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## Rural Health Clinics (RHCs)

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An RHC is a healthcare facility located in a rural area federally designated as a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) or a Medically Underserved Area (MUA) and is neither a rehabilitation agency nor a facility primarily for the care and treatment of mental diseases. An RHC must provide primary health care, including laboratory services to its patients. The RHC's laboratory services are subject to the [Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments](#) (CLIA).

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## RHC Federal and State Requirements

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In Idaho, RHCs are governed by federal certification regulations. Idaho has no state licensure rules for RHCs. Applicable federal certification requirements are found in the State Operations Manual (SOM), [Chapter 2](#), section 2240, [Appendix G](#), [Appendix Z](#) and [Appendix Q](#). A brief overview of the regulations may be found below. Please refer to the SOM and Appendices for additional information.



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## Appendix G – Guidance to Surveyors: Rural Health Clinics

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[Appendix G](#) includes the federal statutory designation, the regulatory language, and interpretive guidance. The regulations are divided into Conditions for Coverage (CFCs or Conditions), standard, and element level requirements. CFCs represent the overall services and supports an RHC must provide. Under each CFC are the standard and element level regulations associated with that CFC. The purpose of the interpretive guidance is to clarify the information that is relevant

to specific requirements, and to assist in consistent decision-making about facility compliance.

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## **Appendix Z – Emergency Preparedness (EP) Requirements**

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[Appendix Z](#) includes the federal statutory designation, the regulatory language, and interpretive guidance for Emergency Preparedness (EP), which is applicable to all provider and supplier types, including RHCs. These regulations are divided into a Condition for Coverage (CFC or Condition) and standard level requirements.

The CFC represents the overall EP requirement that an ESRD must comply with. Under the CFC are the standard level regulations associated with the CFC. The purpose of the interpretive guidance is to clarify the information that is relevant to a requirement, and to assist in consistent decision-making regarding facility compliance.

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## **Appendix Q – Core Guidelines For Determining Immediate Jeopardy**

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[Appendix Q](#) provides guidance specific to situations of Immediate Jeopardy. Immediate Jeopardy means a situation in which the provider's noncompliance with one or more requirements or conditions for coverage, has caused, or is likely to cause, serious injury, harm, impairment, or death to a patient.

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## **Additional Information**

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For additional information regarding the RHC program, please visit the CMS [Rural Health Center](#).