

# MOMENTUM

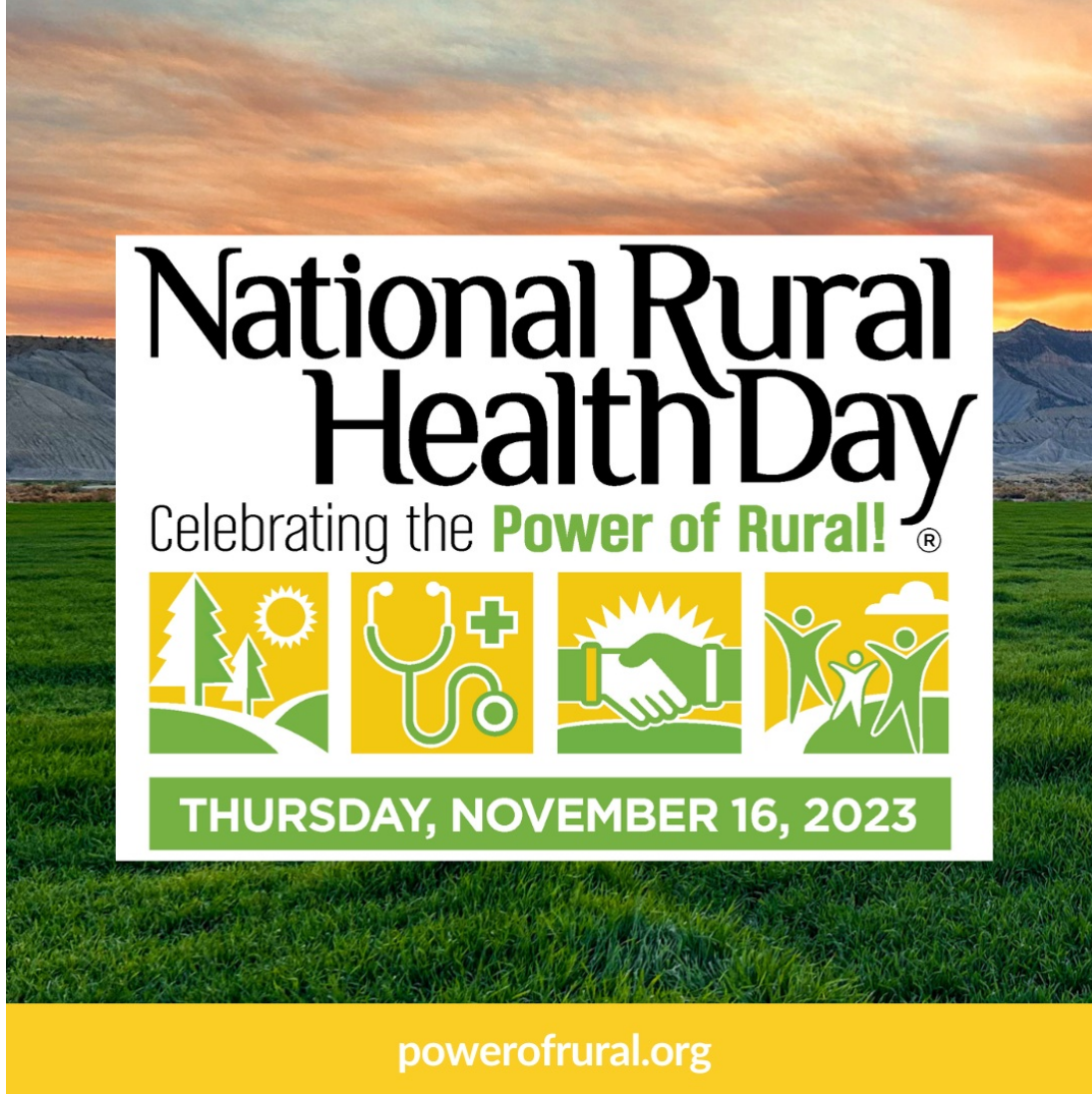
A Monthly Publication Produced by OFMQ  
*Oklahoma's trusted resource for improving your EHR & Health IT Experience*



National Rural Health Day!

*November 16, 2023*

Rural communities are wonderful places to live and work, which is why nearly 61 million people call them home. These small towns, farming communities and frontier areas are places where neighbors know each other, listen to each other, respect each other, and work together to benefit the greater good. They are also some of the best places to start a business and test your "entrepreneurial spirit." These communities are an economic engine that provide the rest of the country with a wealth of services and commodities.



### *Rural America has Unique Healthcare Needs*

Today more than ever, rural communities must address accessibility issues, a lack of healthcare providers, the needs of an aging population suffering from a greater number of chronic conditions, and larger percentages of un- and underinsured citizens. Rural hospitals – which are often the economic foundation of their communities in addition to being the primary providers of care – struggle daily as declining reimbursement rates and disproportionate funding levels make it challenging to serve their residents.

National Rural Health Day showcases the efforts of rural healthcare providers, State Offices of Rural Health, and other rural stakeholders to address the unique healthcare challenges that rural citizens face today and into the future.



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National Diabetes Month

# Take Charge of Tomorrow

Preventing Diabetes Health Problems

November is National Diabetes Month, a time when communities across the country seek to bring attention to diabetes. This year's focus is on *taking action to prevent diabetes health problems*.

Diabetes is a disease that occurs when your blood glucose, also called blood sugar, is too high. It affects about 37 million Americans, including adults and youth. Diabetes can damage the eyes, kidneys, nerves, and heart, and it is linked to some types of cancer.

But there's also good news: Taking charge of your health may help you prevent diabetes health problems.



[Learn Your Risk for Diabetes Here!](#)

## *Diabetes Prevention Work in Rural Oklahoma*

The Rural Health Care Services Outreach Program, funded through the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA), is a community-based grant program aimed towards promoting rural health care services by enhancing health care delivery to rural underserved populations in the local community or region. *OFMQ has created a consortium, Western Oklahoma Wellness (WOW) that includes five counties in Western Oklahoma that have a significantly higher rate of death from diabetes than the national and state level. These include Greer, Kiowa, Beckham, Rogers Mills and Washita*





WOW aims to improve access to preventive care services by providing A1C and cholesterol screenings, vaccinations, and connections to further health care services to the underserved, undiagnosed prediabetic population.

Connecting with our Western Oklahoma communities is of the utmost importance to us. We do this by participating in city, county, and community-level events. Additionally, we host local Weeks of Wellness events as well as other local health fairs. The photo shown above is a Week of Wellness 5k event in Washita County.

[Learn more about WOW Here!](#)

## FREE CME/CEU WEBINAR

### *Diabetes Update 2023*

November 14; 12-1pm

Join *SWOSU Chemical Pharmacist, Heidi Macha, Pharm. D., BCACP* to learn about the current state of diabetes. This presentation provides a update on prediabetes as well as type 2 diabetes. We will learn about steps that can be taken to prevent prediabetes from transitioning to diabetes and/or diagnosing type 2 diabetes early and making interventions with the patient's best interest in mind.

Learning objectives include discussing screening objectives for prediabetes and type 2 diabetes; list laboratory values that represent criteria and treatment goals; review of medication classes for diabetes; and identify resources available to help these with prediabetes and diabetes.

[Register Here!](#)

Need help with your *SAFER Guides*  
and other MIPS reporting?

Per the final rule by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and Health and Human Services (HHS), *eligible clinicians must attest to using the SAFER High Priority Practices Guide*. The attestation is part of the MIPS Promoting Interoperability (PI) Protect Patient Health Information objective, for CY 2023 performance period/2025 MIPS payment year.



### *What are the SAFER Guides?*

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) developed and initially released the Safety Assurance Factors for EHR Resilience Guides ([SAFER Guides](#)) in 2014 and later updated them in 2016. The series of nine user guides supports the ability of healthcare providers to address EHR safety. Collectively, the SAFER Guides help healthcare organizations at all levels, from small practices to multi-system chains and tertiary care facilities, to conduct self-assessments that optimize the safety and safe use of EHRs. The SAFER Guides were intended to be utilized by EHR users, developers, patient safety organizations, and those who are concerned with optimizing the safe use of health IT.

Don't run out of time, [OFMQ](#) can help!

Contact Us!

## OCR Releases Cybersecurity Video: How the HIPAA Security Rule Can Help Defend Cyber-Attacks



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
**Office for Civil Rights**

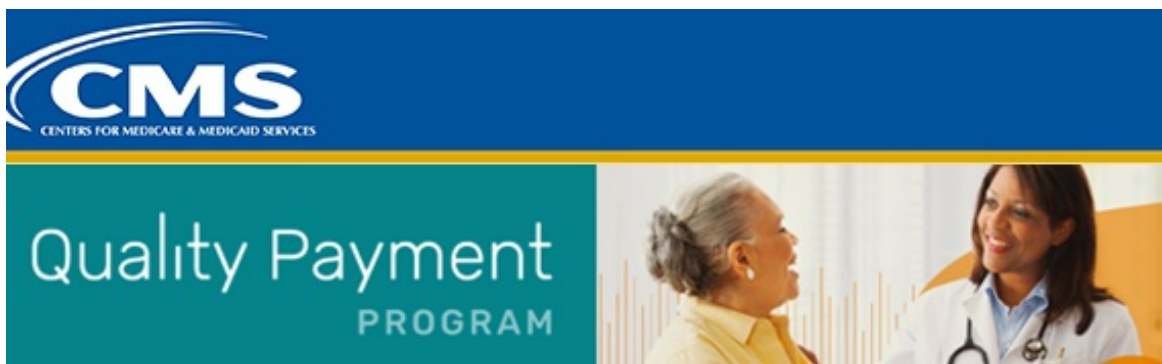
In recognition of National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, OCR has produced a new video this October for organizations covered under the HIPAA Rules on how the HIPAA Security Rule can help regulated entities defend against cyber-attacks. The video is available in English and Spanish.

This presentation is intended to educate the health care industry on real world cyber-attack trends from OCR breach reports and investigations and explore how implementation of appropriate HIPAA Security Rule safeguards can help detect and mitigate common cyber-attacks. Topics include:

- OCR breach and investigation trend analysis
- Common attack vectors
- OCR investigations of weaknesses that led to or contributed to breaches
- How Security Rule compliance can help regulated entities defend against cyber-attacks

OCR Cybersecurity Video

## Upcoming MIPS Important Dates and Deadlines



### November 1, 2023

- *The MIPS DVA for Performance Year (PY) 2022 will begin November 2023.*
- CMS has contracted with Guidehouse to conduct data validation and audits (DVAs) of MIPS eligible clinicians or groups in accordance with the legislative authority set forth in [42 CFR 414.1390\(a\)-\(d\)](#). This regulation requires MIPS eligible clinicians or groups to comply with data sharing requests, providing all data as requested by CMS. Data validation and audits are designed and conducted to confirm the accuracy and completeness of reported results of the MIPS program.

### November 30, 2023

- Last day to register to report a MIPS Value Pathway (MVP) for the 2023 performance year. Learn more about [MVP registration](#).

### December 2023

- MIPS eligibility for the 2023 performance year will be finalized after the release of the August 31 APM snapshot data.
  - QP determinations and MIPS APM participation information will be available on the [QPP Participation Status Tool](#).
- Initial eligibility to participate in MIPS for the 2024 performance year will be released on the [QPP Participation Status Tool](#).

### December 31, 2023

- Last day of the 2023 performance year, after which clinicians will no longer be able to

collect data for the year.

- 2024 performance year virtual group election period closes at 11:59 p.m. ET, after which prospective applicants will no longer be able to submit, revise, or retract their elections.

### January 2, 2024

- QPP Exception Application window closes at 8 p.m. ET for [MIPS eligible clinicians](#) reporting [traditional MIPS](#), an [MVP](#), or the [APM Performance Pathway \(APP\)](#) who want to submit a [MIPS Extreme and Uncontrollable Circumstances exception application](#) or [MIPS Promoting Interoperability Performance Category Hardship exception application](#) for the 2023 performance year.
- Data submission period opens for the 2023 performance year.

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## November HIT List

- Health Data Breaches [Explode in 2023](#)
- CY 2023 Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program Scoring Requirements - each objective and measure can be found here -> [Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program 2023 Specification Sheets \(ZIP\)](#).
- Learn How to Promote [Health Literacy Month](#)
- Small Practice Countdown to [2023 Performance Year Data Submission](#)



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Have Questions or Need Assistance?



Contact Us Today!  
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