

# Meeting Summary for OHCA AL Member Call

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Quick recap

The team discussed the licensing of Nursing Home Administrators, including changes in fees and validity period, and the availability of educational opportunities for CEUs. They also touched on the rules for residential care facility licensure, the need for a part-time or contract employee dedicated to infection control, and the rules for skilled nursing facilities. Additionally, the team discussed the challenges of opening a new assisted living facility connected to a skilled nursing facility and the commitment to increasing access to assisted living.

Summary

Nursing Home Administrator Licensing Fees and Validity

Mandy discussed an issue regarding the licensing of Nursing Home Administrators. They explained that if the last name started with A through L and they had completed their licensure, they were only charged \$300 instead of the usual \$600. They also mentioned that from 1/1/24, licenses will be valid for two years and will require one ethics credit and an hour of ethics. Mandy also highlighted the availability of educational opportunities for CEUs on the EFOH website. Pete began the meeting but had to leave briefly due to a phone call. Mandy was expected to continue with the meeting.

Residential Care Licensure and Infection Control

Mandy reviewed the rules for residential care facility licensure and encouraged further feedback. There was a significant comment about the need for a part-time or contract employee dedicated to infection control. The rules for skilled nursing facilities were also discussed, with Mandy noting that comments had been submitted and Pete confirmed that the rules were in the formal rule-making process. A concern was raised about the lack of self-medication assessments for residents in memory care. Mandy advised facilities to implement these until they received a response from Rick Hoover.

Assisted Living Waiver Updates and Billing Clarifications

Erin discussed the latest updates on the assisted living waiver, including the introduction of new rates that took effect from January first. They highlighted the importance of contacting the area agency on aging to ensure residents with memory care are approved for billing. Erin also noted that the billing codes remained the same but the U3 modifier is now used to designate the memory care tier. They mentioned that the new rates should be updated in the billing system for basic assisted living residents to prevent non-payment. Erin also clarified that the dementia

diagnosis is required for billing memory care. Lastly, they mentioned that the critical access rate application was vetoed during the budget cycle and will not be effective until July.

#### Assisted Living Facility Opening Challenges

The team discussed the challenges of opening a new assisted living facility connected to a skilled nursing facility. Erin and Pete highlighted the increased scrutiny from CMS, which can cause delays in the opening process. Despite the hurdles, they noted their commitment to increasing access to assisted living for those who can't afford private rates. Pete suggested the need for assistance from the director of Aging to influence decisions at CMS and the importance of staying updated on weekly news and attending future meetings.

#### Next steps

Check the Belt's website for licensing updates.

Submit comments on the proposed RCF licensing rules.

Review the draft RCF licensing rules.

Mandy will reach out to Rick Hoover for clarification on self-medication assessments in memory care.