

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

For *Nebraska State-Designated* Pharmacist Shortage Areas

The Rural Health Advisory Commission revised the guidelines for designating pharmacist shortage areas. The changes to the pharmacist guidelines include using population to full-time-equivalency (FTE) pharmacist ratios and the addition of a high need indicator (more than half of the pharmacists in the county are over 60 years old).

These guidelines, along with the revised shortage area listing, are the subject of a 30-day public comment period from March 15, 2005 through April 15, 2005.

State-designated shortage areas are used for the Nebraska Rural Health Systems and Professional Incentive Act programs and are *not* the same as the federal health professional shortage areas (HPSAs).

Please contact the Nebraska Office of Rural Health at officeofruralhealth@hss.ne.gov or (402) 471-2337 to obtain a copy of the pharmacist public comment packet.

Written comments concerning the proposed changes may be sent to:

Nebraska Office of Rural Health
ATTN: Marlene A. Janssen
P.O. Box 95044
Lincoln, NE 68509-5044
Email: marlene.janssen@hss.ne.gov
FAX: (402) 471-0180