

Rural Health Clinic Technical Assistance Webinar

This webinar is brought to you by the National Association of Rural Health Clinics and is supported by cooperative agreement UG6RH28684 from the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). It is intended to serve as a technical assistance resource based on the experience and expertise of independent consultants and guest speakers.

The contents of this webinar are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of HRSA.





Shortage Designations and Rural Health Clinics

National Association of Rural Health Clinics

February 2, 2021

Dr. Janelle McCutchen PhD MPH CHES
Chief, Shortage Designation Branch (SDB)
Division of Policy and Shortage Designation (DPSD)
Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW)

Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People



Objectives

- ▶ Define why Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) & Medically Underserved Areas/Populations (MUA/Ps) matter to Rural Health Clinics
- ▶ Outline HPSA & MUA/P Designation Criteria & Scoring Factors
- ▶ Detail the Differences Between HPSA Types
- ▶ Detail requirements to become an approved National Health Service Corps Site



Why do HRSA Shortage Designations Matter to Rural Health Clinics (RHCs)?



Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Medicare RHC Certification

Reviewed by the CMS State Survey Agency in consultation with CMS Regional Office to ensure that the clinic is:

- A non-urbanized area, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau
- An area currently designated within the previous 4 years by the Health Resources and Services Administration as one of these types of Federally designated or certified shortage areas:
 - Primary Care Geographic Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA);
 - Primary Care Population-Group HPSA;
 - Medically Underserved Area; or,
 - Governor-designated and Secretary-certified shortage area under Section 6213(c) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989



Access National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Resources



- ✓ Original Loan Repayment Program
- ✓ Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Program
- ✓ Rural Community Loan Repayment Program
- ✓ Students to Service Loan Repayment Program
- ✓ Scholarship Program
- ✓ State Loan Repayment Program



- ✓ Loan Repayment Program
- ✓ Scholarship Program



- ✓ Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program
- ✓ Faculty Loan Repayment Program
- ✓ Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students
- ✓ Nurse Faculty Loan Repayment Program



J-1 Visa Waiver Program

- The J-1 Exchange Visitor Program provides opportunities for around 300,000 foreign visitors from 200 countries and territories per year.
- HHS Exchange Visitor Program allows clinicians to request a waiver of the 2-year foreign residency requirement if they agree to deliver health care services for three years in a mental health or primary care HPSA.
- J1visa.state.gov



What is a Shortage Designation?

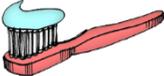


Shortage Designation

Identification of an area, population, or facility experiencing a shortage of health services. There are two categories of shortage designations, HPSAs and MUA/Ps.



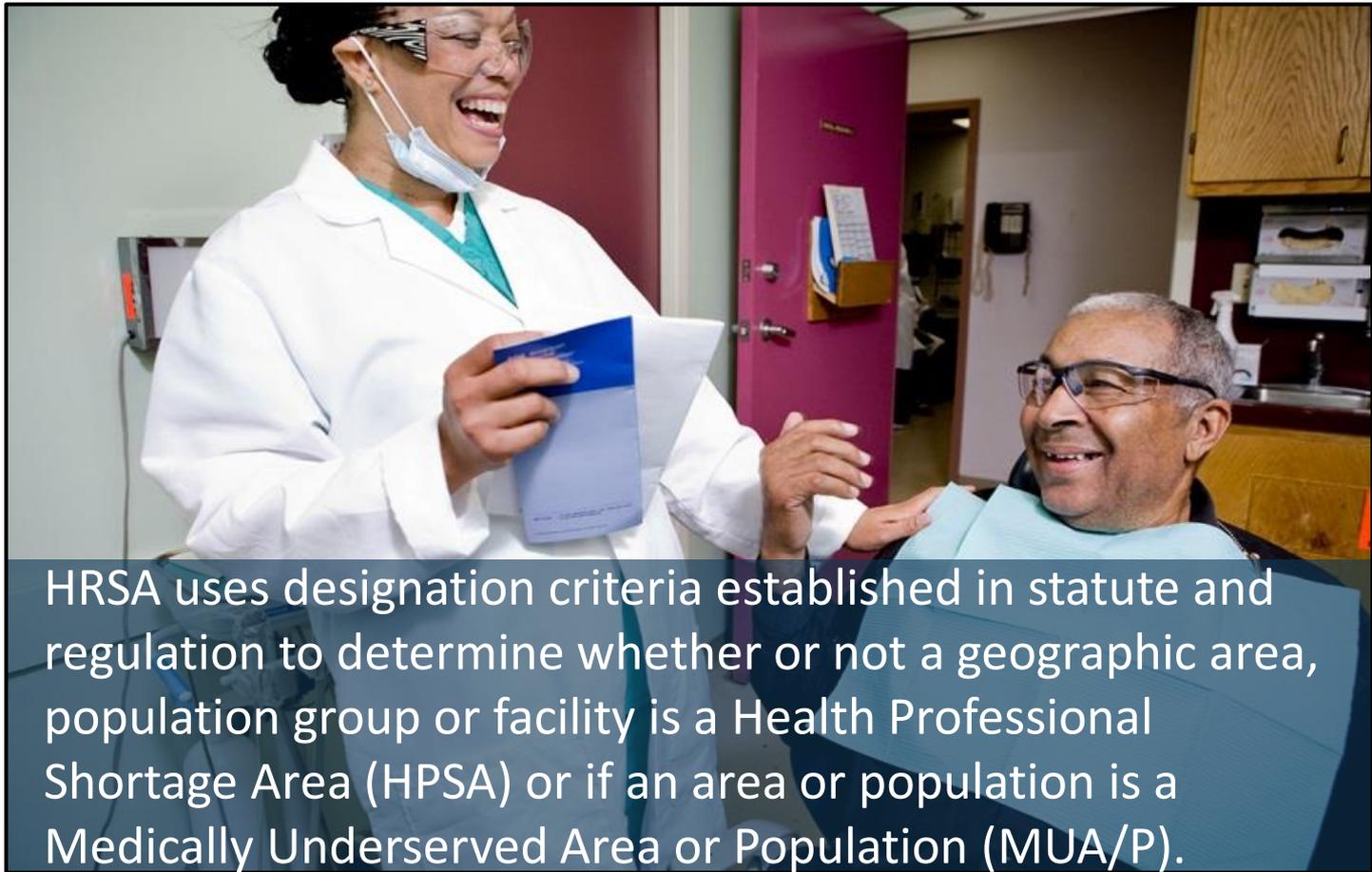
Types of Shortage Designations

HPSA (Health Professional Shortage Area)			MUA/P (Medically Underserved Area/Population)	
<i>A shortage of:</i>			<i>Limited access to:</i>	
 Primary Care	 Mental Health	 Dental Health	 Primary Care	
<i>providers in</i>			<i>services in a:</i>	
 Geographic Area	 Population Group	 Facility	 Geographic Area	 Population Group

Federal Programs Using Shortage Designations

Shortage Designation Type	National Health Service Corps (NHSC)	NURSE Corps	Health Center Program	CMS Medicare Incentive Payment	CMS Rural Health Clinic Program	J-1 Visa Waiver Program
Primary Care						
Geographic HPSA	X	X		X	X	X
Population HPSA	X	X			X	X
Facility HPSA	X	X				X
Dental Care						
Geographic HPSA	X					
Population HPSA	X					
Facility HPSA	X					
Mental Health						
Geographic HPSA	X	X		X		X
Population HPSA	X	X				X
Facility HPSA	X	X				X
Exceptional MUP			X			X
Medically Underserved Area			X		X	X
Medically Underserved Population			X			X
State Governor's Certified Shortage Area					X	





HRSA uses designation criteria established in statute and regulation to determine whether or not a geographic area, population group or facility is a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) or if an area or population is a Medically Underserved Area or Population (MUA/P).

Health Professional Shortage Areas

HPSAs



Types of HPSAs

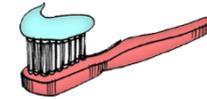
A shortage of:



Primary
Care



Mental
Health



Dental
Health

providers in a:



Geographic Area

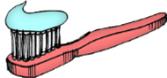
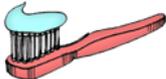


Population
Group



Facility

HPSAs Applicable to RHCs

Geographic/Population (Geography-Based Designation)	Automatically Designated (Auto-HPSA) (Facility-Based Designation)
<p><i>A shortage of:</i></p>	<p><i>A shortage of:</i></p>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Primary Care</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Mental Health</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Dental Health</p> </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Primary Care</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Mental Health</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Dental Health</p> </div> </div>
<p><i>providers in a:</i></p>	<p><i>providers in a:</i></p>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Geographic Area</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Population Group</p> </div> </div>	<div style="text-align: center; align-items: center;">  <p>Auto-HPSA</p> </div>

* Only CMS-Certified Rural Health Clinics meeting NHSC site requirements qualify for Automatic Designation and NHSC resources.

Criteria for Geographic and Population HPSA Designation

In order to achieve a geographic or population designation, the area under consideration must:

1

Be a **rational area** for the delivery of services;

2

Have a **certain ratio of population to providers** serving the area that has been determined to qualify as a shortage; and

3

Demonstrate that health professionals in contiguous areas are **excessively distant, over-utilized, or inaccessible** to the population under consideration.



Criteria for Rural Health Clinics Automatic Facility HPSA

In order for a Rural Health Clinic to achieve a Automatic Facility HPSA designation, the clinic under consideration must:

1

Be **CMS Certified**;

2

meet the requirements of ***Section 334*** of the Public Health Service Act;

3

meet the **National Health Service Corps Site** requirements



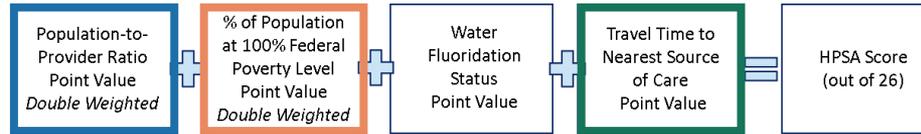
HPSA Scoring Criteria

HPSA scores for geographic, population, and most facility designations are based on a variety of factors and range from 0 to 25 in the case of Primary Care and Mental Health, and 0 to 26 in the case of Dental Health

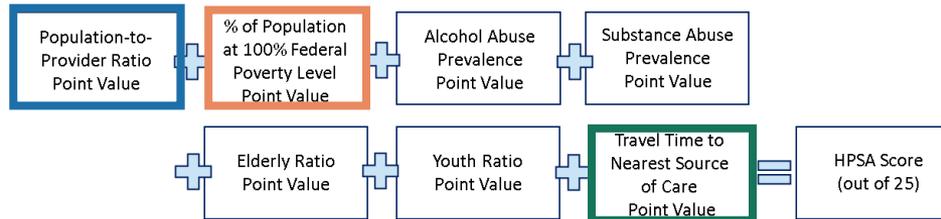
Primary Care 0-25



Dental Health 0-26



Mental Health 0-25

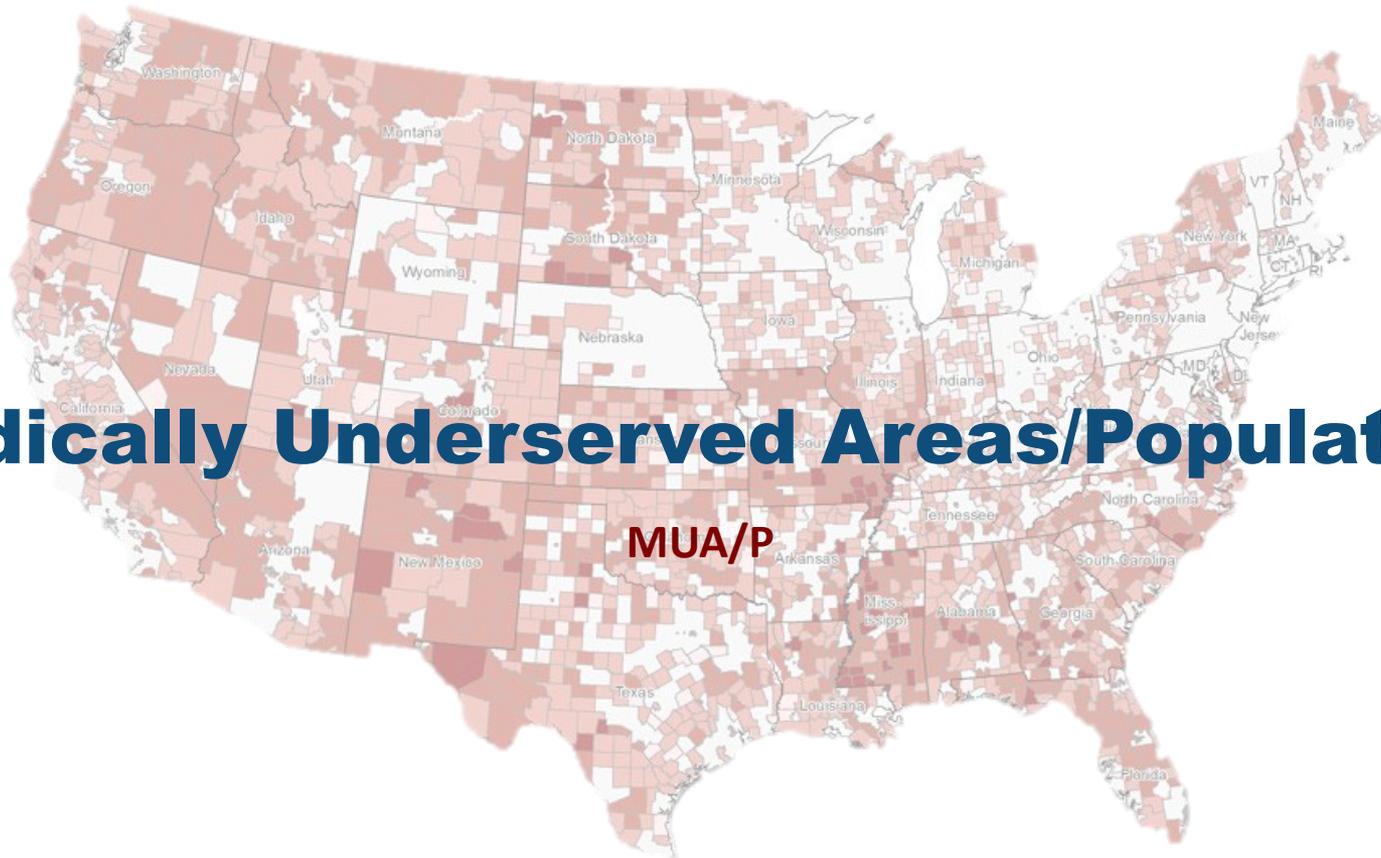


HPSA Scoring Calculations

Factor	Primary Care			Dental Health			Mental Health
	Max Pts Awarded	Multiplier	Total Points Possible	Max Pts Awarded	Multiplier	Total Points Possible	Max Pts Awarded
Population : Provider Ratio	5	x 2	= 10	5	x 2	= 10	7
% of Population below FPL	5	x 1	= 5	5	x 2	= 10	5
Travel distance/time to NSC	5	x 1	= 5	5	x 1	= 5	5
Infant Mortality Rate or Low Birth Weight	5	X 1	= 5				
Water Fluoridation				1	x1	= 1	
Ratio of children under 18 to adults 18-64							3
Ratio of adults 65 and older to adults 18-64							3
Substance abuse prevalence							1
Alcohol abuse prevalence							1
Max Score:	= 25			= 26			= 25



Medically Underserved Areas/Populations



Medically Underserved Areas and Populations

Limited access to:



Primary Care

services in a:



Geographic
Area



Population

MUA/P Designation Criteria

In order to achieve a designation, the area under consideration must:

1

Be a **rational service area** (following same guidance as for HPSA RSAs).

2

Calculate an Index of Medical Underservice (IMU) score based on **four criteria**:

- 1) Primary care physicians per 1,000 population;
- 2) Percent of population at or below the FPL;
- 3) Percent of the population > 65; and
- 4) The infant mortality rate of area.

3

Have an IMU **score of < 62.0**.



Computing the Index of Medical Underservice

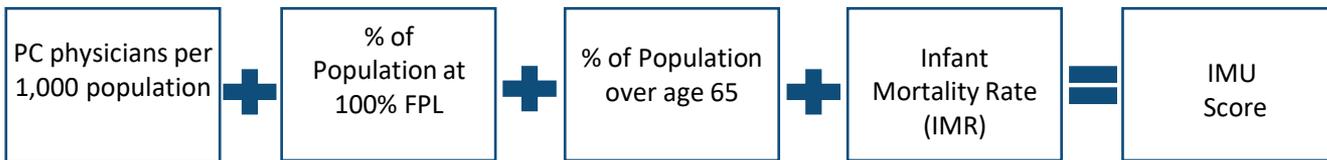
Phys per 1000 Pop	Weighted Value
0-0.050	0
0.051 - 0.100	0.5
0.101 - 0.150	1.5
0.151 - 0.200	2.8
0.201 - 0.250	4.1
0.251 - 0.300	5.7
0.301 - 0.350	7.3
0.351 - 0.400	9.0
0.401 - 0.450	10.7
0.451 - 0.500	12.6
0.501 - 0.550	14.8
0.551 - 0.600	16.9
0.601 - 0.650	19.1
0.651 - 0.700	20.7
...	
Over 1.251	28.7

% Pop below FPL	Weighted Value
0	25.1
0.1-2.0	24.6
2.1-4.0	23.7
4.1-6.0	22.8
6.1-8.0	21.9
8.1-10.0	21.0
10.1-12.0	20.0
12.1-14.0	18.7
14.1-16.0	17.4
16.1-18.0	16.2
18.1-20.0	14.9
20.1-22.0	13.6
22.1-24.0	12.2
24.1-26.0	10.9
...	
50.1 +	0

% Pop >65	Weighted Value
0 -7.0	20.2
7.1-8.0	20.1
8.1-9.0	19.9
9.1-10.0	19.8
10.1-11.0	19.6
11.1-12.0	19.4
12.1-13.0	19.1
13.1-14.0	18.9
14.1-15.0	18.7
15.1-16.0	17.8
16.1-17.0	16.1
17.1-18.0	14.4
18.1-19.0	12.8
19.1-20.0	11.1
...	
30.1 +	0

IMR	Weighted Value
0-8.0	26.0
8.1-9.0	25.6
9.1-10.0	24.8
10.1-11.0	24.0
11.1-12.0	23.2
12.1-13.0	22.4
13.1-14.0	21.5
14.1-15.0	20.5
15.1-16.0	19.5
16.1-17.0	18.5
17.1-18.0	17.5
18.1-19.0	16.4
19.1-20.0	15.3
20.1-21.0	14.2
...	
45.1 +	0

Primary Care
0-100



Governor's Exceptional MUA/P

Areas with an IMU score of greater than 62.0 *may* still qualify as a special type of MUA/P if....



■ Accessing NHSC Resources



NHSC Site Application Process & RHC Auto- HPSA Designation

- In order to access NHSC resources, RHCs must apply to be an NHSC-approved site
- CMS-certified RHCs that meet NHSC site criteria are also eligible for a facility-specific Auto-HPSA designation
- Visit the NHSC website for more information:
<https://nhsc.hrsa.gov/sites/how-to-apply.html>



NHSC Site Application Cycle

- NHSC clinicians may only serve at sites approved by the NHSC.
- To apply to become an NHSC site, the facility must be an eligible site type and meet applicable requirements.
- Typically, NHSC site application cycles open in the spring and fall of each calendar year.



NHSC Site Requirements

In order for a site to be eligible for NHSC approval, it must:

- Provide comprehensive primary medical care, behavioral/mental health, and/or dental services;
- Provide ambulatory care services;
- Ensure access to ancillary, inpatient, and specialty referrals;
- Charge fees for services consistent with prevailing rates in the area;
- Discount or waive fees for individuals at or below 200% of the federal poverty level;
- Accept assignment for Medicare beneficiaries;
- Enter into agreements with Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), as applicable;
- Not discriminate in the provision of services based on an individual's inability to pay for services or the source of payment (Medicare/Medicaid/CHIP);
- Prominently post signage that no one will be denied access to services due to inability to pay;
- Agree not to reduce clinician's salary due to NHSC support;
- Provide sound fiscal management;
- Maintain a recruitment and retention plan, as well as a credentialing process, for clinicians.



Questions



Contact Us

NAME: Dr. Janelle McCutchen,
janderson@hrsa.gov

NAME: Shortage Designation Branch,
sdb@hrsa.gov



Connect with HRSA

Learn more about our agency at:

www.HRSA.gov

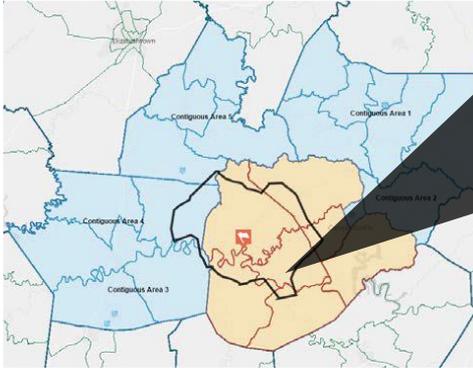


Sign up for the HRSA eNews

FOLLOW US:



Rational Service Area



Rational Service Area (RSA)

A PCO-identified geographic area within which most area residents could or do seek and obtain most of their health care services

RSAs can be:

- 1) A whole county;
- 2) Multiple counties;
- 3) Sub-counties;
- 4) Statewide Rational Service Areas (SRSA); or
- 5) Catchment areas (for mental health only)

Rules of RSA Determination

- 1) RSAs cannot overlap.
- 2) RSAs cannot be smaller than a census tract.
- 3) RSAs cannot exceed travel time guidelines between population centers..
- 4) RSAs cannot carve out interior portions.
- 5) RSAs must have only one area or population designation.

Ratio of Population to Providers

Which Providers Count?



Primary Care

Includes Doctors of Medicine (MD) and Doctors of Osteopathy (DO) who provide services in the following specialties:

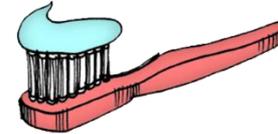
- Family Practice
- Internal Medicine
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Pediatrics



Mental Health

Includes:

- Only Psychiatrists
or
- Psychiatrists AND all:
 - Clinical Social Psychologists
 - Clinical Social Workers
 - Psychiatric Nurse Specialists
 - Marriage & Family Therapists



Dental Health

Includes:

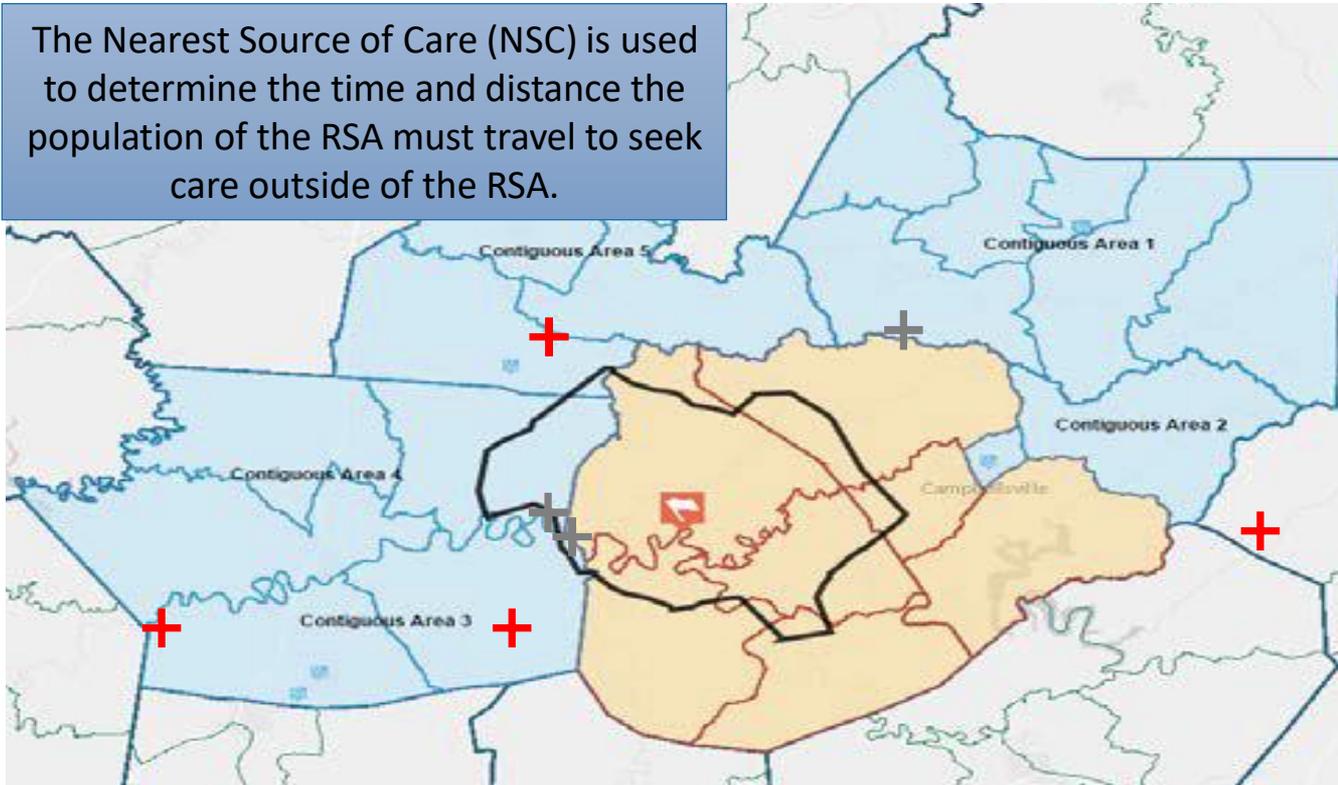
- Dentists and
- Dental Auxiliaries

Dental auxiliaries are defined as any non-dentist staff employed by the dentist to assist in the operation of the practice.

Note: Providers solely engaged in administration, research or training are excluded.

Nearest Source of Care

The Nearest Source of Care (NSC) is used to determine the time and distance the population of the RSA must travel to seek care outside of the RSA.



Shortage Designation Modernization Project Key Messages

- The national update of Auto-HPSAs took place on August 30, 2019.
- To learn more about the Shortage Designation Modernization Project visit: <https://bhw.hrsa.gov/workforce-shortage-areas/shortage-designation/modernization-project>
- To learn more about the Auto-HPSA portal visit: <https://hrsa.connectsolutions.com/px0rnop5pynb>
- HRSA is committed to working with Rural Health Clinics individually to address facility specific concerns.
- Contact us at SDB@hrsa.gov with questions or to request individual briefings or Technical Assistance



CRHCP Code

- **UL60G**
- Please note that this code is only for those that are certified rural health clinic professionals (CRHCP) and need to maintain their CRHCP certification

