



Rural Health Clinic Designation

To qualify as a federally-certified Rural Health Clinic, a clinic must:

- Be located in a non-urbanized area and in an area with a current designations as a medically underserved area or a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)
- **Employ a midlevel practitioner who is available to provide services at least 50 percent of the time the clinic is open;**
- Provide routine diagnostic and laboratory services;
- Establish arrangements with providers and suppliers to furnish medically necessary services not available at the clinic; and
- Provide first response emergency care.

Rural Health Clinic Payment

Rural Health Clinics receive Medicare and Medicaid payment as an all-inclusive rate per encounter. Free-standing clinics receive a set rate based on a national cap; the cap is generally higher than the Medicare fee schedule. Provider-based Rural Health Clinics affiliated with small hospitals are paid at cost.

As of December, 2007, there are 77 Rural Health Clinics in Minnesota