

# Rural Health

Knowledge of the health care industry as a whole is not sufficient to meet the needs of health care providers in rural areas. Polsinelli's health care team understands the unique business, clinical, regulatory and community issues that rural health care providers face.

We have extensive experience representing a variety of rural health care providers including Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs), Rural Health Centers (RHCs), Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) and Rural Community Hospitals.

These providers, and their patients, face vastly different obstacles than their urban counterparts. Economic, cultural, educational and health disparities add a level of complexity to the provision of quality care that do not affect urban hospitals in the same way. Despite extremely limited resources, rural providers creatively tackle these hurdles by innovating strategies like telehealth, physical and mental health integration and aligning with other rural health providers or urban hospitals to ensure their patients have sustained access to the highest level of care possible within their own communities. Polsinelli helps rural health care providers across the country solve a variety of issues, including:

- Government and commercial reimbursement, including Medicaid expansion, Medicaid waiver programs, unique Medicare rules for rural providers and Medicare cost-based and prospective payment systems
- Facility, licensure, enrollment, survey and certification
- Provider-based and space sharing rules applicable to CAH's, and related RHCs or outpatient departments
- Compliance with HRSA and other third-party grant rules
- Alignment models with other rural providers or urban systems
- State licensure and coordination with state rural health offices
- Compliance with state and federal fraud and abuse laws
- Governance requirements and issues
- Telehealth opportunities
- Physician contracting, engagement, and employment
- Audits and investigations
- Behavioral Health Care and Substance Abuse models in rural areas
- Medical staff and peer review
- EMTALA compliance
- Star rating/hospital compare issues
- School-based health care

# Publications

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September 17, 2025

**\$50 Billion Rural Health Fund: State Applications Now Open, Provider Input Urged**

December 18, 2023

**Medicare Continues its Updates to Provider Enrollment Policies as Part of Efforts to Enhance Program Integrity and Transparency**