

South Carolina Office of Rural Health

"Dedicated to improving access to quality health care in rural communities"



Rural Focus

August 2010

SCORH Adds New Faces to Staff

Over the past few months, the SC Office of Rural Health has added several new faces to our staff. The two most recent additions have been Melinda Merrell and Tiffany Simpson-Crumpley.

Tiffany Simpson-Crumpley serves as the Director of Network Activities. In this capacity, she will provide technical assistance to the 5 rural health networks to sustain systems of care for their uninsured residents. In addition, she will provide support to emerging and newly awarded sites for Access Health SC. Prior to joining the SC Office of Rural Health, Tiffany served as Assistant Director of the Mecklenburg County System of Care, an initiative that supports multi-disciplinary collaboration to support families and youth struggling with mental health conditions.



Tiffany Simpson-Crumpley

Tiffany holds a dual bachelor's degrees in Health Science and African American Studies. She received her master's in health services administration from Saint Mary's College of California.

Melinda Merrell serves as the Director of Hospital Programs, providing targeted support to the state's five critical access hospitals as well as other rural hospitals in the state. She is responsible for coordinating the activities of the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program which helps rural health care providers receive the specific training and technical assistance they need in the areas of quality improvement and financial and operational improvement for their organizations. Melinda works with providers and staff in the state's rural hospitals, rural emergency medical services, and rural health networks to ascertain their needs and facilitate solutions in these areas.

Prior to joining SCORH in 2010, Melinda was the Director of the Northeastern Rural Health Network located in rural Chesterfield, Dillon, and Marlboro Counties, South Carolina. Melinda received Master of Public Health and Bachelor of Science degrees from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Welcome Tiffany and Melinda!

Good News from Lakelands Rural Health Network (LRHN)

Over the past 11 months, the LRHN/AccessHealth SC Committee has diligently met to determine LRHN's Community Profile, Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan for the uninsured and underinsured residents. The group invested considerable amount of time and effort to this initiative and will continue to set and reach specified targeted goals.

Today, Pat Robinson, CEO Edgefield County Hospital received notification of award from

The Duke Endowment for \$750,000 to develop a community network of care for the low-income, uninsured residents in the LRHN six county region (Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, Saluda, McCormick).

Payments schedule is as follows:

2010	\$250,000
2011	\$250,000
2012	\$250,000

A sincere **THANK YOU** goes out to all who are involved in securing this project.

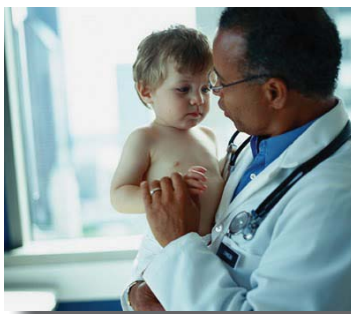
Implementation of Affordable Care Act for Expansion of Eligibility for the 340B Drug Pricing Program

HRSA's Office of Pharmacy Affairs (OPA) will be starting enrollment on August 2, 2010 for new covered entities eligible for the 340B Drug Pricing Program added by Section 7101 of the Affordable Care Act of 2010. There will be a rolling admission process for these new entity types, including children's hospitals, free standing cancer centers, critical access hospitals, rural referral centers, and sole community hospitals between the start date and September 30, 2010. During that period entities that have fully completed the registration process will be added as their eligibility can be confirmed by the OPA staff. Please note, the registration process will require at least 3 days of processing time so all required documents need to be submitted by September 27, 2010. Information and instructions for enrollment will be available on the OPA website on July 28, 2010.



Additional information can be found at <http://www.hrsa.gov/opa/> and <http://pssc.aphanet.org/>. Eligible entities can also contact HRSA's Pharmacy Services Support Center at 1-800-628-6297 or PSSC@aphanet.org for additional information and free technical assistance.

Increases in Primary Care Physician Income due to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010--Continued Tweaking of Physician Payment



The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) authorizes several changes to the Resource-Based Relative Value Scale (RBRVS) system that are designed to increase primary care physician personal income and reduce geographic variation in primary care payment. In this brief, the ACA-authorized primary care payment adjustments are modeled in a prototypical rural primary care practice to assess both the potential impact on physician personal income and the likelihood that the changes will achieve the desired policy outcome.

Contact information:

A. Clinton MacKinney, MD, MS

Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI) Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis

Phone: 319-384-5120

healthpolicy@unmc.edu

Transition to ICD-10 is Coming October 1, 2013

On **October 1, 2013**, medical coding in U.S. health care settings will change from ICD-9-CM to ICD-10. The transition will require business and systems changes throughout the health care industry. Everyone who is covered by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) must make the transition, not just those who submit Medicare or Medicaid claims. The compliance dates are firm and not subject to change. If you are not ready, your claims will not be paid. Preparing now can help you avoid potential reimbursement issues.

Ask your clearinghouse, billing service or software vendor what you need to do to be ready for ICD-10. For more information about ICD-10 Implementation, please read MLN Matters® Special Edition article SE1019 located at <http://www.cms.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/SE1019.pdf> on the CMS website.

ICD-9-CM Code	2005 Payment Rates	2006 Payment Rates	2007 Payment Rates
99201	\$36.76	\$36.76	\$35.62
99202	\$65.18	\$65.18	\$62.13
99203	\$97.02	\$97.02	\$92.09
99204	\$137.19	\$137.19	\$139.84
99205	\$173.57	\$173.57	\$175.47
99211	\$21.60	\$21.60	\$20.09
99212	\$38.66	\$38.66	\$36.76
99213	\$52.68	\$52.68	\$59.50
99214	\$82.62	\$82.62	\$90.20
99215	\$120.14	\$120.14	\$122.03
99231	\$34.11	\$34.11	\$35.62
99232	\$55.71	\$55.71	\$63.67
99233	\$79.21	\$79.21	\$90.95
99234	\$50.40	\$50.40	\$48.13

Family Connection Workshop (In Spanish): Building Your Own Care Notebook

Family Connection, SC in collaboration with Palmetto Health Children Hospital is offering a Care Notebook Workshop / Creando Tu Propio Libro de Información. This workshop would be facilitated completely in Spanish.

This workshop will help:

- *Maintain an ongoing record of your child's care, services, providers, and notes.
- *Empower you to become the expert on your child's care.
- *Maintain the lines of communication between the many providers and services that help care for a child and their family.

August 31, 2010 at 10:00am

Special Care Center
14 Medical Park, Suite 300A
Columbia, SC 29203

Event is free but registration is required.

To register please call:

Sandra Jagan at 803-434-1310 or Maggie Ortiz at 800-578-8750

The mission of Family Connection of South Carolina is to strengthen families of children with special needs through parent support. www.familyconnectionsc.org/home/



New Location for Low Country Healthy Start

The Low Country Health Start office has packed up their bags and moved to Orangeburg. Director Virginia Berry-White believes this will be a good location for the office, and is looking forward to putting the word out about LCHS's services to members of the community.

The Low Country Healthy Start program is focused on reducing infant mortality and eliminating perinatal disparities. The Low Country Healthy Start program is supported by highly competitive federal grants awarded only to excellent programs with significant expertise and experience working in communities with exceptionally high infant death rates. The Healthy Start program has forged strong local partnerships working with women, their families, private obstetrical and pediatric providers, hospitals, Community Health



We've Moved!

Low Country Healthy Start
1732 Village Park Drive
St. Matthews Road (P.O. Box 2889)
Orangeburg, SC 29116
Phone: 803-531-8008
Fax: 803-531-8007
www.lchealthystart.org

3rd Annual Low Country Healthy Start Infant Mortality Awareness Luncheon September 17th



Low Country Healthy Start will host a luncheon on **Friday, September 17th** at 12:00 noon at the Cinema at Orangeburg Mall. The purpose of this lunch is to help increase awareness of infant mortality in South Carolina. **Victoria Rowell**, best known for her role on the *Young and the Restless*, will be the featured speaker at the event.

For more information and to RSVP, call the Low Country Healthy Start office at 888-581-0319.



A Healthy Start for a Healthy Tomorrow.



SC Office of Rural Health
107 Saluda Pointe Drive, Lexington, SC 29072
803-454-3850 Tel 803-454-3860 Fax
www.scorh.net