



Top Stories

Executive Order Instructs Hospitals to Disclose Rates

Aiming to make shopping for health care easier for patients, President Trump signed an **executive order** this week that will compel hospitals to publicly disclose their prices—including discounted rates they negotiate with insurers. The order sets in motion several new rules HHS and other federal agencies will write in the next several months. Still, **some argue** that the move is not a magical fix that will end expensive and unexpected medical bills.



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Bill To Adjust Rural Medicare Reimbursement Introduced

Members of Congress are considering a bill that would improve Medicare payments for rural providers. The **Keep Physicians Serving Patients Act of 2019**, introduced by a bipartisan group of legislators including Ron Kind (D-WI), would adjust the formula used by Medicare to determine payments to rural providers. According to the bill's sponsors, the change would result in a more accurate reflection of labor and practice costs in rural areas.



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Under Pilot Program, High Schoolers Will Become EMS-Ready

A pilot program that aims to build a new generation of EMTs will begin this fall at the Mt. Horeb Fire Department. Nine students will receive the hands-on training needed to be able to save a life. The initiative could be instructive for other volunteer departments struggling with staffing shortages and a model for rural EMS recruitment and retainment. The program is asking for donations to cover the cost of all nine students, **reports WKOW**.

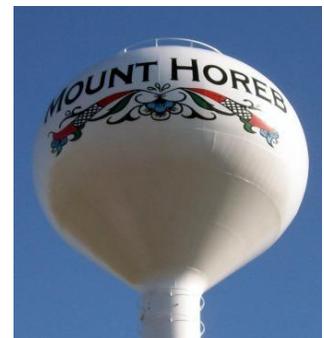


Photo from Mount Horeb Water Utility

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More News

- A hospice operated by Crossing Rivers Health, a medical center and critical access hospital in Prairie du Chien, is **profiled in a story** on hospice in rural America.

- A **new report** from the Commonwealth Fund ranks states on their health system performance. Across a variety of metrics, Wisconsin ranks above the national average.
- Marshfield Medical Center-Ladysmith is shifting from an **inpatient care to a population health model** of care.
- A **report examining the 340B drug discount program** finds that rural facilities averaged an annual savings of \$2.2 million from the program.
- In their **final report**, the state task force examining the Wisconsin dairy industry has a series of recommendations that will impact rural innovation and business.

Grants For...

- Student loan repayment to primary care and behavioral health **clinicians providing substance use disorder treatment** at approved sites. July 18.
- Addressing the **gamut of rural community challenges**, from improving access to locally-produced food to developing outdoor recreation. Deadline: July 22.
- Programs that provide behavioral counseling, referrals, and more for **agricultural workers in crisis**. Deadline: July 25.
- Regional partnerships that help children who face **out-of-home placements** as a result of their parent/caregiver's opioid or substance abuse. Deadline: July 31.
- Development and expansion of **dementia-capable home and community-based service systems** in states and communities. Deadline: August 13.
- Actionable research that advances health equity in the areas of **nutritional disparities, nutrition, and food security**. Deadline: October 2.
- Research focused on identifying key barriers to effective **end-of-life and palliative care health literacy**. Deadline: May 8, 2021.

Events

- June 27: A **CMS listening session** on hospital co-location guidance. 1pm.
- July 10: A webinar will provide best practices for conducting **community needs health assessments** in rural communities.
- July 10: A webinar will showcase how to **move rural community leaders** from buy-in to ownership of their initiatives.
- August 23: Attend the **Rural Hospital Finance Workshop** from our office.



Wisconsin Office of Rural Health