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Navigating RHC Covid Reporting Requirements

Nathan Baugh:

0:05

Good, afternoon, rural health clinic community. Good morning to those of you on the West Coast. Good early, early morning to our friends in Hawaii, believe it or not, there are some rural health clinics in Hawaii. So, good early morning to you.

0:23

I would like to welcome you all to today's webinar on Rural Health Clinic Covid 19 Testing program reporting requirements.

0:35

My name is Nathan Baugh, the Director of Government Affairs for the National Association of Rural Health Clinics. And I'll be the moderator and the speaker for today's call.

0:46

This webinar series is brought to you by HRSA ..., Federal Office of Rural Health Policy. And it's done in conjunction with the National Association of Rural Health Clinics, we are supported by a co-operative agreement, as you can see on your screen. And that allows us to bring you these calls, free of charge.

1:06

The purpose of the series is to provide RHC staff with viable Technical Assistance and RHC specific information as it pertains to the covid 19 testing funds that you, most of you received earlier this year.

1:23

Please help us spread the word about these free webinars by encouraging anyone who may benefit from this information to sign up.

1:30

To receive announcements regarding dates, topics and speakers at the RHI Hub, RHI Hub website, that is a good website.

1:38

Or the NARHC website. When we get to the Q&A portion, we will put a question box up that will allow participants to ask questions.

1:48

We'll try to get through as many of those as we can And I would like to note that as with all webinars, we are at the mercy of good bandwidth for all parties and we all know that connectivity can go up and down somewhat randomly.

2:06

So, if you have any audio or visual freezes, we suggest refreshing the page. And that usually fixes the issue. If you continue to have issues, and it's really bad, don't worry, because a

recording of today's presentation will be posted on the RHI Hub website, as well as the NARHC website. And this, as well as links to the slides and the transcript.

2:33

So, as I mentioned, today's topic is Navigating the RHC covid 19 Testing Fund.

2:42

Reporting requirements. It's a mouthful. I know, But it's, it should actually be relatively straightforward, and hopefully, pretty easy. This is not. this is not designed to trip anyone up or be a complicated process.

2:59

And I think you'll see, as we walk through this process, that it will be straightforward and it should not take too much time in terms of the administrative burden.

3:16

We just wanted to put this out there, because, it's the number one question we always get. Yes, the slides are going to, like I said, that this presentation will be recorded.

3:28

The slides will be available, and there will be a transcript all posted on our website, and that's the link to our website right there.

3:40

However, I know that you don't have those slides in front of you right now, So if you just go to our website narhc.org, go to the Resources tab, and you'll see the TA webinars right there. It should be relatively straightforward to get to.

3:55

All right, let's get into the reason you're all here.

4:01

And the most important question is that you all have to ask yourself is why should I report this data? Why?

4:11

Why do you have to do this? Why did we send out that e-mail that said, this is a mandatory requirement?

4:19

Well, the first and most obvious answer is that you agreed to report the data when you took the money.

4:29

The terms and conditions of the RHC covid 19 Testing Fund.

4:36

Explicitly state that you have to report data, as required by the secretary, and I have the actual language in the next slide.

4:48

Theoretically, now I don't want to scare anyone, but theoretically, it is possible that the government could use a lack of compliance with the terms and conditions to recoup the \$49,461 each rural health clinic received. So the reason, if you need a reason, it's because it's required. And if you don't do it, they could take the money back.

5:13

So that's it, that's answer one.

5:15

But I actually like the second reason here, and I apologize. I apologize if there's a bit of a delay between what I'm talking about and the slides.

5:26

I think the goto Webinar takes a minute to load the slide.

5:32

But this is the answer that I think, is more important.

5:36

The government needs this data to show that the 225 million Congress appropriated to rural health clinics resulted in something productive.

5:47

Something positive, right?

5:49

At some point, congress, or someone within HHS, is going to ask, hey, we gave 225 million to rural health clinics for Covid 19 testing. How did, how did that work out?

6:05

And the answer cannot be, well, we don't know.

6:09

We have no idea. That cannot be the answer.

6:14

We have to have actual data to support you know, that the work that we have done and what the good that has come out of this money.

6:30

Providing this data is essential to the rural health clinics program in general going forward because we will not get another appropriation if, if the government gives us money and has no clue what we did with it. Right?

6:50

So, us, doing a good job of reporting on this, will potentially set us up in the future for getting, Hopefully, other allocations, right?

7:02

Other facility types already have stronger reporting systems already established, and because they have good data, they get a lot more funding than necessarily the Rural health clinics program, because they have hard evidence to point to the good work that they're doing. So, this

is our attempt to, sort of also have hard evidence that we're doing good work and we're spending the government funds wisely and smartly.

7:35

So, this next slide here, which it will load in a second, if it's not already loaded, is just verbatim.

7:43

Some of the terms and conditions as it pertains to reporting requirements.

7:50

It's And I highlighted the bold, the key part here.

7:54

The recipient shall submit reports as the Secretary determines are needed. That's what we're talking about. The Secretary has determined that this website, that I'm about to reveal to you guys, is what you all need to do.

8:09

OK, so, you've agreed to it in the Terms and Condition.

8:13

This is the report for the RHC covid19 testing.

8:18

Furthermore, this next paragraph here, it's a lot of text, I get it, but the next paragraph basically says that you certify that all the information that you provide is true, accurate, and complete to the best of your knowledge.

8:33

OK, this is verbatim from the terms and conditions.

8:40

In general, what data will you have to report?

8:46

The, most of this data is going to be very basic, OK?

8:50

It's what we would call identify identification data, none of it is confidential, OK?

8:58

But you will need to have your tax ID number ready of the organization that received the funding, and we'll talk about that more, but this payment was made to the tax ID number organizations that owned rural health clinics. So many of you, I know, are in systems, or are in hospitals that own rural health clinics.

9:23

The system, and, or hospital, is the entity that was paid, not the rural health clinic.

9:30

Oh, directly, in those scenarios, if the rural health clinic is independent, or free standing, then the tax ID number, and the rural health clinic are sort of one and the same. Right?

9:44

But in either case, you're going to need the TIN, the organization that received the funding.

9:50

You'll also need the, what we call, the CCN, also known as the PTAN number. That's the Medicare certification number for all the RHCs that are owned by that Tax ID number organization.

10:06

Where can you find that? I put one link there. I actually have another slide that talks more about where to find the CCN numbers, if you don't know where those are. I think there, I think there are six digit numbers that are per each RHC.

10:21

The other thing that you're going to need is just the address of the tax ID number organization.

10:26

And that's the basic identification information, OK?

10:33

The real meat and potatoes of the entire reporting process is simply the number of Covid tests performed across your entire organization by month, and the number of positive results from those tests by month, OK? That's the meat and potatoes.

10:52

And one other thing that I don't have on this slide, but we will talk about it, is that we are asking to all organizations to enter in all addresses where you are doing, or have done, Covid 19 testing. And I'll show you guys that in a second.

11:14

And then there's finally, there's one other question that is, is select all that, all that apply. sort of multiple choice question, that's very simple, very easy, OK? So, that's the data that you're going to need coming into the website when we get there.

11:33

OK, so, I'm going to walk everyone through the website, OK, hopefully, relatively quickly, it's, it's not rocket science, You're just signing up, you're just entering in this basic information, and you're submitting it.

11:50

We designed it hopefully, to be very not burdensome, OK?

11:56

At the end, I'll give you the URL and then we'll have plenty of time for questions and answers, because there are some nuances that we need to talk about.

12:04

When you first get to the website, this is what you'll see.

12:08

I understand it's a wall of legalese text but it's necessary.

12:12

This is, as I mentioned, the official place where you are reporting as required by the Secretary. Right, so we had to get some approvals from the Office of Management and Budget and, you know, put some, put some legalese on the front here.

12:30

So, this is the first thing you'll see.

12:32

But when you scroll down on this homepage, at the bottom, you'll see this question.

12:42

And it is, Did you or your organization, as represented by Tax Identification Number receive funds for covid 19 testing, through the RHC Covid 19 Testing Program.

12:55

You have four answers. OK, before I get to the answers, I will now look at that disclosure section right there. This is mandatory. As I mentioned it, as long as you kept the RHC testing funds, you are expected to report monthly on this website.

13:15

Um, but, like I said, it should be very easy, especially if you have your Covid testing numbers tracked by month. All right, so, we have these four answers here.

13:28

Did you or your organization as represented by TIN, receive funds for Covid 19 testing, right?

13:36

Yes, most of you are gonna hit Yes, and that will take you to the registration, Or to login, if you've already registered. Those of you who haven't received any of these funds, no.

13:50

Ah, then, this webinar's not for you, you're good, OK, if you didn't receive funds, you don't have to worry about reporting, OK? Some of you might have received the funds, but opted to return the \$49,000 and change that each RHC got, if that's your situation you also do not have to report.

14:14

You do not have to report.

14:17

And, finally, there's another category of you who did not receive funds, but probably believe that, that might have been a mistake, that you should have received funds for this program, for, again, the 49.5 grand for Covid testing.

14:34

We have that option there, that will not prompt you to register for the site. Rather, that will prompt you to send us some information about your clinic and your situation.

14:46

And potentially, we can help you get these funds going forward.

14:53

Because some rural health clinics have returned the funds, it's possible, and in fact, maybe even unlikely that HRSA and the Federal Government will repurpose those funds to some other rural health clinics, that for whatever reason, did not get that initial round of funding.

15:16

So, that hasn't happened yet, but hopefully that will happen.

15:22

So you can basically tell us, Hey, I believe I'm eligible by selecting that, Alright, so most of you are going to say yes, because hopefully most of you received these funds, And the next thing, the, I do want to highlight here, again, if you're in, if you're in a rural health clinic that's owned by a hospital or in a big system, you want to make sure when, when you answer this question, you're making sure that you're doing this website across the entire tax ID organization.

15:59

Right? Everything here is organized by Tax ID number. Right, so I just wanted to emphasize of that. So check. If you're not sure and you're in that situation, potentially check with your parent hospital or your finance department to see if they received the funds.

16:19

They're probably the ones that need to do this report anyway.

16:24

OK, so most of you will hit Yes, and you will get prompted to register for the site, the registration.

16:35

I hope it's very straightforward, very simple. I'm not going to spend a lot of time on this page. Hopefully, once it loads, you'll see what it looks like.

16:45

It's first name, last name, your e-mail address, and that will be the e-mail address that you'll need to login in the future. And then you'll create a password. It's pretty standard stuff. You have to verify. You're not a robot.

16:59

That's pretty easy to do Then you and then you'll hit register Now. It's not gonna.

17:04

let you Register right away, OK, You will get an e-mail Sent to the e-mail that you entered in, OK, It is in when we were doing our testing for this website a lot of times for many people The e-mail the registration e-mail went to their spam, OK? There's not a lot we can do about that other than say right here right now. Check your spam inbox, OK? So check your spam inbox for the e-mail that you need to complete registration.

17:40

Once you get the e-mail, it'll be very straightforward, you click a link and you'll have confirmed your e-mail, and you'll have a profile.

17:51

All right.

17:52

So, once you have gone through the basic registration process on the website, you will be asked to create a profile that describes your tax ID number organization. Again, everything is organized by TIN here.

18:07

If you're a freestanding RHC, it's just your RHC.

18:10

If you're a much larger organization, It is everything that falls under that tax identification number, OK, there's a little bit of text at the top here, just describing what's going on. And to enter it and sort of giving you the instructions. You have to enter in the tax ID number of the organization, the name and address of the tax ID number organization.

18:38

I hope this is all pretty straightforward. This is again, the, the parent entity. So, if the entire organization is, for example, based out of the hospital, that's the main address for that, the TIN, that's what you would pay here.

18:58

Again, every way I did it, we are emphasizing that this is all to be reported across the entire tax ID number organization.

19:13

Alright. So the second half of the profile creation page, take a little bit longer to complete, But You had to do a couple of things. The first is you have to enter in the CCN numbers. As I mentioned, this is one of the things that we're asking for. The CMS Certification Number is also known as CCN Numbers or PTAN Numbers. It's the same thing. Some people refer to them as PTAN numbers. Same thing.

19:38

For each RHC associated with this Tax ID Number organization, OK, should be a six digit number.

19:48

You enter that in.

19:49

You indicate whether you are the rural health clinic you're talking about associated with that CCN number is a freestanding or independent rural health clinic. Or provider based.

20:01

Then, you would repeat that, for the number of rural health clinics, that you're TIN owns. So, if you only have one, you just enter one, and you move on to the next question. If you have 10, you need to hit that add button.

20:18

To add, when you click that, it will give you another field to enter in a second CCN and so on. And so forth until you have added all the CCN's that your TIN organization owns.

20:37

So, hopefully, pretty straightforward.

20:40

We, we would ask you to enter in the current number of RHCs that you have. I'm not asking folks necessarily to, you know, enter in the number of RHCs they had back in May, just enter in every single one that you currently have.

21:01

Next question, here.

21:02

Again, pretty straightforward.

21:05

For what purposes has your organization used or plan to use the RHC Covid 19 Testing program Funds select all that apply, OK? So you can select all of these. If you've used some of the funds, some of the just under 50 grand, on all of these things, select all of them. If it's not here and you use it for something else, you can hit other, little, chat box will appear, and you can specify that now.

21:34

I will note that these categories of responses here correspond directly with what is in the terms and conditions.

21:45

And, and that should be popping up on your screen in a second.

21:51

So, so, again, these categories of spending or what is in the terms and conditions.

22:00

And finally, you'll see at the bottom there a question. Does your TIN organization have a testing location?

22:09

Most of you, I presume, are doing, testing yourself, and specimen collection does count as testing for our purposes here. So I'm not talking about the lab portion here, I'm talking about where the specimens are collected from patients, OK.

22:30

So, if you have a place where you're doing that, you can hit, you need to hit Yes and enter in all the sites, all the addresses that you are doing, specimen collection and or Covid 19 testing, OK. Now, this is the longest part of this whole process. Once you do this, most of this information is not going to change for the next year. So, all of this will be saved, And theoretically, you'll only have to do this once.

22:59

Now, every time you log back in, you will need to review your profile, and just verify that everything looks correct. If everything looks correct, you just hit update, and it'll move you right on to the next screen.

23:17

Um, again, I mentioned where, for those of you who are not necessarily sure where to find the CCN numbers, there's a website, it's called qcor.cms.gov. You can look up the CCN numbers there. They're also, I am told on the Medicare Remittance Advice.

23:37

And then, those numbers are also on the certification letter that you receive from CMS.

23:43

And just understand that there should be one CCN, or PTAN number per RHC, OK, so, relatively straightforward on that.

23:54

All right, And so here's the key.

23:58

Screen and key moment of all of this recording, and it's very simple. I'm not gonna, you know, try to act like it's more complicated than it is. And we designed it to be as simple as possible, but to also give us that ability, to answer that question, Hey, what did rural health clinics do, with the 225 million that Congress gave you, Right? We need to be able to answer that question, so, having this data here is what we need, right?

24:28

It's very simply the number of tests, and the number of positives returned from those tests by month.

24:37

Until this program ends, OK? Program and date is a little unclear, So, we'll let you know when you can stop doing it.

24:46

But for now, you gotta come in to this website, monthly update this until the program ends. I'm not going to speculate on when the last month will be.

25:00

Very simply, number of tests, number of positive, positive tests by month. I hope this is straightforward.

25:07

We designed it to be straightforward When Let's say you may, maybe you have May and June right now You can enter those Submit it will save in the system you can go back, verify those numbers and edit them at a later time, OK, So if you enter in some numbers that maybe are just estimates, and you go back and you find the real numbers, you can update that as no problem, OK? As you can see, the months only go to October as of right now. That's because we're in October of 2020. As we enter a new month, that month will appear on this website on this page.

25:50

OK, so, again, when you come back, at the end of November, you'll see a field for November 2020, where you can enter the number of tests done by your organization and the number of positives.

26:03

So this is the, the, the real key to the entire dataset that we're hoping to collect here, and again, I hope it's pretty straightforward.

26:15

Testing, just so when I say this one more time, it does not mean just the lab portion.

26:22

Specimen collection counts as a test for the purposes of this report, OK. Includes all testing and viral testing, antibody testing, rapid result tests. Any test that you're doing that is approved on the Emergency Use Authorization counts for the purposes of this report.

26:43

You should see the accurate tax ID number organization on this page for, for demo purposes, my, I use 123456789 as a tax ID number organization, but you should see the accurate tax ID there, and again, I hope it's straightforward, and I hope it's relatively easy, we did not design this at all to be burdensome for you guys.

27:08

So, with that said, when I just put out a few things on on how we are calculating the number of tests, I wanna answer go ahead and probably preempt some of these questions I know that we're gonna get.

27:26

Um.

27:29

The first thing that we want is, we want organizations, again, to report the, their data across the entire organization, OK? That means even if you have urban hospitals in your system, and they do a ton of testing, that gets included in this report.

27:48

OK, I know that there are some urban hospitals in major cities that own rural health clinics, and that scenario, they receive just under \$50,000, because they have one rural health Clinic.

28:04

For Covid 19 testing, there, that urban hospital is required to fill this out and enter in the entire ad organizations data. We, we did not want to get into a situation where people are making, sort of subjective determinations or evaluations, opt out. Oh, well, I did. I did X number of tests because I received the funding.

28:36

We're not asking you to make that sort of determinations. Just tell us the total number of tests that you have done. Maybe you didn't really, maybe you haven't really used a lot of the funds thus far, but you've done a lot of testing. That's great. That's fine. We still want the numbers, OK.

28:57

Hopefully, that's clear, because trying to define, you know, the money led to X number of testing would be way too difficult. So, we just want to have the total number of test performed by organizations that receive these funds.

29:18

Estimates are allowed because this is October, and you guys got the money way back in April or May.

29:28

Obviously, you might not necessarily have been tabulating the number of tests and number of positives by months. So in that scenario, you are allowed to estimate the number of tests. And the number of positives now, obviously, we really, really, really want the most accurate data possible.

29:50

But in the case that you weren't explicitly tracking this way, back when Covid 19 was first kicking off, you are allowed to estimate what your organization did.

30:07

All right. I just want to talk a little bit about what this entire reporting system is not so that you do not get it confused with other reporting requirements from the government.

30:19

And the first thing I really want to highlight is this is not the Provider Relief Fund reporting requirement for folks that receive more than \$10000 from the Provider Relief Fund, which should be pretty much all rural health clinics.

30:37

That is a different thing. Altogether. I have a little bit of the Fact Sheet on the screen right here.

30:46

The, as you can see, the portal for that is opening in January of 2021, and the deadline for that is February 15th. OK?

30:57

That's going to be much more financial in nature, and it's going to be about information about funds that you receive from the Rural Provider Relief Fund money, and then potentially the general allocation, the Medicaid chip allocation, et cetera.

31:15

Not the Rural Health Clinic testing fund.

31:18

What we're talking about here is just the rural Health clinic testing fund. Again, it was just under \$50,000 per RHC.

31:29

Those other allocations that you received, that's what this is about, OK?

31:37

Furthermore, this reporting is not the official Covid numbers, OK? This is not replacing the lab data reporting requirements that you have seen in the news. These are the ones that are reported by the labs to HHS and results in the sort of the daily numbers that we all see in the news, OK? We are at not at all trying to replace or substitute for the main Covid 19 number reporting requirements, OK? As I mentioned at the onset, this entire thing is simply to evaluate.

32:23

And to show that rural health clinics took the \$225 million and did good work with it, OK, we're just want to evaluate that one aspect of what the government did. This isn't again, cannot emphasize this enough and I do not want to get caught up into some of the politicization of the Covid numbers, right? This is not going to show up in those daily Covid numbers.

32:50

OK, I can't emphasize that enough.

32:54

All right, I'm sure all of you have been waiting for this moment.

33:00

And just to be clear, in case you didn't understand when I say we, the government contracted with NARHC to create this website because we didn't really have a reporting mechanism for rural health clinics ready to go.

33:17

So, we designed this website, again, hopefully, to be as easy as possible for our rural health clinics. We're not trying to trip anyone up.

33:27

We're just trying to get that basic data that we need to really show that the program used that 225 million for a good purpose. So the website we created where this is all going to happen is very creatively and innovatively named rhccovidreporting.com. I imagine many of you are rushing to that right now. I would ask that maybe you stay for the Q and A, and try it after.

34:01

As I mentioned, this is monthly, required monthly data, but, you know, you would probably have until the end of October to get your May through October data in.

34:15

With that said, we are going to open up the question box and wait. We will happily field questions about all things related to the reporting requirement.

34:31

And I will give you my contact information on the screen here.

34:36

And then I will also provide the CEU code for the Certified Rural Health Clinic Professionals. This is not a general CEU code. This is just for our CRHCP Certified.

34:48

So don't get that confused with like other CEU code.

34:57

OK, with that said, we'll pull the question panel up here and up as the questions come in, I'll try to answer as many as I can.

35:09

I have, you know, some time to try to get to as many as we can hear.

35:15

All right, first question is from Joshua Neblett says, We receive 4 distributions. I believe they were from the initial 30 billion general Distribution, the real targeted distribution support for RHC Covid distribution, ... General Distribution respectfully.

35:39

But I am not sure how to confirm that. Nothing on the deposit details, which distribution the funds came from.

35:48

Uh, Josh, you know this, this is one of the issues with all of this, right? Covid hit us all by storm, right?

36:00

And the government wasn't necessarily ready to give out a bunch of funds right away, yet, that's what Congress passed and the Cares Act, OK, so they went with speed as opposed to clarity.

36:15

And You're right, the, the payment showed up in your bank account with basically no description, all right, so the best way to understand what the payment is and what the payment was for, is to do a couple of things. one, look at the amount.

36:31

All right.

36:32

Again, for, for this purpose, is 49,400, and I don't have it totally memorized it, probably should, just about 49.5 grand per RHC that you owned, OK.

36:47

It's also, the other thing that you can do is look at the date that you received it.

36:52

I don't have the dates for all the different allocations right here in front of me, but I know that on the HHS Provider Relief website, they do have the dates when most entities receive these funds.

37:06

So you kind of have to use a little bit of deduction to figure out, OK, this fund, was general, this fund was rural provider relief.

37:15

This one was rural health clinic testing, OK. So that's the best way to, you're gonna have to do some deduction.

37:23

That's the best way I can answer it. All right.

37:26

Um, next question is from Jessica, who said, I didn't see March and April on the reporting list, where do we report those numbers? You don't have to report those numbers.

37:36

And the reason is, because this money went out in May, I believe it went out in May, so don't worry about March and April. We're just picking it up right here in May.

37:47

Again, This is not the official Covid numbers.

37:51

This is just for the purposes of evaluating that 225 million delivered to RHCs.

37:57

Um, next question is from Medina says, What if your organization has multiple TINs, very good question Medina.

38:06

You would have to do multiple responses.

38:11

So one account per TIN. It's not a sophisticated enough website.

38:21

I don't believe to have multiple TINs associated with one e-mail.

38:26

So in that scenario, you maybe handle the bigger TIN and then have a colleague create an account with their work e-mail, for the other TINs, we did it, unfortunately, we didn't build the system to handle multiple TINs, one account per TIN, and that is also the way the money was distributed.

38:52

So if your organization has multiple TINs and those multiple TINs own rural health clinics, then you receive different payments, OK. And so again, we do want to organize it by TIN. So, one account per TIN, unfortunately.

39:10

How many months, well, we need to report asked, Paula? Good question. I don't know the answer, I don't know the answer.

39:17

Probably at least a year, at least a year. Maybe not more than a year. Maybe more than a year, or as soon as I know. We will be sure to let everyone know.

39:28

Certainly, to start, it will be May, through October.

39:32

And I imagine it'll go well into next year.

39:37

So I can't answer for sure, Paula. Next question is from Stephanie Shaver.

39:44

Asks, can we count the specimens we ordered but were collected at the hospital?

39:51

When do we have to have all the data submitted from May through September?

39:57

So I am presuming, I don't know if the hospitals are different tax ID number or organization. If you ordered a test, but this, the specimen collection was performed by someone else.

40:12

I would, I would say, don't count those. I might have to double-check with the government how we want to count that. But if, if that hospital is the same organization as you, then it doesn't matter. Because, again, remember, we're reporting across the entire TIN organization.

40:29

But I don't think we want to count orders for tests that are performed by other tax ID.

40:41

Entities altogether. OK? So orders, I'm going to say, don't go in the reporting. And by the way, I should have mentioned this.

40:48

zero is a completely acceptable answer, OK?

40:54

And you could have kept the funds, OK? The funds were for Covid 19. Testing Yes.

41:01

But also, Covid 19 testing related expenses.

41:05

So, for example, you could be screening people in your clinic and potentially recommending that they get a test or not.

41:14

And you could spend the money to help you better do that screening and retrofitting, OK. So, that is completely acceptable.

41:24

Um, and you do not, sorry for the phone.

41:29

And you do not have to, do, you can enter zero in that chart on this page, and it will, like, it will take that as an answer.

41:39

Um, in terms of when do we have to have all the data submitted from May through September?

41:47

There's not a hard set, a due date. We said that it is required monthly.

41:55

I would say that you would want to get everything sorted in by the end of the month. Right. So by the end of October, you should have everything from May through September, by the end of November. You should have everything from May through October, so on and so forth.

42:14

Stacy asks, when do you say? We have to start reporting?

42:17

Stacie right now, as of right now, hopefully, you can login have no issues, and get their reporting in.

42:27

And but the, you start reporting right now.

42:34

Harriet asks, So, the actual expenses for supplies and other expenditures are not part of this report. That is correct, Harriet. We are not going for the, like, financial details of how you spent the money. The only question that it sort of alludes to how you spent the money. Is that multiple select all that apply question.

42:57

But you don't have to we've thought about doing that. But then, I said, ah, that seems administratively burdensome. So let's not do that. So, we all agree that we're just going to have that little check, a multiple choice, sort of question instead, but you don't have to sort of do an accounting of, I spent 10 here. I spent 25 grand here, and five here.

43:21

You don't have to do that, but you do want to check, Yes, I spent it on this category, but you don't have to give me an accounting.

43:30

Next question is, from Wayne, says, Not sure we received these funds. Do you know if it was direct deposited, or an actual check issued?

43:38

It could have been either, if you have Medicare payments, it was almost certainly direct deposit. If you are almost exclusively Medicaid or pediatrics and not really have a lot of Medicare patients, you, it is possible that the government could have mailed you a check.

43:58

The best way, as I said, is to use some deduction. OK, I'm presuming Wayne that you own one rural health clinic.

44:06

So if you got paid by the government, specifically, \$49,461, that was this, OK?

44:17

If you didn't get that exact amount, then it was something else, OK?

44:21

If you own two, it was \$49,461 times two.

44:27

OK, so you gotta use a little deduction.

44:29

Again, this is, um, the government moved fast, they opted for speed over sort of clarity And as a result, you do have to use some deduction to figure out which allocation goes with which.

44:47

Next question.

44:49

Tracey marasco, how long do we have to spend the funds?

44:55

Do we report the numbers if we haven't spent the funds yet?

44:59

Yes. You do report the numbers. Even if you've, let's say you've got that \$49,461 just sitting in the bank, ready to go. But you haven't spent it, that's fine, still report your numbers, OK?

45:13

You would obviously not check anything on that, that multiple choice checklist. Um, in terms of how long you have to spend the funds, again, I don't believe that has been answered by the government yet.

45:28

Obviously, eventually, they will have expected you to have spent these funds so you can't keep it forever without spending it, but I don't think they've put an end date on it as of last time I checked.

45:42

So, we'll make it clear on our website when the end date is as soon as we know that.

45:53

OK, William, is basically the same question. So, William, I'm gonna go ahead and actually skip your question.

46:04

Are actually Well, he has a second question here which says, What if we purchased an RHC in January 2020? Did not receive funding for that specific clinic well.

46:16

January 2020 should have, should be eligible.

46:23

It's, possible that you received maybe one payment. You should have received two.

46:29

In that scenario, you can either use the form that is on our website to indicate that your clinic didn't get money.

46:38

Or you can e-mail me, and I can potentially look into your specific situation. The cutoff date is in one of the FAQs. And I have it open here.

46:49

So, bear with me.

46:52

Yeah, The eligibility was essentially May 7 of 2020, if your RHC was in the, uh, Qcor List.

47:07

On or before May seventh, you should have gotten paid.

47:10

So January 2020, it seems like you should have been in that list, but you might not have that QCor list was not really designed for this purpose. So, it wasn't necessarily completely up to date, but it was the best list that the government had, so.

47:29

So, yeah, e-mail me your situation, and maybe we can help you.

47:34

Next question is from Karen Carson. I saw where the guidance said that eligible expenses included supplies for Covid testing.

47:45

Would that include all lab supplies and reagents for conducting testing regardless if billed to patient insurance?

47:56

Yeah. So if you're, if you're spending the funds on covid supplies and testing, that is going to be an appropriate use of the funds, OK?

48:10

And the FAQs have a little note on this where they say that, because that when you purchased the supplies, it didn't generate a claim.

48:24

Because you didn't generate a claim there where we're going to say that it wasn't explicitly, something that you are reimbursed for.

48:34

Now I understand for us it gets convoluted and complicated because we get cost-based reimbursement and so a little bit of all our overhead is baked into our reimbursement.

48:47

But you should be OK if you spend the money on Covid reagents and supplies, that's absolutely the right thing to spend this money on. So.

49:01

That is a little bit, and I would refer to our Cost Reporting Webinar, Karen, where we go more in detail on this. This is, again, focused on the reporting requirements.

49:13

All right, I'm obviously not going to get through all these questions, so apologies folks. But I am going to try to get through as many as we can, and this, again, this entire webinar, will be recorded and put online.

49:26

Um, next question is, from Kelly Nork, said, to clarify, if we're part of a system for hospitals, 4 different cities to the hospitals have RHCs, do we report for all Covid testing at all of the hospitals and testing sites? Yes.

49:43

Yes, can't make it any more clear than that. Yes. I know.

49:46

It might be a little illogical.

49:51

But we are not asking people to sort of differentiate which of their testing is rural Covid 19 Testing versus Urban Covid 19 testing.

50:02

We just want your data across the entire system, OK, even if that means that we're picking up some patients that live in the city, that's fine, OK.

50:15

Next question is from Tanya Mires.

50:19

Is there a way to find out if our hospital has accepted the funds?

50:26

There is a link which I do not have handily available.

50:32

But there is a link where you that is publicly available on HHS's website that does a breakout funding received by Tax ID number.

50:44

So, you should be able to look it up. I think it's pretty accurate and up to date, but I haven't been on that website a lot, but there is a link available, so. I apologize. I don't have it readily available, but there is a way. I've seen it. I know. It's available. I would. I would Google something to the effect of HHS Provider relief fund?

NOTE: Here is a link to the website: <https://taggs.hhs.gov/Coronavirus/RuralHealthClinics>

51:09

Yeah, hospital receipts or something like that, and, and hopefully, you should see the system where it's all listed.

51:21

Next question is from Stacie Newbar, we have to report just the clinic, or what is also during the hospitals, again, across the entire Tax ID, number organization.

51:32

We are not asking people

51:39

To break out hospital versus clinic testing.

51:44

All testing that you've done across the entire system.

51:48

And one of the reasons for that, by the way, that you did not necessarily have to spend the money at the rural health clinic.

51:59

The hospital could have received the funds. Let's say, they have 4 rural health clinics, They could have received just under \$200,000.

52:05

In centralized testing, at the hospital, And that would have been a completely allowable use of the funds, OK?

52:15

So in that case, they got money because they owned rural health clinics, but the testing was done at the hospital.

52:21

So again, that's why another reason why we're asking for data across the entire organization, urban, rural, hospital, lab, rural health clinic across the entire organization.

52:38

Next question is from Amber.

52:40

He says, we have rural health clinics and other clinics that are not rural health. Do we have to give Covid test data for all clinics or just from rural health clinics?

52:48

Again, across, I don't care if you have one rural health clinic and 50 physician fee schedule offices, across the entire organization, OK? If our numbers look big, then so be it.

53:02

OK, Entities, what we will say when we report this data, is, we will say, entities that received this fund, performed X number of tests, and Y number of positive tests, came back in the month of May, OK. We're done.

53:21

That's what we'll say, OK. We're not going to be able to say, how many tests are directly related to the fact that you got this funding.

53:30

That's not what we're going to say.

53:32

That would be too difficult, too administratively burdensome to report across your entire organization.

53:40

Yeah, I keep saying it, but y'all keep asking it.

53:44

So across the entire organization, so Majora, that is what you need to do.

53:53

Next question is from Sheila Kaiser. Is there a day each month that this needs to be populated? I would say, by the end of October, do you need to have September done.

54:03

At the end of November, you had to have October done..

54:06

By the end of December, you have to have November done now.

54:09

With that said, let's say some of your data comes in a little bit slower and you need to go back and update? Totally fine, Your numbers will save in the profile, and you can go back and update them.

54:23

We're gonna keep going here for about another 20 minutes so much. Again, I'm trying to knock as many of these out, because, you know, we're trying to make this as clear and straightforward as possible.

54:35

And then, after that, we will, and it, and, hopefully, all of you can sign up and go through the process, and it will be self explanatory. I put some FAQs on the website, as well. And that pertain just to the data collection.

54:50

So, that's a good, another place to check, to see, maybe, if your question was answered there on RHCcovidreporting.com directly.

55:03

Um, I'm going to skip some of these that are all the same questions. So, bear with me as I find a good question that I need to respond to.

55:16

Julie asks, How to refund the Covid 19 testing fund amount that we did not use? There is not really a partial way to return some of the money.

55:28

My advice to you would be one. Don't spend that.

55:31

Maybe the government will let you keep it long term. Maybe they'll ask for it back. Maybe you'll need it.

55:37

Bork, overnight, Test Cove in 19 testing in the future. but right now, there's not a way to spend 25 grand and return the other 25 grand.

55:49

Certainly don't spend it on, you know, a yacht.

55:53

Keep it in the bank account and don't let anyone touch it.

55:59

Especially if you're not going to spend it on something that is for which Covid 19 testing. Right?

56:08

But, but there is no way to partially return some of the money, unfortunately.

56:14

Next question is from Tina.

56:17

Do we count covid tests run on an employee's? Yes, I would say, yes, It's a good question. Now, not something that I had thought of, or a health system that has a SNF hospital and clinics. We test our staff and residents every week. State Health Department comes out to help with these testing days. Yeah. If your organization is doing the testing count it.

56:38

I don't care if it's patient or your employees, count it.

56:42

OK, um, does the CAH have to be, this is a question from Teresa Heskett, does the CAH have to be a urban status to include numbers for a hospital and clinic? Not really sure what you're talking about here.

56:59

You have to do reporting, if you got money from the RHC Testing Fund, that money from the fund you have to do it.

57:10

That's as clear as I can make it.

57:13

Doesn't if your CAH urban or rural, doesn't really make a difference if you got money Because you own a rural health clinic, you're going to have to report on this website.

57:24

Again, Tanya, how can we determine or confirm if our distribution was from this source? You're going to have to deduct based on the amount you received.

57:36

OK, The date you received at, this came out in May, I'm sorry, I don't have the exact date in front of me.

57:43

But you're going to have to use the little logic and deduce based on the date you received the money and how much money you received, whether or not it came from this source, OK?

57:56

Again for this, it's real easy because it's just 49.5 grand times the number of clinics that you own, OK.

58:07

Theresa asked, we tested in house.

58:09

but we have Test Nebraska two times per week.

58:14

We do not receive the test results back.

58:16

Do we include the Test Nebraska Drive-thru, in our number of tests and estimate positive results?

58:24

We know some of the data, but not all. Teresa report what you have if, if Test Nebraska, I'm not totally sure of how this arrangement is, but if you don't have data for them, then I'm not, I wouldn't worry about it, OK.

58:41

It sounds like it's a separate tax ID number organization, anyway, So if you're not getting the positive results back to your organization, then don't worry about reporting it, OK.

58:56

Report what you do have though.

58:57

OK, next question is from Brenda, who says, Who asks, is it OK that we have not used the funds yet?

59:05

Yep, totally fine.

59:07

Would I just not check any of the usage boxes yet, and report the testing numbers?

59:15

Yeah, that should be fine, and I believe, and if it's not, we will get that fixed right away.

59:21

Maybe, Paul, if you could chime in here, I believe the, that question is not required, that you can leave that blank and still move forward on the profile. Paul, are you available to answer that question?

Paul Wolotsky:

Yeah, I'm just checking that now.

59:38

I do believe it is a required question, but hold on one sec, let me just double check.

59:47

And we can change that, obviously.

Nathan Baugh:

59:48

Yeah, Right now you could just click other and leave it blank.

Paul Wolotsky:

59:54

Yes, it is required right now.

59:57

But they can click on Other and say None or something for now. And we'll fix this.

Nathan Baugh:

Yeah, well, we'll fix that, but for now just click Other and leave it blank, OK.

1:00:07

But yes, you still want to report your testing numbers even if you haven't spent the money OK, still report your testing, even if you haven't spent the money.

1:00:17

Next question is from Michelle Kane who asks how far back can we start reporting number of Covid test? May. OK, I don't want March numbers. I don't want April numbers. Can just give us start to pick it up. Nice and clean beginning in. May. May 2020. Going forward. OK.

1:00:39

Next question is from Joanne Tim.

1:00:44

What is the best resource to determine the tests we should report, such as collection, swabbing, and rapid/ a good CPT HCPCS listing?

1:00:59

Joanne, I can't tell you how to track the testing and hopefully, you have a system. I know that Medicare has said for specimen collection You're supposed to bill it as 99211.

1:01:11

Now, it's complicated in the rural health clinics, because rural health clinics can't bill 99211, So not necessarily a best good way to track it like that.

1:01:23

But it's, it's sort of on your own system, how you're tracking.

1:01:28

I think there's also a q like CPT G-code thing that is more for the lab portion of billing, but you're going to have to determine the best way to track your testing.

1:01:45

Next question is from Shelby Fettes: What exactly qualified as a test, again anything under the Emergency Use Authorization?

1:01:54

Specimen collection portion of a test that is authorized under the Emergency Use Authorization would count, OK, there are different types of tests, they're all the same. They're all equal for us, for our purposes. They're not the same in reality. But for purposes of data reporting, they're all the same.

1:02:19

Antibodies, antigen, there's a viral test and now they're coming out with new testing.

1:02:26

You know, every month, it seems like there's the rapid test, which is probably also an antibody or viral test. Point is that

1:02:35

If it's authorized under the Emergency Use Authorization and you do any portion of it, counts as a test.

1:02:43

Hopefully that's clear.

1:02:47

Um, next question is from Brandy, if we have an RHC is not doing any Covid testing but they're under our TIN. Do we still include them on this? Well, yes, you do.

1:02:58

You still got money because you own that RHC, hopefully your TIN is still doing testing elsewhere, and you would want to report that information, but if they're not adding, the RHC is not adding to your testing numbers, then, that is what it is.

1:03:13

So hopefully that answers your question Brandy. Do a little time check. We got 10 minutes left. I am going as fast as I can, and I got through all the questions that were submitted at 2:37 PM. So obviously, if you're asking questions now, unfortunately, I will not get to that. I've gone through this in order.

1:03:38

Next question is from Robin Hogan.

1:03:43

What if we are doing all Covid 19 testing at the hospital?

1:03:47

Our three, RHCs, Do I use the numbers? Test it out of the hospital testing site for RHC reporting? Yes, across the entire tax ID Number organization, I can't emphasize that point enough. I knew that was common.

1:04:02

And I can't emphasize it enough.

1:04:06

Across the entire Tax ID number organization, I tried to emphasize that.

1:04:12

I don't care if it was urban hospital clinic. Fee schedule, sniff, some other facility I'm not thinking about. If it's part of the Tax ID number organization, you count it.

1:04:28

Aye.

1:04:30

So with that, I'm skipping over most, many of the questions where that is the answer.

1:04:38

Yes, and, again, to clarify, again, for another time, you do report all testing numbers, even if you haven't spent a nickel of the testing funds. OK, we still want the numbers coming in at the Rural Health Clinic.

1:04:55

Um, Mike Turner says, For a massive health system with multiple clinics, multiple, RHCs and multiple hospitals, one person needs to submit the data for the entire organization.

1:05:06

But, by lifting the individual RHC numbers to me expectation, now, we are not asking at all for an individual RHC breakdown. The only thing that you have to list individually is the CCN numbers.

1:05:18

So you do have to, in that profile creation step, list every single CCN number associated with your RHCs.

1:05:27

But you do not have to break down testing by RHCs certainly, you don't have to do that, OK. The other thing that you have to do is you do for the massive health systems. I understand, it's going to take some time.

1:05:38

But probably not that much time, if we're being honest.

1:05:42

You do have to enter in the address that your entire system, all the addresses, that you are doing testing.

1:05:51

OK, in some cases, it could be 20, 30, 40 different locations where your system is doing testing.

1:06:02

And, you know, I'm sorry, to that individual, that has to enter in all those addresses.

1:06:06

But, I'm sure your system got a lot of money, and I don't think it's insurmountable. So, that is what the government has asked us to collect. And so, we do need the addresses of the testing

sites and the CCN numbers for each RHC, but we're not at all asking you to break down numbers by location, numbers by RHC.

1:06:31

Just give us the total across the entire organization.

1:06:38

Ryan asks, we have 2 RHCs they received 49 K. Are we able to pool the funds and use 98 K at one of our clinics? Yes.

1:06:48

Yes, you're allowed to consolidate.

1:06:51

Amy says, We may be closing our independent RHC and re-opening under a hospital as a new provider based in March 2021. If there are funds left, can we transfer them or do we need to return the funds? Amy, that's a really good question.

1:07:05

You do, I believe, I think I'm 99% sure that you will have to return the funds as a part of a change of ownership.

1:07:16

Unless that has changed since the last I looked at it, but if you spend them on testing and stuff, before the change of ownership, you don't have to return it.

1:07:28

But if you still, if you haven't spent a nickel of it, the government does want you to return it to them last class I checked on this. But it is, that is a good question, I might need to double check on that, Amy.

1:07:46

All right, about five minutes left.

1:07:49

Next question we have is from.

1:07:51

Sean Mayne, says, if we have one tax ID, 2 PTANs/CCNs, since there are different locations, do we register more than once in order to report both PTANs?

1:08:02

So if you have multiple tax IDs, that's when you're going to have to register more than once. If you have multiple PTANs or CCNS because you have multiple RHCS, you still, you only have to register once.

1:08:18

The system is sophisticated enough to have multiple PTAN

1:08:22

or CCN numbers by account, per account.

1:08:27

Next question is from Marianna.

1:08:30

Some of our tests were done by the Health Department, Referred by us due to load test, could not get testing supply shortage, does the test count? I'm not, I'm gonna go ahead and make the determination.

1:08:45

Referrals do not count as tests. That's fine.

1:08:49

If you're doing referrals, and that's the situation where you are, totally fine. And you haven't done any specimen collection yourself.

1:08:57

That's OK, you can report 0 and no one's going to come after you. As long as, you are still spending the money on Covid 19 testing related activities, such as referring to the health department.

1:09:09

And doing screening and saying, hey, you know, maybe you should get a test, based on your symptoms, based on your age, based on, you know, who you've been around. You should get a test. If you're doing that, totally fine.

1:09:21

You don't have to do the specimen collection yourself, because, like you said, the supplies are in short supply in many areas of the country.

1:09:29

Maybe another entity in your area has got a well oiled machine, totally fine, but you don't count referrals as tests, don't count referrals as tests.

1:09:44

Next question is from Mary Owens. If we send the test out to run, but collect the specimens at the RHC, do we count these? Yes. We count those. We only have one machine, which is in a different office. Yes, specimen collection counts.

1:10:01

Next question is from Skylar Thompson. To help answer this question, I noticed in the transaction details of the EFT, the rural health had Covid in the description for the testing funds.

1:10:12

And Cares in the description for other funds, you know, Skylar. That's a that's a good tip. I haven't seen the description of the bank account. I think it's the same nationally, but it might vary a little bit recently, but that is a good tip. I appreciate that. You try to look at the description of the fund, you don't have to just use deduction to figure out which funds are for, for which purpose.

1:10:40

Hopefully the description gives you a little bit of a clue as to whether it's for that provider relief fund, or for this RHC testing fund.

1:10:53

Next question is from Dawn.

1:10:56

Concerning tests done across the organization, if our ED did tests, we've done tests as part of pre-surgery requirements, are these tests. These are part of total number that needs to be submitted? Yeah.

1:11:07

It is a part of your Tax ID Number Organization, go ahead and count it.

1:11:12

Joann Tim, asks, hospital owned RHC reports only the RHC testing data, even if the RHC is the same TIN as a hospital, is that the correct interpretation?

1:11:25

No, you report the entire organization's data, not just the RHC testing data.

1:11:35

Yeah.

1:11:39

Again, across the entire tax ID number organization.

1:11:42

OK, With that said, I got through that 1.5 minutes of questions submitted. I very greatly apologize to all of those questions that I didn't get to.

1:11:58

OK, I'm gonna close with this, you got my e-mail right there, OK. We're not trying to trip anyone up. This is not supposed to be complicated, OK. This is supposed to be straightforward.

1:12:09

We just want to have that data to turn around and say, Hey, Congress: Thank you for the 225 million. It was put to a really good use.

1:12:17

We did a million tests in May, and, you know, came back as this many positives we were able to catch because of the testing. Fine.

1:12:27

Thank you.

1:12:27

That is the purpose of this entire process. All right. So, we're not trying to trip people up, it is required. Yes, it is required.

1:12:37

But when we're trying to make it as simple and as easy as possible for folks. OK, we are working in conjunction with the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy. We're working in conjunction with the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health to help rural health clinics with all these questions with this data collection requirement. We're here, so the.

1:13:06

E-mail you see on your screen, that's my e-mail. Obviously, the e-mail that is on the actual website, rhccovidreporting.com. You'll see an e-mail at the top left there. It says rhccovidreporting@narhc.org. That goes to my e-mail inbox.

1:13:24

So pros and cons of this system, the pros are that you're not gonna get, you know, lost in some bureaucracy.

1:13:35

Those e-mails are all going to go directly to my e-mail inbox.

1:13:39

Cons, I'm only one guy.

1:13:41

Right?

1:13:42

So I might not be able to get to everyone's question right away.

1:13:47

But you'll get straight to me.

1:13:49

I'll try to cut through and give you as clear answers I can, and just bear with me if I don't respond right away because I'm one man, monitoring that e-mail inbox, So hopefully registration, signing up, submitting, and all that at the website goes smoothly for all of you, I sure hope so. If you really have technical problems, you know, let me know. And I'll close by saying, when you register, make sure to check your spam inbox for that first e-mail, OK, Please check that spamming bot spam inbox for that registration e-mail.

1:14:29

There's nothing really we can do about having it go to your normal inbox in most cases.

1:14:37

With that said, I am running out of breath.

1:14:41

Now, I am going to go ahead and close this.

1:14:44

I'd like to thank everyone for joining me on this webinar today.

1:14:50

And I'd like to thank the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, our friends, for sponsoring the RHC Technical Assistance Webinar Series.

1:15:01

We encourage others who may be interested to register for the webinar series at narhc.org or the RHI Hub website.

1:15:11

In addition, we welcome you to e-mail us with your thoughts and suggestions for future topics at nathan.baugh@narhc.org.

1:15:21

And be sure to put RHC Webinar topic in the e-mail subject line.

1:15:26

I already gave you guys the CEU code, So, hopefully you guys have that. But, one last time, it's 954832.

1:15:34

For Certified RHC Professionals, the CEU code is 954832.

1:15:39

When we schedule the next webinar, notice will be sent by e-mail to those who have registered for this webinar series with details. Thank you for your participation, and that concludes today's webinar.

1:15:53

Good luck, everyone.