

Rural Health Clinics: Provide Access to Health Care

In 1977, Congress passed the Rural Health Clinic Services Act (PL 95-210) with two main goals: improve access to primary health care in rural, underserved communities; and promote a collaborative model of health care delivery using physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants.¹

Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) are designated after meeting eligibility requirements and completing an application to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. They must be located in a federally designated medically underserved area or a “governor designated secretary certified area.” RHCs can be public, private, or nonprofit, and either independent or hospital-affiliated. RHCs generally offer a sliding fee scale to low-income patients. RHCs are located in rural areas and must have a mid-level provider on site at least 50% of the time.²

New Hampshire Rural Health Clinics³

1. Cottage Hospital Internal Medicine
2. Dartmouth Hitchcock Plymouth
3. Newfound Family Practice
4. Newport Health Center
5. Plymouth OB/GYN
6. Saco River Medical Group
7. Speare Primary Care
8. Summit Medical Group, PC
9. Weeks Medical Center – North Stratford*
10. Weeks Medical Center – Groveton *
11. Weeks Medical Center – Lancaster *
12. Weeks Medical Center – Whitefield *
13. Westside Health Care

*Denotes Bi-State Primary Care Association member



*Weeks Medical Center
Lancaster, NH*

¹Starting a Rural Health Clinic: A How-To Manual. Health Resources and Services Administration. <http://www.narhc.org/uploads/pdf/RHCmanual1.pdf>, accessed 1/26/2012.

²Rural Assistance Center, *Rural Health Clinics*. <http://www.raconline.org/topics/clinics/rhc.php>, accessed 1/26/2012.

³New Hampshire Rural Health Clinic List is based on CASPER Report dated 11/19/13.