Rural and Critical Access Hospital Update
Health IT Policy Committee Meeting
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As of July 31, 2013
1,115 (65%) CAHs and small, rural hospitals achieving
Meaningful Use.
– 62% (approximately 822 of 1,332) of CAHs
– 77% (approximately 293 of 383) of small, rural hospitals
(those generally with less than 50 staffed beds)
Progress Over Time Among Critical Access Hospitals

Based on CMS EHR Incentive data through July 31, 2013 and ONC CRM data through August 14, 2013.
Total number of Critical Access Hospitals=1,332.
Progress Over Time
Among Small Rural Hospitals (non Critical Access Hospitals)

Based on CMS EHR Incentive data through July 31, 2013 and ONC CRM data through August 14, 2013.

Total number of small rural hospitals = 383. This count does not include Critical Access Hospitals and does include rural hospitals covered by the Small Hospital Improvement Program, which serves rural hospitals with fewer than 50 staffed beds.
Map of Critical Access Hospitals as well as small rural hospitals (those covered by the Small Hospital Improvement Program, which serves rural hospitals with fewer than 50 staffed beds). Hospitals are identified as attested or not attested based on CMS EHR Incentive Program Meaningful Use attestation status as of July 31, 2013.

from the HHS Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT
Rural Community of Practice
Maintain Situational Awareness

Severe Challenges: Funding, Broadband, Workforce, Technical

- EHR Implementation Costs: 50%
- Availability of Grants/Loans to Support EHR: 35%
- Broadband Implementation Costs: 23%
- Workflow changes: 30%
- Lack of IT Personnel: 27%
- Clinical Staff Cooperation: 22%
- Inadequate EHR training for Employees: 17%
- Leadership/Executive Cooperation: 7%
- Security and/or Privacy Risks: 20%
- Lack of Technical Support from EHR Vendor: 16%
- Vendor Selection/EHR Usability: 15%
- Broadband Unavailable or Insufficient: 11%

Cost-Related Challenges

Workforce and Staffing Challenges

Technical and Other Challenges

Percent of Critical Access Hospitals Reporting Significant Challenges
ONC and USDA Rural Development launched an initiative to expand funding for CAHs and rural hospitals.

FY 2013 Pilots: Over $38 Million in funding to CAHs and rural hospitals across 4 states.

FY 2014: ONC and Rural Development are taking this initiative to scale nationwide.
Rural Community of Practice
Develop tools and resources

www.HealthIT.gov/RuralHealth

Resources for Critical Access Hospitals and Small Rural Hospitals
Learn more about the benefits of health IT and take the first step toward implementation and attaining meaningful use.

How to Implement EHRs for CAHs and Rural Hospitals