Rural Health Clinic (RHC) Certification Readiness Consulting

Last reviewed October 2026 · https://www.integralhs.com/rural-health-clinic-certification-readiness

What to have ready

Each item ties to the CMS Rural Health Clinics page (last modified September 10, 2024) or 42 CFR Part 491, Subpart A (current eCFR text, up to date as of September 30, 2026).

- Location records your advisers use to show the site is in "a rural area designated as a shortage area" (CMS [https://www.cms.gov/medicare/health-safety-standards/certification-compliance/rural-health-clinics]).
- A description of services showing the clinic "is not a rehabilitation agency or a facility primarily for the care and treatment of mental diseases" (CMS).
- A completed Request to Establish Eligibility, Form CMS-29, with its supporting documents (CMS).
- An operating-hours schedule showing an NP, PA or CNM available at least 50 percent of the time the clinic operates (CMS).
- Employment records for at least one PA or NP (42 CFR 491.8(a)(3) [https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-42/chapter-IV/subchapter-G/part-491/subpart-A]).
- For an existing clinic seeking a staffing waiver, recruiting records covering the previous 90 days (CMS).
- An emergency preparedness program and plan, with a review date no more than two years out (42 CFR 491.12).
- A plan for the biennial evaluation of the total program (42 CFR 491.11(a)).