

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Questions and Answers from Rural Health Open Door Forum

April 22, 2021

1. Has there been any discussion that you all are aware of about moving the project deadlines for the expenditure of CARES Act funds from June 30 to later? And the other question is, is there an expected date for release of proposed rules for the Rural Emergency Hospital Designation?
 - a. I believe you're referring to the CARES Act distribution from the provider relief fund. If so, those funds are administered by HRSA. So we can circle back, and if you were to email providerreliefcontact@hrsa.gov with questions regarding the administration of the HRSA fund, they would be able to address your questions. And that is provider -- P-R-O-V-I-D-E-R -- relief -- R-E-L-I-E-F -- contact -- C-O-N-T-A-C-T -- at HRSA -- H-R-S-A -- dot gov.
 - b. As far as anticipated dates for the proposed rule-making related to the new Rural Emergency Hospital Designation, I don't think the agency has a specific date yet, but that will be forthcoming.
2. My curiosity was about the rurally based provider relief funds mentioned in the end of your package. We've had a lot of questions about when those providers in need will be able to access those funds, and thus far unable to get any information on that.
 - a. Funds related to rural hospitals specifically, I would have to circle back because I'm not certain. But if they were administered as part of the CARES Act funds from the provider relief fund specifically, all of the provider relief fund dollars that were part of the larger CARES Act appropriation are fully administered by HRSA. So the best contact for them is to speak directly with HRSA at that provider relief contact email address that I have provided.
3. My question is related to the inpatient psychiatric facility under the administration section. I know that you mentioned the aggregate, which is the current collection process with a numerator, denominator and percentages. When I heard you go to the patient level requirements, you mentioned the summer of 2023. Is that for the required piece, or is that for the summary piece? I mean, for the voluntary piece. I'm just trying to determine, what is the summer of 2023, the requirement?
 - a. So, summer 2023 is when we are currently planning to have the mandatory patient level reporting. Prior to that, in summer 2022, we are planning to have patient level reporting as an option, but it would be voluntary. So if facilities want to practice, that would be a good time to do so.