



WEST VIRGINIA SECRETARY OF STATE

KRIS WARNER

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION

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5/9/2025 12:38:26 PM

Office of West Virginia
Secretary Of State

**NOTICE OF FINAL FILING AND ADOPTION OF A LEGISLATIVE RULE AUTHORIZED
BY THE WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

AGENCY: Health Care Authority

TITLE-SERIES: 65-09

RULE TYPE: Legislative Amendment to Existing Rule: Yes Repeal of existing rule: No

RULE NAME: CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS

CITE STATUTORY AUTHORITY: W. Va. Code §16B-3-14

The above rule has been authorized by the West Virginia Legislature.

Authorization is cited in (house or senate bill number) SB325

Section §64-5-1 Passed On 4/11/2025 12:00:00 AM

This rule is filed with the Secretary of State. This rule becomes effective on the following date:

May 9, 2025

This rule shall terminate and have no further force or effect from the following date:

August 01, 2030

BY CHOOSING 'YES', I ATTEST THAT THE PREVIOUS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

Yes

Virginia M Payne -- By my signature, I certify that I am the person authorized to file legislative rules, in accordance with West Virginia Code §29A-3-11 and §39A-3-2.

65CSR9

TITLE 65
LEGISLATIVE RULE
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

SERIES 9
CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS

§65-9-1. General.

1.1. Scope. -- This legislative rule establishes specific standards and procedures to provide for the designation of a critical access hospital as a community outpatient medical center pursuant to W. Va. Code §16B-3-14.

1.2. Authority. -- W. Va. Code §16B-3-14.

1.3. Filing Date. -- May 9, 2025.

1.4. Effective Date. -- May 9, 2025.

1.5. Sunset Provision. -- This rule shall terminate and have no further force or effect on August 1, 2030.

§65-9-2. Definitions.

2.1. "Critical Access Hospital" means a hospital that is:

2.1.1. A not-for-profit, for-profit, or public hospital that is located in a county in a rural area as defined in 42 U.S.C.A. § 1395.i.4(e);

2.1.2. Located more than a 35-mile drive from a hospital or another health care facility or is located more than a 15-mile drive from a hospital or another health care facility in the case of mountainous terrain or in areas where only secondary roads are available;

2.1.3. Designated by the state as being a necessary provider of health care services to residents in the area;

2.1.4. Makes available 24-hour emergency care services: *Provided*, That the state will determine necessary criteria for ensuring access to emergency care in each area served by the hospital;

2.1.5. Provides not more than 25 beds for inpatient care for a period not to exceed 96 hours for each hospitalization to be averaged annually, unless a longer period is required because transfer to a hospital is precluded because of inclement weather or other emergency conditions: *Provided*, That swing bed patients are not limited to the 96-hour requirement;

2.1.6. Has nursing services available on a 24-hour basis;

2.1.7. Provides basic services as required under the Critical Access Regulations 42 C.F.R. § 485.635; and

2.1.8. Meets the requirements of 42 U.S.C.A. § 1395, *et seq.*, Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA).

2.2. “Department” means the West Virginia Department of Health.

2.3. “Licensed” when applied to an individual, means an individual practicing within his or her scope of practice as authorized by §30-1-1 *et seq.* of this Code and when applied to a community outpatient medical center means that the community outpatient medical center is licensed by the Department.

§65-9-3. Community Outpatient Medical Center.

3.1. Eligibility requirements for a critical access hospital applying for a license designation change to a community outpatient medical center.

3.1.1. A critical access hospital may apply to be designated as a community outpatient medical center if:

3.1.1.a. It has been designated as a critical access hospital for at least one year;

3.1.1.b. It is designated as a critical access hospital at the time of application for a license designation change to a community outpatient medical center.

3.2. A community outpatient medical center shall:

3.2.1. Be open 24-hours a day, seven days a week;

3.2.2. Provide non-elective treatment and observation for periods continuing less than 24 hours;

3.2.3. If not otherwise subject to the federal Emergency Medical Treatment & Labor Act, 42 U.S.C. 1395dd, provide to each patient, without regard to the individual’s ability to pay, an appropriate medical screening examination to determine whether an emergency medical condition exists, and if so, shall provide stabilizing treatment within its capability. If the community outpatient medical center is unable to stabilize the patient within its capability, or if the patient requests, it shall implement a transfer of the patient to another facility that has the capability of stabilizing the patient;

3.2.4. Make all reasonable efforts to secure written agreement(s) with hospital(s) which include provisions for patient referral and transfer between the facilities, with the use of emergency and non-emergency transportation; and

3.2.5. Have operational policies developed with participation from one or more licensed physicians. The operational policies shall describe the patient care services the community outpatient medical center will provide directly and those that will be provided through contract or other arrangement.

3.3. A community outpatient medical center may:

3.3.1. Provide elective, out-patient surgical treatment and procedures for periods continuing less than 24 hours;

3.3.2. Provide basic obstetrics and gynecology treatment and procedures for periods continuing less than 24 hours; and

3.3.3. Provide elective endoscopy or other elective treatment and procedures which are not performed in an operating room environment.

§65-9-4. Designation as a Community Outpatient Medical Center.

4.1. A community outpatient medical center shall be required to comply with all relevant provisions of the Hospital Licensure Rule, 64CSR12, as applicable to the scope of services offered by the community outpatient medical center.

4.2. The community outpatient medical center's organization, scope of services to be offered, and availability of patient care services shall be defined and approved by the governing body of the critical access hospital seeking a license designation change to a community outpatient medical center.