Meeting summary for OHCA Home Care and Hospice Member Call (08/14/2024)

Quick recap

Heidi provided updates on the fiscal year 2025 hospice wage index and payment rate update, the implementation of the new "Hope" system, and the Nac Nhpco Alliance. Erin discussed various issues related to accessing sand data, billing for hospice room and board, and problems with the Provider Network Management system. Lastly, changes in reporting Mpi for different types of providers, the Excellence awards for Home, Care, and Hospice, and upcoming in-person programs were announced.

Next steps

• Hospice providers to review and update billing practices for the new Hospice Wage Index and Payment Rate update effective October 1, 2025.
• Home health providers to review their Annual Reports for the Home Health Value Based Purchasing program, expected this month.
• Hospice providers to check and update their billing for nursing facility room and board rates using the new rate file.
• OHCA members to submit nominations for Excellence Awards by September 6th.

Summary

Ready for Discussion, Awaiting Arrivals

Erin and Josh confirmed that they were ready for the discussion. Heidi decided to record the meeting and there was a brief discussion about whether a summary should be generated, which was ultimately decided against. Laura joined the meeting later, and Josh indicated that they would wait a few more minutes to see if others would join.

Hospice Wage Index and Payment Update

Josh opened the monthly home care and Hospice Ohca member call and handed over to Heidi for updates. Heidi discussed the final rule regarding the fiscal year 2025 hospice wage index and payment rate update. She highlighted a 2.9% increase for FY 2025, reflecting a 3.4% market basket percentage increase, less a 0.5 percentage point productivity adjustment. Heidi also mentioned the finalization of a hospice cap amount of $34,465.34, up from last year's $33,494.01. Additionally, she noted changes to the wage index rate for some hospices resulting from the incorporation of the office of management and budgets to statistical area delineations based on the 2020 census.

Hope" System Implementation and Alignments

Heidi announced that the new "Hope" system will be implemented on October 1, 2025, replacing the current system. Two new quality process measures based on Hope data, including timely reassessment of pain impact and non-pain system impact, will be introduced, with public reporting beginning in November 2027. An optional web mail mode survey option for the CAHPS Hospice survey will be added in April 2025. The proposal to align Medicare hospice payment and conditions was finalized, clarifying that the medical director, physician designee, or physician member of the Hospice IDG can certify a patient's terminal illness. Regulations were clarified to distinguish between the election statement and notice of election. Heidi mentioned discussions about implementing a separate payment mechanism for high-intensity palliative care services and future quality reporting on social determinants of health. Representative Blumenauer was expected to make the Hospice Care Act his final agenda piece after the November election.

Nac Nhpco Alliance and Ev in Ohio Updates

Heidi provided updates on the Nac Nhpco Alliance, including the CEO search, name issues due to trademark problems, and the development of a new website set to launch in two phases. She also mentioned that both Nac and Nhpco would hold their final conventions this fall before merging next year. Josh then discussed updates on the Ev in Ohio, the upcoming release of data to support compliance efforts, and changes to the home health value-based purchasing program. Lastly, Erin asked for feedback on issues experienced during the first few weeks of the Oh, id login implementation.

Erin Addresses Sand Data, Hospice, and PNM Issues

Erin discussed several issues related to accessing sand data, billing for hospice room and board, and problems with the Provider Network Management (PNM) system. She highlighted that the majority of large issues with accessing sand data have been resolved, but urged team members to report any ongoing problems. Erin also addressed issues with hospice room and board rates, and the need for specific billing instructions for ventilator patients. She further discussed problems with the PNM system, particularly with eligibility and patient liability, and emphasized the importance of verifying this information with health plans. Lastly, she mentioned a delay in the implementation of the Hospice, certifying physician edit.

Addressing Rejection Code Issue and Resubmissions

Erin discussed an issue with a specific rejection code (1, 7, 7, 2, 9) that was incorrectly firing, causing claim denials from July 1st to June 3rd. This issue was identified as a problem with the ordering position not being Pico certified. The problem was corrected as of July 15th, but any claims that had been denied needed to be resubmitted. Erin advised not to delay in filing appeals and mentioned that Palmetto Gba had started reprocessing the claims, while CGS had not yet begun. She suggested that if the edit was still causing problems, it was likely firing for the correct reason, indicating a potential issue with the biller placing the physician and PI in the wrong position.

Mpi Changes, Excellence Awards, and Programs
Erin discussed the upcoming changes in reporting Mpi for different types of providers, particularly highlighting the confusion surrounding the nurse practitioner piece and the deadline for this change. She assured that reminders would be sent out to mitigate any issues. Josh then announced the Excellence awards for Home, Care, and Hospice, with a deadline for nominations on September 6th. He also reminded the team about the upcoming in-person programs, including the Check program and separate fundamentals courses for Home Care and Hospice. He encouraged the team to nominate deserving individuals and consider attending the programs for career development.

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