



RURAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH INSTITUTE

The Texas A&M Rural and Community Health Institute was established in 2003 as a health services organization for rural hospitals and clinics. The Rural and Community Health Institute provides simple, affordable solutions to help rural health care facilities sustain operations and services and improve quality and safety. Programs include: customized health care consultations, patient safety initiatives, peer review with case-based learning, benchmarking, assessment services and database management and analysis. The institute serves as a bridge for rural health care professionals and their constituents with access to academic centers, policy makers and researchers. It also supports rural health care institutions so they can serve a diverse group of residents, many of whom have limited access to quality health care.

RCHI PROGRAMMING AND SERVICES

HEALTH CARE DATA INTEGRATION

- Assists hospitals in meeting mandatory state reporting requirements and federal inpatient and outpatient hospital quality reporting chart abstracted measures
- Offers data validation, editing and analysis tools—powered by Nuance Communications—to provide a robust and reliable data support system through a group purchase option

INTERDISCIPLINARY AMBULATORY REVIEW

- A direct review process that evaluates ambulatory clinic standard practices as well as regulatory quality measures

KSTAR NURSING ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

- A program for nurses that includes a comprehensive and individualized assessment of nurse practice competency based on identified violations of the Nursing Practice Act (NPA) and use targeted remedial education to correct identified deficiencies in order to ensure minimum competency
- Serves as a disciplinary option by the Texas Board of Nursing for eligible nurses

VISION

Achieve sustainable high-quality health care services in rural and underserved communities.

MISSION

Create health care solutions unique to each community.



KSTAR PHYSICIAN PROGRAM

- Provides comprehensive and individualized assessments and educational programs for physicians who have perceived needs or want to return to practice after a prolonged absence
- Offers physician assessments, re-entry residency programs, and “return to board” eligibility programs

NURSING PEER REVIEW

- Conducts incident-based nursing peer reviews for LVNs, RNs, and APRNs
- Conducts safe harbor nursing peer reviews for LVNs, RNs, and APRNs

MATERNAL HEALTH INITIATIVES

- Enhance access to prenatal care and strengthen emergency obstetric preparedness in rural communities by addressing critical gaps in maternal health care services and equipping providers with essential training

MEDICARE BENEFICIARY QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (MBQIP)

- Funded by the State Office of Rural Health Flex Grant to assist Critical Access Hospitals in reporting all III phases of MBQIP measures and how to use the data to support quality improvement efforts

PATIENT SAFETY ORGANIZATION

- Offers a secure patient safety event reporting tool, The Safety Net, at no cost to members
- Encourages learning from safety events by conferring legal privilege protections against use in legal proceedings
- Analyzes data on safety events, near misses and unsafe conditions to identify trends and identify best practices
- Provides education, training and resources to help health care professionals improve patient safety practices



PHYSICIAN PEER REVIEW

- Committee review utilizes case-based physician peer evaluation of medical records to assess the appropriateness of care provided with a goal of identifying areas for improvement and maintaining high-quality care
- Direct review evaluates the quality of care provided by physicians and advanced practice providers by reviewing patient records, clinical decisions and procedures to ensure they meet the standard of care and are following National Patient Safety goals

TEXAS A&M HEALTH RURAL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

- An interdisciplinary initiative funded by the 88th Texas Legislature to provide specialized support, technical assistance and workforce expansion to rural health care facilities across the state
- Partners include the Rural and Community Health Institute, the Telehealth Institute and the colleges of medicine, nursing, and pharmacy.

UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT

- Offers the electronic access to evidenced-based standards of care criteria through a group purchase option with Optum Healthcare called “InterQual Level of Care”

Texas A&M University Health Science Center
(Texas A&M Health) is advancing health care through innovative research, education and service in dentistry, medicine, nursing, pharmacy and public health, with campuses, clinics, centers and institutes across Texas.



HEALTH

For more information:

**Melissa Lackey, Director of
Rural Engagement Program**

979.436.0409 | lackeyrn@tamu.edu

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