



RE: CMS Rules RIN 0938-AT23

On September 29, 2019, CMS issued final rules effecting Rural Health Clinics effective November 30, 2019. The following highlights the rule:

- The requirement to document efforts to contact local, tribal, regional, state and Federal emergency preparedness officials in collaborative and cooperative planning efforts will be removed. However, a process to collaborate and cooperate must still be included in your emergency policies.
<https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2019-20736/p-110>
- The annual review of the emergency preparedness program policies will be revised to a biennial (every other year) requirement.
<https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2019-20736/p-111>
- The emergency preparedness program training will be revised to a biennial requirement; except in cases of initial staffing and significant policy updates.
<https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2019-20736/p-112>
- The emergency preparedness program testing (exercises) will be revised to one (1) community-based full-scale exercise, if available, or an individual facility-based functional exercise required biennially, and in opposite years, an additional exercise is required, and you may choose the exercise method (full-scale community or facility-based or tabletop).
<https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2019-20736/p-113>
- Rural Health Clinics' and Federally Qualified Health Centers' Annual Program Evaluation requirements in 42 CFR 491.11(a) and the policy review will be revised to a biennial requirement.
<https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2019-20736/p-118>

Please direct any questions to our consulting team at Midwest Health Care. We are happy to help!! Keep an eye out for valuable updates from our website or visit us at www.mwhc.net and sign up for our newsletter.

Midwest Health Care, Inc.