

Primary Health Care Digest

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

November 19, 2014

What's New

- **Applicability of Health Center Program Requirements Oversight to Look-Alikes Program Assistance Letter (PAL)** –HRSA recently issued [PAL 2014-11](#) to establish that organizations designated as Health Center Program look-alikes are subject to the Progressive Action process and associated enforcement actions described in [PAL 2014-08: Health Center Program Requirements Oversight](#). Progressive Action was developed to support HRSA's review and oversight of key Health Center Program requirements and assist health centers in their efforts to achieve Health Center Program objectives.

The PAL is now effective; therefore, Health Center look-alikes are strongly encouraged to review both [PAL 2014-08](#) and [PAL 2014-11](#). HRSA will apply new and existing look-alike conditions using the Progressive Action process, beginning with the 90-day condition phase. If you have questions about this PAL, please contact BPHC at lookalike@hrsa.gov.

- **Scope Alignment Validation (SAV) Follow-up Actions** – BPHC has completed its analysis of health center SAV submissions and will be taking a number of actions to correct Forms 5A and 5B, consistent with health center comments.

These actions and associated timelines are outlined in the [Scope Alignment Validation Follow-up Actions document](#) on the [BPHC Scope of Project website](#).

Please note that some health centers will need to initiate further action to correct their Forms 5A and/or 5B consistent with BPHC scope of project policy. Further information is provided in the document linked above.

- **Open Enrollment Resources** – Open enrollment in the Health Insurance Marketplace began on November 15, 2014. All plans in the Marketplace cover essential health benefits, pre-existing conditions, recommended preventive care and more. If a person has health coverage through the Marketplace, it's time for them to review their plan and decide if they need to make changes for 2015. A person can choose to stay in their current plan (as long as it's still offered) or make changes. If a person doesn't take action by **December 15, 2014**, they might miss out on better deals and cost savings.

There are many ways you can help with outreach and enrollment efforts:

- o **Spread the Word:** HealthCare.gov (Spanish: CuidadoDeSalud.gov) is the destination for the Health Insurance Marketplace.

- o **Direct consumers to the call center** at 1-800-318-2596 (TTY: 1-855-889-4325). Assistance is available 24/7 to questions, prepare for open enrollment, and sign up for

Upcoming TA and Training Sessions

- **ACA and You Webinar – Thursday, November 20, 2014, 1:00pm – 2:30pm, ET.** HRSA's Office of Rural Health Policy is hosting this webinar to highlight the impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on rural communities, including outreach and enrollment efforts.

[View more information and register for the webinar.](#)

- **Collaborating with Public Housing – Outreach, Enrollment and 2014 UDS reporting – Thursday, December 4, 2014, 2:00pm – 3:00pm, ET.** Community Health Partners for Sustainability is hosting a webinar to explore best practices for partnering with housing authorities to count patients living in public housing, and to identify new markets through the upcoming open enrollment season.

[Register for this webinar.](#)

[View all BPHC technical assistance resources.](#)

Program Funding

- **Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Service Area Competition – Additional Area (SAC-AA) for Brooklyn (Coney Island), New York (HRSA-15-132)** – HRSA has released a FY 2015 SAC-AA Funding Opportunity Announcement for the Brooklyn (Coney Island), New York service area. Technical assistance materials for SAC-AA applicants are available on the [SAC-AA webpage](#).
- **Fiscal Year 2015 Service Area Competition – Additional Area (SAC-AA) for Fort Bragg, California; Torrance, California; and Minneapolis, Minnesota (HRSA-15-134)** – HRSA has released a FY 2015 SAC-AA Funding Opportunity Announcement for the Fort Bragg, California; Torrance, California; and Minneapolis, Minnesota service areas. Technical assistance materials for SAC-AA applicants, including a recorded presentation and frequently asked questions are available on the [SAC-AA webpage](#).

private health insurance.

o **Use materials** at [Marketplace.cms.gov](https://www.cms.gov/Marketplace). [Order printed copies](#) of materials to share with your community:

[Infographics](#) and [Videos](#) that you can run on short-circuit TV networks in waiting rooms of offices and on agency YouTube channels. Urge partners to do the same.

[Widgets and Badges](#) to put on your e-newsletters, agency websites, email signature and consumer facing sites.

[Written materials](#) like brochures, fact sheets, posters, postcards, and checklists, with members..

o **Connect through social media:** Join the discussion at [Facebook.com/HealthCare.gov](https://www.facebook.com/HealthCare.gov) (Spanish: [Facebook.com/CuidadoDeSalud.gov](https://www.facebook.com/CuidadoDeSalud.gov)) | Follow Healthcare.gov on [Twitter](#), @HealthCareGov (Spanish: @CuidadoDeSalud)

- **Veterans Choice Program** – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) implemented the [Veterans Choice Program](#) which provides Veterans with the choice to see a community (non VA) provider (with VA authorization) if the Veteran resides further than 40 miles from a VA site of care or the Veteran faces an appointment wait time of longer than 30 days.

This past week, VA sent Vets Choice Program cards to approximately 320,000 Vets who reside 40+ miles from a VA site of care. Veterans have started to arrive at community providers with their Veterans Choice Program Card looking for care. However, there are several steps that health centers need to undertake to be reimbursed for care under the Veterans choice Program.

Please visit the Veterans Choice Program web site at www.va.gov/opa/choiceact or call 866-606-8198 to learn more about the program.

- **Updated Health Care Resources for Suspected Cases of Ebola Virus Disease** – HHS' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), HRSA, and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) continue to work with other U.S. government agencies, the World Health Organization (WHO), and other domestic and international partners in an international response to the current Ebola outbreak in West Africa. These will be updated as new information becomes available and distributed regularly. Please share with others as appropriate.

The following Ebola resources, among others, are also available for use:

[Institute Of Medicine Ebola Research Workshop Summary Ambulatory Care Evaluation of Patients with Possible Ebola Virus Disease \(pdf\)](#)

[Timeline of What's New](#)

[Latest CDC Outbreak Information](#)

Fillable [Infographic](#) for Healthcare Workers to use in determining if a patient may have been exposed to the Ebola virus.

[Audio Replays and Transcripts of Ebola past Calls and](#)

[Webinars.](#)

[View all CDC Ebola updates and resources.](#)

[View all ASPR Ebola updates and resources.](#)

- **Resource Guide to Improve Health Outcomes** – A new resource guide from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) can help policymakers work with other stakeholders to improve health outcomes in their State. The [Quality Improvement Collaborative Resource Guide](#) describes steps to follow to start and manage a State-level quality improvement collaborative.

[View more information on the Guide.](#)

- **Reduce Tobacco Use and Second Hand Smoke Exposure** – The Community Preventive Services Task Force (Task Force) has released evidence based recommendations on reducing tobacco use and second hand smoke exposure. The Task Force [recommends](#) comprehensive tobacco control programs - which include state and local programs, cessation assistance services, mass-reach health communications interventions, surveillance and evaluation, and administration and management - to reduce tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure, based on strong evidence of effectiveness.

[View these recommendations.](#)

- **National Rural Health Day** – Join the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) and partners to celebrate [National Rural Health Day](#) on November 20, 2014. National Rural Health Day is an opportunity to “Celebrate the Power of Rural” by honoring the selfless, community-minded, “can do” spirit that prevails in rural America. It also brings to light the unique healthcare challenges that rural citizens face, and showcases the efforts of rural healthcare providers, State Offices of Rural Health and other rural stakeholders to address those challenges.

[View more information](#) and [resources to celebrate National Rural Health Day](#).

Questions, Concerns, or Feedback? Send an email to phcdigest@hrsa.gov