**OHIO HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION**

**HOME CARE AND HOSPICE COMMITTEE**

**August 31, 2021, 1:00 p.m.**

**Conference Call**

 **MINUTES**

Erin Begin opened up the call welcoming the attendees to the meeting. She indicated that the anti-trust and confidentiality policies were located in the online folder supplied to the group, as well as the minutes to the previous meeting. Attendees are recorded in a chart at the end of this document. Ms Begin reminded committee members of the decision last month to change meetings to alternate focus between financial and regulatory issues.

Ms. Begin then introduced the next topic on the agenda, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars and the OHCA survey response to the Ohio Department of Aging survey request. Ms. Begin described how the ARPA dollars were divided between the State and Local dollars and the home and community based services (HCBS) funds. While the HCBS funds had a 10% Federal Match that was designated in part to go to providers, the state and local dollars were up for anyone to receive. OHCA submitted an amended proposal to award lump-sum payments to our membership types, including a $23 million payment to hospices which equated to 10% of 2019 revenues. Hospice is not included in the definition of HCBS for that allocation. Similar to Hospice, OHCA asked for lump sum payments to providers equal to 20% of their revenue for the period of April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022. These funds are meant to reimburse provider for increased costs and decreased revenues as a result of the ongoing effects of COVID-19. As a second submission, OHCA requested the formation of a $50 Million HCBS Workforce fund which providers of aging waiver services and stakeholders could submit proposals/applications for allocation towards various workforce related projects, approved by ODA and the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM).

Ms. Begin then moved to the Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program, reminding committee members that the SBA recently reopened the portal to accept forgiveness applications for businesses which received loans of $150,000 or less.

Ms Begin then moved to the agenda of financial topics for discussion. During the OHCA2021 Convention, Charles Canaan from Palmetto GBA gave some important clarifications for implementation of the notice of admission in January 2022. Notice of admission is required on all episodes, even those that generate LUPA adjustment claims. If the NOA is submitted after the 5 day window, for a LUPA claim no visits up until that date will be reimbursed. A NOA is required for each admission. Multiple admissions in a 30 day period would result in multiple NOAs. Similarly, an NOA is submitted once, so patients on recertifications would not need a new NOA. She pointed to the MLN provided in the committee folder and also advised HHAs to test a single NOA submission with their intermediary while hand keying all others until the testing was completed. Palmetto GBA does not grant exceptions for issues with claims intermediaries.

Next, Ms. Begin discussed Review Choice Demonstration Pre-Claim Review, and asked if agencies were still experiencing issues with affirmations. Brenna Davis stated that they experienced an issue where eServices would not allow them to submit PCR requests, and they told they had been moved to post-payment review process. Later, their claims all went into ADR status. They were told this was an error and that they actually did need to submit PCRs. Other committee members described education issue with reviewers, where reviewers were not affirming for different reasons. Gen Stelzer discussed issues with the signature placement and date for the nursing facility face to face documentation, which was an issue with their internal medical record system. Kim Tilley suggested that for the inconsistencies, HHAs should field calls from the Palmetto GBA staff and walk them through where to find missing information within your submitted documentation.

Ms Begin then discussed the Medicaid Provider Network Module and Managed Care Reprocurement for Ohio. ODM recently issued a new launch date of July 1, 2022 for the PNM and Fiscal Intermediary functions. Managed care plans were expanded to 7, including Buckeye Health Plan. The original six are Amerihealth Caritas, Caresource, Molina, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan, Humana and Anthem BlueCross BlueShield. OHCA would continue to work on obtaining contracting contacts. Committee members asked if these plan names could e sent in an email following the meeting.

Ms Begin then pointed to an excel document in the committee folder containing HCBS rates effective November 1, 2021 for home and community based services resultant from the 6.1% rate increase obtained in this year’s budget. She cautioned that rates and start date were dependent on all regulatory reviews being completed on time, however the process did appear to be moving along as expected.

Ms. Begin discussed several recent updates to hospice room and board. All rates for the managed care plans for July 2021 SNF claims had now been loaded. Molina and Buckeye had pended July 2021 claims for the SNF rate update in late July. Claims were now being released at the new rates. UHC, Caresource and Aetna Better Health of Ohio processed claims received prior to rate load at the old rates. Now that rates were loaded, all new claims would be processed at the new rates. Claims paid incorrectly would be processed through various claims adjustment projects. Ms Begin requested that members inform her if they did not see corrected payments by the end of September. She then discussed the recent determination by ODM Managed Care Policy team to standardize hospice billing for room and board, as requested by OHCA. Earlier in August, OHCA participated in a stakeholder call with Ohio's Medicaid managed care plans on hospice room and board billing. During the call, the plans presented common billing guidelines requiring the facility's Medicaid identification (ID) number on room and board claims. OHCA and one of our members, Continuum Care Hospice, commented that expanding this requirement, which only United Healthcare (UHC) had previously, would be burdensome for providers. Based on our feedback, the plans revised the guidelines. They aligned their policies no longer to require the SNF's Medicaid ID, but only its National Provider Identifier (NPI). Plans had to supply effective dates of this change by the end of the week, and OHCA would send an update as soon as they had received that information.

Ms. Begin then moved on to various managed care issues reported since our last meeting. Several managed Medicaid plans were requiring NPI on all claims in August and September 2021. This would impact our PASSPORT and OHCW providers. They also were no longer allowing roll up of claims services reporting on the claim form, to comply with EVV reporting requirements, effective August 12. Caresource also recently confirmed that their online authorization portal was not functioning properly and that providers should utilize the fax numbers. Additionally, Caresource no longer accepts authorization via email and changed fax numbers July 2, 2021. Medigold announced that they no longer require prior authorization for home health services. Ms Begin also reminded members that managed care plans are still paying vaccine administration incentives to providers and beneficiaries through mid-September.

Ms. Begin then discussed the add-on reimbursement for at home vaccination and monoclonal antibody administration. CMS now reimburses $750 for mAb administration in the home, which includes congregate settings such as SNFs. CMS also offers an additional $35 for at home vaccination, and have expanded the place of service to include assisted living and group homes, reimbursing up to 5 administrations in one day. Administrations not covered by Medicaid were reimbursable through HRSA uninsured and underinsured funds. Ms Begin asked if HHAs were still hesitant to become vaccine providers. Laura Barbetta shared that they are not providing vaccines as the reimbursement does not cover nursing hours, travel, storage and reporting requirements. Catie Bryan if there was a list of agencies giving at home vaccinations. A committee member responded that the local AAA was coordinating at home vaccinations for agency providers.

Ms. Begin then moved to the Hospice VBID updates. CMS recently released instructions for eligibility, checking the health plan with the CMS listing of files. She also stated that the new 2022 health plan listed is to be released in September 2021. Committee members asked for contracting information for the current plan, Humana Health Plan, which she stated would come in a follow up email to all committee members.

Ms. Begin pointed to the availability of the Hospice and Home Care Webinar Network Hospice Billing Series throughout the month of September; OHCA members will receive a discount. Lastly, she stated that Palmetto GBA has released the Targeted Probe and Educate topics for home health and hospice. Home health would review all claims for eligibility and medical necessity. Hospice would review GIP care greater than 7 days in POS Q5004-Q5009.

Ms Begin then suggested a schedule change in September due to PTO, and requested the next meeting change to September 21, 2021. Committee members agreed.

Ms Begin asked again if there was any other business. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.

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| **First Name** | **Last Name** | **Company/Facility** | **8/31/21** |
| Erin | Begin | OHCA Staff | X |
| Laura | Barbetta | Staywell Home Health | X |
| Kelly | Bobeczko | HW&Co | X |
| Lisa | Bracy | Legacy Hospice | X |
| Catie | Bryan | BellaCare Hospice | X |
| Jennifer | Carlin | Continuum Hospice | X |
| Deborah | Collum | Richter Healthcare Consultants | X |
| Gina | Covelli | Cypress Hospice | X |
| Britteny | Creel | Plante Moran | X |
| Brenna | Davis | Christian House Home Health | X |
| Jeff | Mazer | McKesson | X |
| Mary | McBride | Staywell Home Health | X |
| Lori | Revis | Hospice of Southwest Ohio | X |
| Yolanda | Riley | Richter Healthcare Consultants | X |
| Christi | Shockency | HCF Management | X |
| Genevieve | Stelzer | Heritageg Home Care | X |
| Kim | Tilley | Staywell Home Health | X |
| Pete | VanRunkle | OHCA Staff | X |
| David | Walsh | Hospice of Southwest Ohio | X |