

WAC 182-549-1100 Rural health clinics—Definitions. This section contains definitions of words and phrases that apply to this chapter. Unless defined in this chapter or chapter 182-500 WAC, the definitions found in the Webster's New World Dictionary apply.

"APM index" - The alternative payment methodology (APM) is used to update APM encounter payment rates on an annual basis. The APM index is a measure of input price changes experienced by Washington's federally qualified health center (FQHC) and rural health clinic (RHC) providers. The index is derived from the federal medicare economic index (MEI).

"Base year" - The year that is used as the benchmark in measuring a clinic's total reasonable costs for establishing base encounter rates.

"Encounter" - A face-to-face visit between a client and a qualified RHC provider (e.g., a physician, dentist, physician's assistant, or advanced registered nurse practitioner) who exercises independent judgment when providing services that qualify for an encounter rate.

"Encounter rate" - A cost-based, facility-specific rate for covered RHC services, paid to a rural health clinic for each valid encounter it bills.

"Enhancements (also called managed care enhancements or supplemental payments)" - A monthly amount paid by the agency to RHCs through a managed care organization (MCO) that has contracted with the RHC to provide services to clients enrolled with the MCO. The enhancement is in addition to the negotiated payment that RHCs receive from the MCO. RHCs participating in the payment method described in WAC 182-549-1450 (5)(b) do not receive enhancements.

"Fee-for-service" - A payment method the agency uses to pay providers for covered medical services provided to clients enrolled in the Title XIX (medicaid) program or the Title XXI (CHIP) program, except those services provided under the agency's prepaid managed care organizations or those services that qualify for an encounter payment.

"Interim rate" - The rate established by the agency to pay a rural health clinic for covered RHC services prior to the establishment of a permanent rate for that facility.

"Medicare cost report" - The cost report is a statement of costs and provider utilization that occurred during the time period covered by the cost report. RHCs must complete and submit a report annually to medicare.

"Mobile unit" - The objects, equipment, and supplies necessary for provision of the services furnished directly by the RHC are housed in a mobile structure.

"Permanent unit" - The objects, equipment, and supplies necessary for the provision of the services furnished directly by the RHC are housed in a permanent structure.

"Rebasing" - The process of recalculating encounter rates using actual cost report data.

"Rural area" - An area that is not delineated as an urbanized area by the U.S. Census Bureau.

"Rural health clinic (RHC)" - A clinic, as defined in 42 C.F.R. 405.2401(b), that is primarily engaged in providing RHC services and is:

- Located in a rural area designated as a shortage area as defined under 42 C.F.R. 491.2;
- Certified by medicare as an RHC in accordance with applicable federal requirements; and

• Not a rehabilitation agency or a facility primarily for the care and treatment of mental diseases.

"Rural health clinic (RHC) services" - Outpatient or ambulatory care of the nature typically provided in a physician's office or outpatient clinic or similar setting, including specified types of diagnostic examination, laboratory services, and emergency treatments. The specific list of services which must be made available by the clinic can be found under 42 C.F.R. Part 491.9.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.021 and 41.05.160. WSR 20-02-070, § 182-549-1100, filed 12/26/19, effective 1/26/20; WSR 18-10-058, § 182-549-1100, filed 4/27/18, effective 5/28/18. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160, 2017 3rd sp.s. c 1 § 213(1)(11). WSR 17-22-070, § 182-549-1100, filed 10/27/17, effective 1/1/18. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.021 and 41.05.160. WSR 15-11-008, § 182-549-1100, filed 5/7/15, effective 6/7/15. WSR 11-14-075, recodified as § 182-549-1100, filed 6/30/11, effective 7/1/11. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.08.090, 74.09.510, 74.09.522, 42 U.S.C. 1396a(bb), 42 C.F.R. 405.2472, and 42 C.F.R. 491. WSR 10-09-030, § 388-549-1100, filed 4/13/10, effective 5/14/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.08.090, 74.09.510, 74.09.522, 42 C.F.R. 405.2472, 42 C.F.R. 491. WSR 08-05-011, § 388-549-1100, filed 2/7/08, effective 3/9/08.]