots level in national RHC performance measurement development. Please contact [Gloria Vermie](#) by September 5, 2013. We hope to have 10 Iowa clinics participating.

## PRIMECARRE: A Win-Win for Iowa

In 2012, the Primary Care Recruitment and Retention Endeavor's loan repayment program received 26 eligible applications for loan repayment. With the available state and matching federal funds, the program was able to make eight awards. The PRIMECARRE program strives to recruit and retain health professionals to designated health professional shortage areas in Iowa. This program is one of Iowa's strategies to increase access to health care services for underserved people in Iowa. The strategy provides benefits to not only to the health care provider, but to Iowans statewide.



When the Covenant Clinic in Oelwein found that they needed to expand access to patients in Arlington, they recruited Roxanne Lenz, an advanced nurse practitioner to provide services in their Arlington clinic. Loan repayment was a big factor in being able to compete and recruit providers to this rural area. Since her start last year, Ms. Lenz has noticed a big uptick in the number of patients seen and, in particular, older patients with Medicare. That's a win for the patients who may not have good means of transportation and need or want to be seen in their own community. It is also a win for Roxanne Lenz who says, *"The rural setting is challenging but in a good way. It is rewarding because I am able to provide more personalized care."*

Vicki Novak, a physician assistant, was recruited to work at the Gundersen Health System-West Union Clinic. Ms. Novak noted that her previous job in a metropolitan area was more narrowly focused to a certain set of patients. She said, *"Working with young families as well as elderly patients affords me a more interesting and rewarding work environment."* Laurie Kreul, the local clinic manager, notes that loan repayment is a critical tool, as it is difficult to recruit physicians to rural areas. That is a win for patients who may prefer the continuity of one provider who lives and works in their community.

This year the program expects to release a request for proposals (the application process) in late August or early September. Successful grant applicants must work in a public or non-profit facility for a minimum of two years. Grants are available for part-time providers up to \$25,000 per year and for full-time providers up to \$50,000 per year depending on the provider's loan balances and the availability of funds.

The program is administered by the Bureau of Oral and Health Delivery Systems at the Iowa Department of Public Health. For additional information, contact Doreen Chamberlin, program coordinator, at (515) 281-8517 or [doreen.chamberlin@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:doreen.chamberlin@idph.iowa.gov) or visit the PRIMECARRE website at <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/OHDS/RuralHealthPrimaryCare.aspx?prog=RHPC&pg=PRIMECARRE>.

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# National Health Service Corps News!

The NHSC is a federal government program that is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Specifically, NHSC is administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Clinician Recruitment and Service.

The NHSC builds healthy communities by supporting primary care providers working in areas of the United States with limited access to care by providing loan repayment assistance and scholarship awards.

The [NHSC Loan Repayment Program](#) is available to licensed primary care medical, dental, and mental and behavioral health providers who are employed or seeking employment at approved sites in communities with limited access to care.

## ***Becoming an NHSC Approved Site***

The next **site application cycle** for new and recertifying sites will open on **September 2, 2013, and end on November 1, 2013**. All new site applications received during the open cycle, with the exception of applications that require a site visit, will be processed prior to the opening of the 2014 loan repayment application cycle for qualified students and providers.

## ***Maintaining Approved Site Status***

NHSC sites recertify every three years. This may be done through the [Customer Service Portal](#). The site contact at existing sites will receive email notification when recertification is due so be sure to use the portal to update contact information as needed. A number of Iowa sites will need to renew this fall and early winter. Watch for your notification from NHSC if it has been about three years since your site applied.

## ***Celebrate Corps Community Day!***

Each year, sites around the country set aside a day of celebration and appreciation for the sites and clinicians who serve. [Corps Community Day](#) is October 10. Events are encouraged any time during the month of October. A number of tools and resources are available to help celebrate.

- [NEW! Online Event Registration Form](#)
- NEW! Events in a Box (1 page event planning guides) for [New Health Insurance Marketplace Q&A Sessions](#), [Information Display Tables](#), and [Health Screening or Wellness Events](#)
- Updated [NHSC 101 Slide Deck](#)
- [NEW! NHSC Web Badges and Buttons](#) including one created especially for Corps Community Day
- [NHSC Ambassador Directory](#) to help you identify additional support for events being planned in your local community

## ***Student and Provider Applications***

The NHSC provides a variety of tools and information for students and providers about loan repayment programs and scholarship programs. These are available at <http://www.nhsc.hrsa.gov> by clicking on Loan Repayment or Scholarship at the top of the page. One of the most helpful tools is the opportunity to sign up for notification when the next application cycle opens.

- [Get notified when the 2014 NHSC Loan Repayment application cycle opens](#)
- [Get notified when the 2014 Students to Service Loan Repayment application opens](#)
- [Get notified about the 2014 NHSC Scholarship application cycle](#)

Over 100 Iowa providers are members of the National Health Service Corps.

## 2013 National Rural Health Day: Iowa Will Celebrate!

2013 is the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual National Rural Health Day. During the last two years numerous hospitals, clinics, health departments, communities and organizations have participated in Iowa Rural Health Day. It has been recognized nationwide and enjoyed by many.

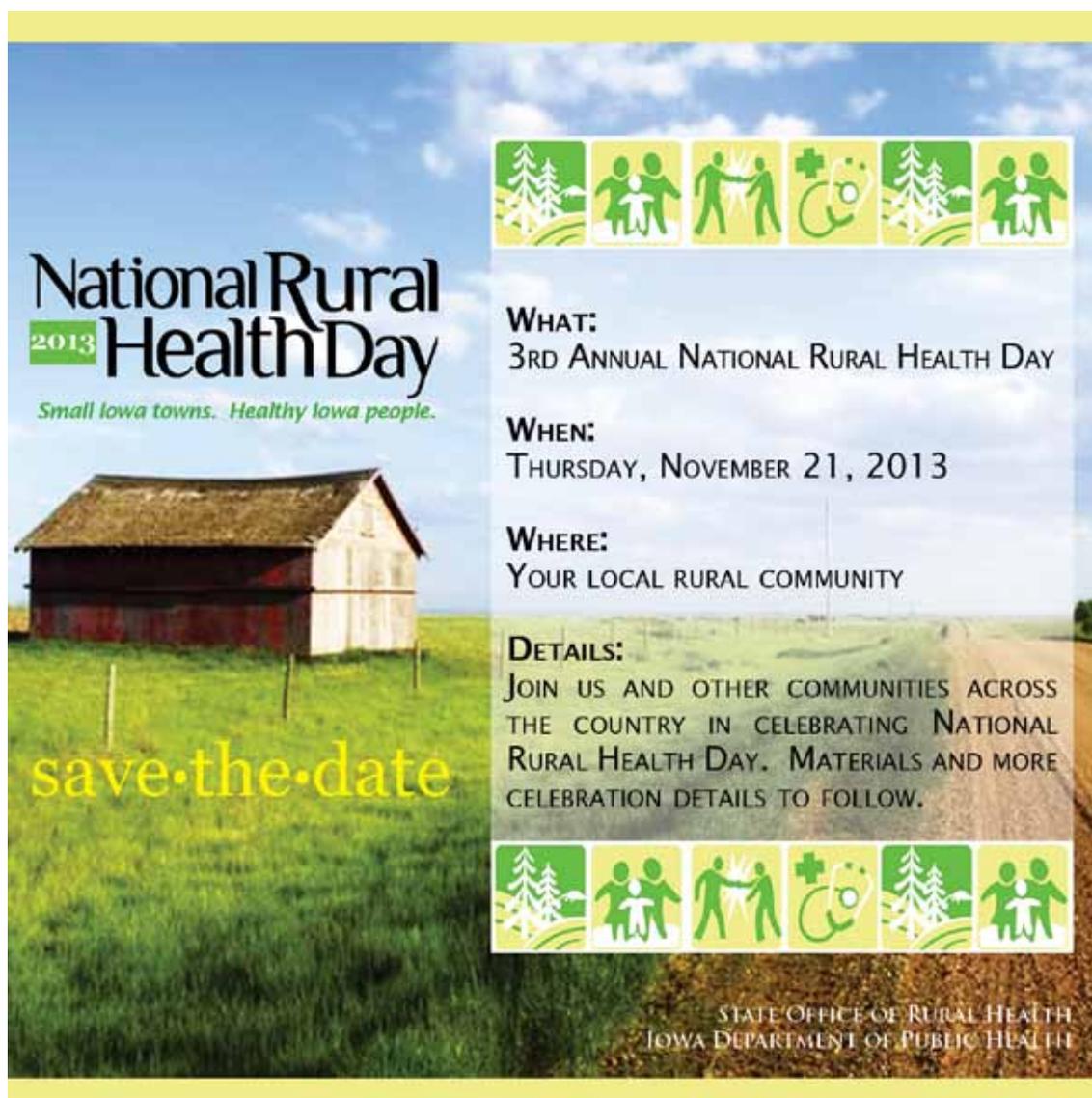
This year there will be special events at the November 21, 2013, annual [Iowa Rural Health Fall Meeting](#).

Some of the 2013 activities will include:

- A Rural Photo contest
- Tool kit with materials and resources
- Nominate a Rural Champion
- Twitter and get out the word

The website with more information will be posted in September by the Iowa Rural Health Association at <http://www.iaruralhealth.org>.

Start thinking and planning now for how your group or organization will acknowledge and celebrate Rural Health Day!



**National Rural Health Day**  
2013  
*Small Iowa towns. Healthy Iowa people.*

**save·the·date**

**WHAT:**  
3RD ANNUAL NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY

**WHEN:**  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2013

**WHERE:**  
YOUR LOCAL RURAL COMMUNITY

**DETAILS:**  
JOIN US AND OTHER COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN CELEBRATING NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY. MATERIALS AND MORE CELEBRATION DETAILS TO FOLLOW.

STATE OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH  
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

# Resources

## **Compare website redesigned to help consumers search for physicians**

Physician Compare, a website that allows consumers to search and compare information about hundreds of thousands of physicians and other health care professionals, has been redesigned to make the site easier to use and provide new information for consumers. Visit the Physician Compare website at <http://www.medicare.gov/physiciancompare>. You can also go to <http://www.medicare.gov> and click on “Find doctors & other health professionals.”

## **Quick health data online**

The Health Resources and Services Administration, Office of Women’s Health announces the availability of Quick Health Data Online, an interactive tool that provides state and county-level data, by gender and race/ethnicity while looking at a variety of health status indicators. The tool is available at: <http://www.healthstatus2020.com/owh/>. (Click on the Start System link on the left column. This brings up a new screen that lets users pick variables such as state and county, and then generates a report).

## **Root cause analysis in health care primer**

Root cause analysis is a widely-used, structured method to analyze errors in health care from a systems approach and eliminate the underlying causes that lead to patient harm. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality’s Patient Safety Network offers a primer to guide health care providers and leaders through RCA. The Joint Commission has mandated the use of RCA to analyze sentinel events (such as wrong-site surgery) since 1997, and many states require that RCA be performed and reported after a serious event. To access the full patient safety primer, go to: <http://psnet.ahrq.gov/primer.aspx?primerID=10>.

## **Rural hospitals partner for population health management resource**

Small hospitals are engaging in improved chronic disease management and wellness activities to improve health outcomes and decrease costs. The best strategy is being an effective partner to other organizations. A free guide is available from the American Hospital Association. The tool which includes case studies can be found at [http://www.hpoe.org/Reports-HPOE/The\\_Role\\_Small\\_Rural\\_Hospital\\_Effective\\_Population\\_Health\\_Partnership.pdf](http://www.hpoe.org/Reports-HPOE/The_Role_Small_Rural_Hospital_Effective_Population_Health_Partnership.pdf).

## **Report available: Most common deficiencies for Critical Access Hospitals**

The Iowa Department of Inspections & Appeals reported at the August 1 CAH QI Coordinator Meeting on the Most Common Deficiencies for CAHs. The report is available at <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/ohds/FLEX.aspx?prog=FLEX&pg=Hospitals>.

# Worth Noting

## **State Operation Manual for Critical Access Hospitals updated**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released a revised version of the State Operation Manual for Critical Access Hospitals on June 7, 2013.

To be successful with a survey, please double check to make sure you can demonstrate full compliance with the revisions in the June 2013 manual. You can access the updated version from the CMS Website at: [http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/som107ap\\_w\\_cah.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/som107ap_w_cah.pdf).

## **Rural Health Value website launched**

The Rural Health Systems Analysis and Technical Assistance project – funded by the Office of Rural Health Policy – just launched its new website [RuralHealthValue.org](http://RuralHealthValue.org). The RHSATA vision is to help create high performance rural health systems by spreading innovation and providing specific tools and resources that help translate knowledge into local action. The website's information, tools, and resources will address these questions (among others):

- As a local provider, how can I learn from, and adapt innovations succeeding elsewhere to my particular circumstances?
- What tools are available to help me educate others (including my board of trustees and potential partnering providers) about changes in payment and other policies that will require us to change how we approach organizing and delivering health care?
- How can I, as a nonprofit or government entity charged to help local communities and providers transition from a world based on volume to a world where value is the basis for payment and policy, facilitate and support winning strategies?

Visit the site often as new tools and resources become available.

## **News on the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan and Health Insurance Marketplace**

Interested in learning more about the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan and the Health Insurance Marketplace?

Sign-up for email notifications from the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise!

The Iowa Medicaid Enterprise is creating a new distribution list to send timely and relevant information to interested stakeholders specifically about the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan and the Health Insurance Marketplace.

If you'd like to receive these email notifications, please send an email with the subject line "subscribe" along with your name, organization, and contact information to [IMECommunications@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:IMECommunications@dhs.state.ia.us).

# Calendar of Events

## **Agricultural Behavioral Health**

October 4, 2013

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

The Hotel at Kirkwood Center

More information and registration: <http://www.iowapsychology.org>

## **12th Annual Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety & Health Conference**

November 19-20, 2013

Ames, Iowa

Gateway Hotel and Conference Center

More information and registration: <http://cph.uiowa.edu/icash/events/mrash/2013/>

## **The Iowa Rural Health Association & Iowa Association of Rural Health Clinics 2013 Joint Fall Meeting**

November 21, 2013

Des Moines, Iowa

Animal Rescue League of Iowa

More information and registration: <http://www.iaruralhealth.org> or <http://iarhc.org>

## **3rd Annual National Rural Health Day**

November 21, 2013

Your local rural community

More information: <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/ohds/RuralHealthPrimaryCare.aspx?prog=RHPC&pg=SORH> or <http://celebratepowerofrural.org>

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