

## **Meeting summary for OHCA Home Care and Hospice Member Call (07/17/2024)**

### **Quick recap**

The team discussed low attendance, technical issues, and updates on various programs including Medicaid, Pnm, and the Home Health Quality Reporting program. They also reviewed recent legal activities, changes to the Electronic Visit Verification system, and issues with the Pnm portal and the Hospice Physician certification claims. Lastly, they announced upcoming events and invited team members to share their observations for an upcoming meeting with the Department of Health.

### **Next steps**

- Heather will share the feedback from the National Association of Home Healthcare and Leading Age on the Hospice Care Act with the team.
- Providers will set up their EFT for PNM if they haven't done so already to ensure they receive their payments.
- Providers will monitor for communications from Palmetto GBA and MAC regarding instructions for impacted claims from the Hospice physician edit firing.

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### **Summary**

#### **Low Attendance and Medicaid Updates**

Heidi and Josh discussed the low attendance and technical issues at the start of their monthly home care and hospice member call. Jennifer Butler inquired about updates on Medicaid and Pnm, which were on the agenda. As more members joined, Josh welcomed everyone and outlined the meeting's agenda, including updates and a question and answer session. They were also expecting Erin to join later.

#### **Medicare Home Health Payment Rule 2025**

Josh discussed the Medicare Home Health Payment Rule for the upcoming year 2025. He explained that the proposed rule, issued in late June, maintained the same methodology as previous years, resulting in a 4.067% cut, which is a continuation of the 3.925% cut in 2023 and the 2.89% cut in 2024. The total proposed amount for 2025 was reduced by half, similar to previous years. Josh also mentioned that there was no proposal for how the alleged overpayments from 2020 to 2023 would be collected. He further explained that the average 30-day payment would decrease from \$2,038 to \$2,008, and the wage index updates would be provided for Ohio.

#### **Home Health Quality Reporting and Hospice Reform**

Josh discussed updates to the Home Health Quality Reporting program, including the addition of four new items related to social determinants of health and the requirement for all payers to use the OASIS by July 1, 2025. He also mentioned several RFI's, including ones related to quality reporting, family caregivers, and rehabilitative therapist assessments. Heidi then took over to discuss the proposed Hospice Care Act, which aims to reform hospice by imposing a moratorium on new enrollment, increasing survey frequency, and creating new payment mechanisms. The deadline for comments on this bill was last Friday, and a redraft is expected to be released soon.

### **Labor and Trade Rule Updates**

Josh discussed recent legal activities related to labor and trade rules. He explained that while injunctions were issued in Texas to halt the implementation of certain rules, these only affected the plaintiffs who filed the cases. The Department of Labor rule regarding overtime exemption and pay already went into effect for everyone except the plaintiffs in Texas. He also mentioned that a Supreme Court decision overturned the Chevron doctrine, which could lead to more challenges to federal rules in the future. Lastly, he discussed the release of a companion guide to the Medicaid access rule by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), which primarily clarified how states need to post rates on their websites.

### **EVV System Changes and PNM Launch**

Josh announced significant changes to the Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) system, which would now require matching records for services billed to receive payment. This requirement, initially for six service codes, would begin on October 1st. Josh advised the team to address any potential issues with the system or missing records before this date to ensure continued payment. Following Josh's update, Erin confirmed that the PNM system went live on July 1st.

### **PNM Portal Issues and Payment Delays**

Erin reported that payments for manually entered claims into Pnm were being issued, addressing a previous concern. However, she highlighted issues with the Pnm portal functionality, particularly with adjusting, voiding, and editing existing claims. The main concern was the disruption of Medicaid eligibility responses from Mits, leading to incorrect eligibility responses and inaccurate patient liability information. Erin advised caution when checking eligibility in the new Pnm system, especially for managed care individuals, and recommended verifying the managed care plan information. She also noted that some providers did not receive their payments due to not setting up their EFT in Pnm, offering step-by-step instructions to rectify this.

### **Hospice Physician Claims and Issues**

Erin discussed the issues surrounding the Hospice Physician, certifying physician claims, which went into effect on June 3rd. She highlighted the confusion that arose regarding enrollment forms and reporting procedures, especially for nurse practitioners.

Erin also addressed a problem reported by Palmetto GBA, where the edit sometimes fires incorrectly, leading to denied claims. She emphasized that these claims should not be denied and hoped that CMS would correct these on the back end. Erin also urged the team to monitor for further instructions from Palmetto, GPA, and MAC regarding the impacted claims.

### **Upcoming Trainings and Health Department Meeting**

Erin concluded the discussion and Josh announced several upcoming events. He informed the team about the in-person versions of the fundamentals of home care and hospice, and the check program, all starting in September. He encouraged staff, especially newcomers, to attend these trainings to enhance their knowledge and certification. Additionally, Josh mentioned an upcoming annual or quarterly meeting with the Department of Health to discuss survey certification issues. He invited team members to share any recent survey concerns or observations for this meeting.

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