

# Meeting Summary for OHCA NF Member Call

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Quick recap

Mandy started the meeting by outlining the meeting procedure. pete then shared updates about the upcoming winter conference, the significance of attendance, and the exciting lineup of speakers. He also touched upon ongoing registration for their Efa website, the opening of the scholarship program, and the upcoming opportunity for category 2 applications opening on March 1st. Additionally, he discussed issues with applications for category 1, the approval process from CMS for private rooms, and the ongoing issue of low vaccination rates among residents and staff in skilled nursing facilities due to the resurgence of Covid.

Summary

Winter Conference, Scholarship, and Reimbursement Updates

Mandy started the meeting by outlining the participation procedure. pete then took over, sharing updates about the upcoming winter conference to be held at the Renaissance Hotel on February 15th and 16th, focusing on SNF matters. They emphasized the importance of attendance and the exciting lineup of speakers. pete also discussed ongoing registration for their Efa website and the opening of the scholarship program, encouraging members to spread the word. They highlighted the scholarship program as a member benefit and part of their initiative to promote goodwill towards the profession and Ohca. pete also mentioned a new user-friendly system for applying for scholarships. Lastly, they touched upon some reimbursement topics and indicated that they will revisit the topic of private rooms.

Category 2 Applications, Category 1 Issues

pete discussed the upcoming opportunity for category 2 applications opening on March 1st. They also mentioned that the process is expected to be similar to that of category 1. pete then addressed issues with applications for category 1, particularly the problem of beds taken out of service. They explained that members who received notices about this issue were unsure whether to re-certify the beds, which could eliminate private rooms, or to surrender them. pete clarified that the decision to surrender the beds doesn't need to be immediate as the department won't require it until approval of the program is given. They also mentioned that the department plans to notify providers who intend to surrender beds once approval is received.

Private Room Application Process Uncertainty

pete discussed the situation regarding private rooms, mentioning a likely influx of applications from the same email source used previously. They mentioned that while there's no certainty about the number of Category 2 applicants, there's a possibility that there will be enough space

for them. They also mentioned that some facilities in the one-star category have applied for Category 2, despite not qualifying for Category 1. However, the Category 2 application process won't be confirmed until March. pete also mentioned the potential for changes in facility ratings, which could affect the number of available beds. They concluded by suggesting that if more applicants apply than expected, some facilities may have to withdraw their applications or wait until the next round of approvals.

#### CMS Approval Process and Reimbursement Discussion

pete discussed the fluid nature of their topic, specifically regarding the approval process from CMS for private rooms. They mentioned that they had learned from Medicaid the previous week, and planned to file a preliminary overview of the probe within a few days. This approach would allow them to get informal feedback and make any necessary adjustments before filing the State Plan Amendment (SPA). However, pete also noted that there were no definitive timelines and this process would not expedite the program's start date. The conversation then shifted to the topic of reimbursement, specifically vents, with the Department having issued a draft rule. pete mentioned that they had submitted comments on behalf of the Association and discussed the effective date issue with the Department.

#### Information Dissemination and Rule Amendment Discussion

pete discussed the method of information dissemination about changes in star ratings and how members can stay informed. They also addressed concerns about non-invasive events, suggesting the creation of a new rule to allow for their billing. pete emphasized that the current rule is still a draft and not yet finalized, and clarified that certain provisions, such as the prohibition on one-star event providers billing for new admissions, are already in effect. Furthermore, they mentioned a suggestion to the department to waive the requirement for VAP reports until the rule is finalized.

#### Covid Vaccination Rates in Nursing Homes

pete discussed the ongoing issue of low vaccination rates among residents and staff in skilled nursing facilities due to the resurgence of Covid. They noted that the vaccination rate for residents was lower than the general population and that Aka had been pushing out educational material to address this. pete reported that Covid-19 cases in long-term care facilities in Ohio peaked in mid-December and have since plateaued. They also mentioned that nationally, the vaccination rates in nursing facilities are lower than those for the general public. pete concluded by reminding everyone to be mindful of their sprinkler systems, especially in cold weather.

#### Next steps

Attend the winter conference on February 15th and 16th at the Renaissance Hotel.

Apply for the scholarship program.

Prepare for the opening of the category 2 private room applications on March 1st.

Consider submitting feedback on the proposed vent rule, particularly regarding non-invasive events.