

Rural Emergency Hospital

**The Ask:
Create a new
hospital license for
Rural Emergency
Hospitals**

The Rural Emergency Hospital (REH) designation represents a once-in-a-generation effort by the federal government to shore up healthcare delivery in rural America.

The last such effort came in 1997, when Congress created the Critical Access Hospital to allow cost-based reimbursement for small facilities in non- metropolitan areas.

Benefits of Converting

- CMS is proposing more than **\$3.2 million** in annual facility payments for each hospital adopting the REH model.
- **Facility payments will rise each year** based on the hospital market basket facility increase.
- REH outpatient services will be paid at **105% of the OPPS rate**.
- Skilled nursing care may be provided as part of a distinct unit.
- Almost any new outpatient service may be offered if supported by a community needs assessment.
- On-site staffing requirements can be met with a variety of personnel, including EMTs, provided more advanced professionals are on call.

Why Convert?

A hospital may choose to convert to a rural emergency hospital for a number of reasons, such as:

1. To better serve the needs of the local community, ensuring that local residents have access to the care they need when they need it.
2. To improve financial sustainability. By converting to a rural emergency hospital, a hospital can focus on providing essential emergency services, which can help increase revenue and improve financial sustainability.

Overall, converting to a rural emergency hospital can help improve access to healthcare, and increase financial sustainability.