

## Meeting summary for OHCA NF Member Call (02/13/2024)

### Quick recap

The meeting covered several key topics including the fourth quarter of 2023 immediate jeopardies, the Department of Medicaid's interpretation of Passars and level of care, the Etho educational foundation's scholarship programs, \$0 payments for January claims, and issues with survey delays and accepted plans of correction. The participants discussed the severity level of jeopardies, the importance of following the rule of not admitting anyone without a balanced level of care, and encouraged members to reach out for more information if experiencing issues.

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### Summary

#### **Q4 2023 Immediate Jeopardies Discussion Led by Mandy Smith**

Mandy Smith led a discussion about the immediate jeopardies for the fourth quarter of 2023. She mentioned that the immediate jeopardy bulletin isn't completed until the end of March due to the time it takes for the State of Ohio and CMS to finalize any jeopardies from the previous quarter. Mandy highlighted that the majority of jeopardies were at severity level J, with some at K and L. Infection control was the next highest issue, with many citations related to COVID, including not separating positive and negative residents and not immediately implementing the appropriate PPE. Other issues included neglect, abuse, and quality of care. Mandy also noted that the majority of these jeopardies occurred in December, with some in November and October.

#### **Medicaid's New Level of Care Interpretation Confusion**

Diane Dietz discussed a change in the Department of Medicaid's interpretation of Passars and level of care, which seemed to contradict the usual process. She explained that the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging was suggesting that if someone is admitted on a hospital exemption, they don't require a level of care until an adverse pass has been completed. Diane expressed confusion about this and highlighted that a level of care is required to authorize payment. She mentioned that they had reached out to the department to question this new interpretation. Diane also clarified a misunderstanding about the term 'non-adverse pass' and advised everyone to follow the rule of not admitting anyone without a balanced level of care.

#### **Etho Scholarship Programs for Home Health Staff**

Diane Dietz introduced two scholarship programs being run by the educational foundation Etho, aimed at members of Ohca, including those in the home health sector. The programs aim to assist staff in furthering their education and career development. Diane emphasized that there was a strong financial need component to the educational scholarship program, with 30% of applications based on this criteria, and encouraged

applications before the March 17th deadline. Secondly, she introduced a certification scholarship program, where Etho would cover 50% of the cost of certification up to a maximum of \$1,500. This program, which runs until February 29th, also requires applicants to contribute. Diane encouraged everyone to share and apply for these opportunities.

### **Medicaid Payment Issues and Recruitment Concerns**

Erin Hart addressed the issue of \$0 payments for January claims received from their members. She explained that the resettling of Medicaid payments, which was supposed to occur in January, has been postponed to February due to mass payment issues in December 2023. Erin highlighted that the attempts to fix these issues led to massive overpayments, now being recouped in February. She advised members to contact them if they didn't receive expected payments. Erin also discussed the issue of large recruitments on remits due to previous overpayments and mentioned that they have asked the department of Medicaid about a staggered recruitment method. Erin informed the team that Medicaid will work with providers on a case-by-case basis to correct incorrect rate payments at the end of the month.

### **Survey Delays and Winter Conference**

Erin Hart and Mandy Smith discuss issues with survey delays and accepted plans of correction, with Mandy asking members to reach out to the association for more information if they are experiencing issues. Diane Dietz mentions a winter conference coming up on Thursday and Friday, with still time to register. Mandy asks if anyone is experiencing issues with delayed or accepted survey delays or plans of corrections, and they are encouraged to share those with the association to help correct them. The team plans to meet again next week at 2 PM.

### **Next steps**

- Mandy will provide more information on the immediate jeopardies in the IJ bulletin and at the winter conference.
- Providers should monitor their Medicaid payments for potential recruitments from overpayments. If there are any issues, providers should reach out to the department of Medicaid.

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