

# Meeting summary for OHCA Home Care and Hospice Member Call (01/10/2024)

## Quick recap

The OHCA homecare and hospice member call discussed the importance of the calls and shared updates such as the new draft version of the OASIS assessment instrument. Plans for more education on the new OASIS tool and draft changes were also mentioned. Other topics included the implementation of a new payment model in January, the controversy surrounding the calculation of budget neutrality by CMS, and updates on Ohio Medicaid.

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## Summary

### OHCA Homecare and Hospice Member Call Updates

Josh welcomed everyone to the monthly OHCA homecare and hospice member call, noting the presence of many new names and faces. They emphasized the importance of these calls in providing opportunities for people to join and hear about what's going on in the field. Josh shared several key updates, including the release of a new draft version of the OASIS assessment instrument that is set to go into effect on January 1, 2025. They also mentioned that the OASIS will be required for all payers starting from that date, with exceptions for certain cases. Josh also touched on the status of the home health payment rule and program implementation, but did not go into detail. They mentioned plans for more education on the new OASIS tool and draft changes in the coming months.

### Payment Model and Advocacy Efforts Update

Josh discussed the implementation of a new payment model in January, which slightly increased rates. They explained the controversy surrounding the calculation of budget neutrality by CMS and how they had implemented adjustments. Josh mentioned that CMS had proposed to implement half of an adjustment factor this year, resulting in a quarter of an adjustment left to make. They also discussed the advocacy efforts to stop the cuts from the previous year and what's still to be implemented. Josh also provided an update on a lawsuit filed by NAC against CMS's implementation of the budget neutrality calculation. The case is advancing and a ruling is expected later this year.

### DOL Rule Update on Independent Contractors

pete provided an update on a recently finalized Department of Labor rule concerning the classification of independent contractors and employees. They explained that the new rule narrows the definition of an independent contractor, resulting in more individuals being classified as employees and thus having access to employee benefits. pete noted

that this change reverts to pre-2021 regulations and advises businesses to review their independent contractor classifications to ensure compliance. They also announced plans for a free webinar for members to discuss the new rule and its implications in more detail.

### **Ohio Medicaid Rate Updates and Billing Procedures**

Erin provided updates on Ohio Medicaid, announcing increased rates for various services. They noted that all rates, except one, would be loaded into their system by the end of January, resolving previous issues with getting these rate increases. Erin discussed billing and rate update procedures for Medicaid and Medicare, emphasizing the importance of correctly reporting revenue and usual and customary charge amounts. They also highlighted an issue with hospice room and board claims and the potential impact of not correctly reporting these. Finally, Erin announced that CMS has approved an add-on payment for in-home vaccinations and expanded the list of vaccines eligible for this additional reimbursement.

### **Hospice Cap Report, Algorithm, and Claim Processing**

Heidi reminded attendees about the upcoming deadline for the self-determined Hospice cap report on February 29th. They also provided an update on the Hospice Special focus program, stating that despite the finalization of the algorithm, there are ongoing efforts to change it. Jennifer.Butler from Continuum Care Hospice raised issues about slow claim processing times and intermittent denials since the authorization requirements for room and board were removed. Erin suggested that Jennifer.Butler try uploading a passport to possibly resolve the issue. At the end of the meeting, Erin asked attendees if they had received a notification about a contract termination.

### **Next steps**

- Look for more information on the OASIS draft changes and the home health payment rule in the coming months.
- Erin will provide a webinar for members on the new rule for independent contractors within the next 30 days.

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