



May 2019

The Pulse of Rural Care

Volunteers

- Krystal Guzman, President from Island Hospital
- Ashley Waldron, Secretary from Family Care Network
- Barb Schlimmer, Treasurer from Odessa Clinic
- Cindy Robertson, Legislative Action Committee Chair (LAC) from North Shore Medical Group
- Renee' Smith, Member at Large from Summit Pacific
- Dawn Bross, Coordinator from Moses Lake; Parkview Medical Group
- Katie Jo Raebel, CPA Honorary Board Member from Wipfli
- Lisa McKay, LAC member from North West Pediatrics
- Missy Dubuque, Member at Large from Family Care Network
- Annie Parker, Member at Large from Snoqualmie Valley Hospital

On May 21, 2019 Governor Inslee signed the final compromise budget, which included the RHC language below:

By October 15, 2019, the authority shall report to the governor and relevant committees of the legislature the status of rural health clinic reconciliations for calendar years 2011-2013, including any use of available unliquidated prior period accrual balances to refund the federal government for those calendar years. Additionally, the report shall include the status of rural health clinic reconciliations for calendar years 2014-2017, including anticipated amounts owed to or from rural health clinics from the reconciliation process for those fiscal years. The authority shall not recover the state portion of rural health reconciliations for calendar years 2011-2013 for which no general fund state accrual was made. The authority shall not pursue recoveries for calendar years 2014-2017 until after the legislature has an opportunity to take action during the 2020 legislative session. If the legislature does not take any action on rural health clinic reconciliations for calendar years 2014-2017, recoveries shall commence per administrative rule.

If your RHC owed money to the HCA for 2011-2013, you will receive a letter from the HCA which indicates what you owed, that the amount has been adjusted to zero, and will list your appeal rights. We don't know why a RHC would appeal a zero, but we are told this is a required step in this process! If you are owed money for 2011-2013, you should receive those reimbursements shortly.

2014-2017 Reconciliation update: Please remember to submit your data template or inform the HCA an approximate time you will complete the 2014-2017 reconciliation. No payment will be required at the time you submit your reconciliation information, but the HCA must have this information to comply with the budget proviso above. This will also help RHCAW as we continue to work on additional forgiveness for these years.

If you have major issues on either of the above, please contact the Krystal Guzman at kguzman@islandhospital.org or the HCA at fhcrhc@hca.wa.gov

From the HCA:

“For RHCs receiving their full encounter rate from MCOs:

HCA recommends that RHCs review their encounter eligible claims for dates of service January 1, 2018 through current to ensure T1015 was included. If T1015 was not included on an encounter eligible service, please adjust these claims to ensure you are paid your full encounter rate by MCOs.”

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If you are licensed in Washington State, you probably already have access to HEALWA, the on-call library for Washington's healthcare practitioners. HEALWA provides fast, easy, equitable access to information no matter where you are or where you work. Whether you're an RN at a city hospital, a PA at a rural clinic, a school nurse, a social worker, a nutritionist, a midwife, [or any of these eligible professions](#), HEALWA will help you find trustworthy information to help you do your job. Learn how to access your account and earn free CNE credits at our free HEALWA webinar. To attend one of these twice-monthly webinars, visit <http://libguides.libraries.wsu.edu/healwa/workshops> or email Kathryn.lebo@wsu.edu.