



Top Stories

Strengthening Rural Cancer Care

Rural cancer patients face more difficulties accessing treatment and care than their urban counterparts. Rural patients are more frequently diagnosed with cancer in later stages and consequently have higher mortality rates. A new task force from the American Society of Clinical Oncology seeks to **find solutions** to the rural cancer care gap.

Relatedly, the 18th **Annual Fall Cancer Conference** from the UW Carbone Center will focus on the challenges faced by rural cancer patients and oncologists.

[Read more](#)



Drew Hats on Unsplash

Rural Hospitals See Decrease in Readmissions Penalties

Penalties for readmissions at teaching and rural hospitals have dropped under changes to a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services program. The changes, mandated by Congress, were made to address complaints from safety-net hospitals and others who said they were being unfairly penalized due to their complex payer mix of patients. So far, hospitals with the greatest number of patients eligible for Medicare and Medicaid have seen a decrease of \$22.4 million in penalties.

[Read more](#)



Rohvannyn on Pixabay

Reducing Falls At Hospitals Across the State

A report from the Wisconsin Hospital Association highlights several fall prevention efforts at hospitals around the state. Those efforts range from learning modules, interdisciplinary fall prevention teams, individual risk assessments, and fall kits for high risk patients.



Davidgsteadman on Flickr

[Read more](#)

More News

- New research indicates visits to rural emergency departments have **jumped significantly**.
- As rural America ages, officials should strategically plan to help older adults age in place, **aging experts reiterated** this week.
- A unique program **trains EMS providers** in some Wisconsin communities how to connect with seniors showing signs of dementia.
- A **data brief details** how hospitals have changed their use of EHR data to inform internal hospital processes and clinical practices.
- Wisconsin's emergency dispatchers and communicators receive 2.9 million emergency and non-emergency calls each year. They're being **recognized** this week for their public safety work.

Funding & Opportunities

- Grants for health networks in a pilot program to develop sustainable approaches to **coordinating maternal and obstetrics care within a rural region**. (Deadline: May 24th)
- Loans and grants to help **expand broadband infrastructure** and services in rural areas. (Deadline: May 31 for grants, June 21 for loan/grant combinations, and July 12 for low-interest loans)
- Grants to Community Development Corporations (CDCs) for **projects designed to create employment and business opportunities** for low-income individuals and families, particularly through the expansion or construction of clinics and health centers. (Deadline: June 3)
- Grants to help improve housing and community facilities and to spur community and economic **development in rural communities**. Applicants are encouraged to consider projects that will combat substance use disorder in high-risk rural communities. (Deadline: June 5)
- Grants to nonprofits and public agencies for **programs that provide group activities** for participants with Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias and

respite for caregivers. (Deadline: June 26)

Events

- April 24-25: A two-day **summit in Rice Lake** will examine and problem-solve the top issues facing rural Wisconsin.
- April 29: A **webinar** will look at diabetes in rural and urban America.
- May 3: A Wausau **conference** will center around trauma patient care and is intended for all EMS providers, hospital trauma nursing staff, and others.
- June 24: Another trauma **conference**, the Annual Emergency Care and Trauma Symposium, will educate prehospital and hospital emergency and trauma providers.



SHARE THIS EMAIL

SIGN UP FOR EMAILS

Wisconsin Office of Rural Health