



Services for

CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS

Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) face unique challenges with Medicare, Medicaid and other regulatory and operational issues. In addition to the traditional audit, tax and consulting services Dixon Hughes provides for healthcare facilities, we can provide an array of services for Critical Access Hospitals.

Dixon Hughes provides a holistic approach to identifying needs, providing solutions and assisting with implementation to help CAHs meet their short- and long-term goals. We have provided assistance to CAHs in over 20 states.

CAH Reimbursement Analysis

In order to successfully manage a CAH, management should always consider the reimbursement impact when proposing operational changes. Proposed operational changes often create variations in expense, revenue, utilization and payor mix which can result in significant changes to cost reimbursement. Working with management, Dixon Hughes can assist in modeling proposed operational changes by utilizing year-end or interim cost reporting techniques to estimate the financial impact.

Medicare/Medicaid Reimbursement

To assist clients in recognizing reimbursement opportunities, we consult in areas such as cost report preparation, reimbursement review services, Medicare bad debts, audits and appeals. Annually, Dixon Hughes professionals prepare cost reports for hospitals, nursing homes, rural health clinics, federally qualified health centers, home health agencies, hospices, rehabilitation companies and home offices.

Interim Cost Reporting

Dixon Hughes recommends that all CAH facilities prepare interim cost reports to help track performance with actual costs and utilization throughout the year. These reports encompass computing the estimated Medicare settlements and reserves. Depending upon the variation in expenses, patient days, charges and Medicare utilization, major variations in Medicare reimbursement can result in either a significant payable or receivable on the cost report. The interim reports can also assist management in determining the financial impact of proposed operational changes and in requesting Medicare interim rate changes from the Fiscal Intermediary, when applicable.

Primary Care Options and Community Needs

The delivery of primary care is a vital component of CAH services in rural communities. Dixon Hughes can assist with a market analysis for primary care services and community needs and then develop a plan to meet those needs based on sound financial, quality and access principles. CAHs often do not have resources to be “all things to all people”; therefore, the identification of community needs and rational implementation based on resources available is essential.



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*Dixon Hughes’
Additional Services*

- *Dashboard Reporting and Benchmarking*
- *Rate Setting Assistance*
- *Revenue Cycle Management*
- *Chargemaster Analysis*
- *Technology Planning, Solutions and Implementation*
- *Dispute and Litigation Support*
- *Personal Financial Services for Hospital Executives*
- *Coding, Documentation and Quality Monitoring*
- *Business Process Improvement*

*The Service You Need—
The Way You Need It.*

As a top-20 CPA firm, we offer clients throughout the U.S. deep industry experience, comprehensive accounting and advisory services and a strong commitment to personal service. Dedicated members direct our resources to your best advantage. In short, we can give you the service you need, the way you need it.

Operational Assessment and Assistance

CAHs are small but often very complex organizations. Operational opportunities exist that can dramatically impact the financial stability and future of the CAH. Dixon Hughes can assess the CAH’s operational effectiveness and bring solutions to the table for a wide variety of situations. Through the Performance Navigator™ Program, Dixon Hughes can guide the implementation of the solutions with a results-oriented investment guarantee.

The Performance Navigator™

The Performance Navigator provides Executive guidance and tools for improved performance in CAHs. Navigator is a proprietary strategic planning and coaching process designed to help rural hospitals address the numerous challenges they face and assist in identifying solutions within their reach. Highly experienced healthcare professionals work closely with the hospital’s team throughout an ongoing process. Since every hospital’s situation is unique in terms of its specific challenges and the amount of resources it can apply to solutions, Navigator is flexible in scope. We customize our services to your best benefit, matching them to your needs and budget. Navigator is a dynamic long-term program aimed at improving performance. Regardless of the scope, the investment guarantee is in force. If, based on the results of our engagement, we are unable to prove value at least equivalent to the amount you have invested in the program (i.e., demonstrate zero net cost), we will adjust our fee up to a full refund of your hospital’s net cost. You have nothing to lose—and improved performance to gain!

Strategic and Facility Planning

The planning professionals at Dixon Hughes can provide state of the art strategic and facility planning for your CAH. Assessment and plan development is done keeping in mind the often limited human and financial resources of smaller rural hospitals. In addition to developing the plan, our implementation and follow-through assistance provides assurance that the goals are achievable and realized.

Financing Assistance

Dixon Hughes’ healthcare professionals are very knowledgeable in funding sources, such as the HUD 242, USDA and other programs. We can walk you through the debt capacity studies and the process of obtaining financing for renovation or building projects. To assist hospitals requiring guidance through a turnkey process (planning through construction), we have formed strategic alliances with similarly qualified firms in the areas of investment banking, architecture and construction.

Education and Training

Dixon Hughes conducts educational and training programs on CAH-related topics, including cost reporting, financial management, board development, strategic planning and leadership training. Sessions are held for State Offices of Rural Health, State Hospital Associations, individual hospitals and other groups. In addition, Dixon Hughes offers a nationally promoted CAH seminar each year.

For more information about our services for Critical Access Hospitals, visit us at www.dixon-hughes.com/hospital or call 1.877.424.6324.