

A Continued HPSA Designation

HPSA's generally renew every three years and must be re-assessed and re-designated every three-four years. However, we have seen some HPSAs being updated at an annual rate due to a regulation mandated by HRSA in Chapter 1:3 of the HEHS-95-200 report to congress "HHS must by law review annually each designated HPSA to decide if it is still experiencing a shortage of health care providers." Though this is not an enforced requirement, this appears to be the direction HRSA is heading towards. If you are thinking of moving or building a new RHC, make sure your HPSA has been recently updated.

In 2017 80% of all primary care HPSA's were designated due to a large delayed national update. This means that in 2020 these shortages will again have to be documented in order to continue being a Health Professional Shortage Area. Keep this in mind when moving or building a new RHC. Your HPSA status must be 'designated' or 'proposed for withdrawal' at the time the survey is completed by the state, AAAA, or The Compliance Team in order to receive approval.

The base list of primary care physicians, psychiatrists, and dentists and hygienists is pulled from NPI data and state licensure data into the Shortage Designation Application and Scoring Process (SDMS). This software platform is what each state Department of Health uses to review the supply of primary, mental, and dental health in your community. When they reach out to you for additional provider Full-Time Equivalent information, be certain to reply with exact hours your providers are completing direct patient care. The more accurate the data, the more likely you will receive a HPSA renewal.

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