

Meeting summary for OHCA Home Care & Hospice Member Call (04/08/2025)

Quick recap

Pete provided updates on the state and federal budgets, including the adoption of the omnibus amendment and the sub-bill related to Evv. He also discussed the Republican-controlled Congress's goal to implement President Trump's legislative agenda, particularly extending the tax cuts enacted in 2017. The team also discussed ongoing testing of claims with various payers, the guidelines for skilled nursing facilities regarding antipsychotic and psychotropic medications for hospice patients, and the availability of the CAPS Hospice survey in additional languages.

Next steps

- Home care and hospice providers to continue monitoring the state budget process for potential amendments related to Medicaid reimbursement rates.
- Home care and hospice providers to stay informed about federal budget reconciliation discussions and potential impacts on Medicaid funding.
- Hospice providers to check their Review Choice Demonstration selections to ensure they are correct, as there was a system issue defaulting to post-pay review.
- Home health providers experiencing EVV claim denial issues to reach out to OHCA for support and advocacy.
- Hospice providers to review CMS guidelines on psychotropic and antipsychotic medication orders for patients in skilled nursing facilities.
- OHCA members to register for the annual convention on May 5-8th if they haven't already done so.

Summary

Budget Updates and Strategy Discussion

Pete provided updates on the state and federal budgets. The House of Representatives is in the process of adopting the omnibus amendment, which will finalize changes to the Governor's budget. Pete mentioned that they had proposed amendments for modest increases in funding for Medicaid home care and hospice services, but these did not get included in the substitute bill. They are now considering their strategy for the Senate.

Evv Denial of Medicaid Claims

Pete discussed the sub-bill related to Evv, which is relevant for home health and waiver providers on the aging and Medicaid side. He mentioned that home health is already under Evv denial of claims for not matching, causing some challenges. An amendment was drafted to stop the State from denying Medicaid claims on the basis of Evv non-

matching, as it's not federally required. The amendment also proposed different ways to utilize the Evv information without denying claims upfront. Pete noted that the original language was not the right language and a corrective amendment was made to better put guardrails around the use of the Evv information. He expressed uncertainty about whether this amendment would stick in the Senate, but emphasized that there's nothing in the Federal law that requires states to deny Medicaid claims due to Evv information inconsistencies.

Tax Cuts and Budget Reconciliation

Pete discussed the Republican-controlled Congress's goal to implement President Trump's legislative agenda, particularly extending the tax cuts enacted in 2017. He explained the process of budget reconciliation, which does not require 60 votes in the Senate, and its significance in passing the President's agenda. Pete also mentioned the slim margins in both the House and Senate, and the need to pass a budget resolution with instructions for various committees. He highlighted the contentious issue of Medicaid cuts, which are part of the Energy and Commerce Committee's jurisdiction. Pete concluded by explaining the Senate's adoption of a current policy baseline, which differs from the accounting method used earlier.

Senate Passes New Budget Resolution

Pete discussed the unusual approach of the Senate passing a new version of the Budget resolution, which is now set to be passed by the House. The resolution includes instructions for Medicaid cuts, which are expected to be difficult to pass due to their popularity. Pete mentioned that the House is set to pass the resolution by the end of the week, after which they will start the reconciliation process. He also mentioned that there are concerns about the deficit and the potential cuts to Medicaid, which could be challenging for some members of Congress. Pete emphasized the importance of advocacy for the Medicaid program and the potential impact of federal cuts on state funding and eligibility.

Uncertainty Surrounds Federal Budget Resolution

Pete and Debbie discussed the uncertainty surrounding the resolution of the Federal budget. Pete expressed optimism but acknowledged the unclear outcome. Debbie highlighted the concern of potential changes in the House and the need for more details in the Reconciliation Bill. They also discussed the Memorial Day deadline for finishing the reconciliation process and the skepticism about its feasibility. The possibility of addressing the debt limit issue later in the summer was also mentioned.

Payer Testing and EVV Denial Issues

Erin discussed ongoing testing of claims with various payers, including United Healthcare and Medicaid Fee for Service. She also mentioned a meeting with WellSky regarding the inability to build private rooms, which will be corrected in the summer roadmap. Erin also highlighted an issue with the Ohio review choice demonstration,

where users were defaulted to postpay, and advised providers to check their selections. Lastly, she addressed the high denial rate for Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) claims, urging providers to reach out for support.

Skilled Nursing Antipsychotic Medication Guidelines

Pete discussed the guidelines for skilled nursing facilities regarding antipsychotic and psychotropic medications for hospice patients. He highlighted the 14-day limitations on 'as needed' orders for these medications and the need for a physician's explanation for extending psychotropic orders. Pete also mentioned that antipsychotic orders cannot be extended but require a new order after evaluation. He recommended reviewing the extensive guidance for a comprehensive understanding of these rules.

CAPS Hospice Survey and Convention Update

Heidi announced the availability of the CAPS Hospice survey in additional languages, including English, Spanish, Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, Russian, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Polish, and Korean. She also reminded the team about the upcoming annual convention from May 5th to 8th at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, with the home care and Hospice Day scheduled for May 7th. The next home care and Hospice member call is set for May 14th. The OHCA scholarships will be announced in the news bytes on Friday, with winners being notified this week.

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