

What is the difference between a Community Health Center and a Rural Health Clinic?

WHAT TO LOOK FOR	Community Health Center	Rural Health Clinic	WHAT IT MEANS
1. Is the facility required to devote all its revenue to providing healthcare to people in its community?	YES	NO	<i>CHCs must be either not-for-profit or public. RHCs may be either for-profit or not-for-profit.</i>
2. Is the facility governed by a Board of Directors whose members are patients at the facility?	YES	NO	<i>At least 51% of a CHC's Board of Directors must be composed of members who are patients at the center. RHCs are not required to have a Board of Directors.</i>
3. Does the facility provide services for everyone regardless of age?	YES	NO	<i>CHCs must provide care for all ages. RHCs may be limited to a specific type of primary care practice (OB-GYN, pediatrics, etc)</i>
4. Is the facility required to provide a full range of primary care and preventive services?	YES	NO	<i>CHCs must provide primary health care, maternity & pre-natal care, preventive care for infants, children & adults, some emergency care and pharmaceutical services. RHCs must be capable of delivering out-patient primary care services.</i>
5. Is the facility required to provide emergency medical services after normal business hours?	YES	NO	<i>CHCs are required to provide emergency care on a 24 hour basis. RHCs have no requirement for after-hour emergency care.</i>

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6. Is the facility required to serve anyone regardless of ability to pay?	YES	NO	<p><i>CHCs are required to serve all residents of their service area with charges on a sliding fee scale based upon ability to pay.</i></p> <p><i>RHCs are not required to provide services to low-income patients or to provide sliding fee reductions to charges.</i></p>
7. Is the facility required to maintain an ongoing Quality Assurance Program?	YES	NO	<p><i>CHCs are required to have an on-going quality assurance program that identifies and takes actions necessary to correct problems.</i></p> <p><i>Although RHCs do not have a current QA requirement, regulations are pending that would require an Quality Assurance Improvement Performance (QAPI) Program</i></p>
8. Is the facility located in an area that is <u>currently</u> designated as a Medically Underserved Area (MUA) or as a Health Professional Shortages Area (HPSA)?	YES	NO	<p><i>CHCs must be located in a rural or urban area where communities experience barriers to receiving health care (MUA or MUP).</i></p> <p><i>RHCs must be located in an MUA or HPSA which has been updated within the last four years.</i></p>
9. Is the facility required to be open for evening and/or weekend hours for the convenience of working families?	YES	NO	<p><i>CHCs are required to be open at least 32 hours per week; emergency coverage after normal business hours is also required.</i></p> <p><i>RHCs have no minimum hours or emergency coverage requirements.</i></p>
10. Is the facility required to submit regular financial reports, including independent annual audits?	YES	NO	<p><i>CHCs are required to submit an annual independent audit as well as regular financial reports.</i></p> <p><i>RHCs must submit an annual cost report.</i></p>