

Meeting summary for OHCA NF Member Call (07/16/2024)

Quick recap

pete announced the appointment of Cliff Porter as the new president and CEO of the American Healthcare Association and National Centers for Assisted Living, and discussed ongoing efforts regarding the proposed minimum staffing rule and private room announcements from the Department of Medicaid. Erin addressed ongoing technical issues with the Pnm system and the Quality Navigator, and clarified the calculation method for staffing measures reported by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Lastly, concerns were raised about facilities potentially completing unnecessary Osas, and the possibility of implementing a Pdpm methodology from July 1st was discussed.

Next steps

- Providers to complete the Quality Navigator survey by August 2nd to update facility information.
- Providers to check their staffing measure calculations against the rate letters and consider requesting rate reconsideration if discrepancies are found.
- Providers experiencing PNM eligibility issues to report specific examples to OHCA for follow-up with Medicaid.
- Providers with incorrect rate payments to submit discrepancies to nif_rate_setting@medicaid.ohio.gov.
- OHCA to follow up with Medicaid on how staffing measures will be calculated for January 2025 rates given the data freeze and methodology changes.
- Providers to monitor for updates on PDPM implementation and potential changes to OSA requirements for the coming year.

Summary

Cliff Porter's Appointment and Staffing Measure Updates

pete, the executive director of Ohca, announced that Cliff Porter had been appointed as the new president and CEO of the American Healthcare Association and National Centers for Assisted Living, succeeding Mark Parkinson. pete highlighted Cliff's extensive experience and knowledge in government relations, as well as his previous role as a member of the Ohio Association's board. He also noted Cliff's ties to Ohio and his previous work with the HCR Manor Care team, viewing this as a continuity pick to maintain the organization's growth. Lastly, pete discussed ongoing efforts regarding the proposed minimum staffing rule and invited questions, while also indicating that Erin Hart would provide updates on Pnm and the staffing measure.

Medicaid Private Room Announcement Update

pete discussed the recent announcement from the Department of Medicaid regarding private rooms. The department is planning to approve or deny applications, with 51 facilities scheduled for site visits. However, the exact timeline for approvals and site visits has not been provided. The department also announced that payments for approved applications will start on December 18th. pete encouraged the team to report any contact from the Department of Medicaid regarding applications or site visits. Erin was about to take over the discussion when the transcript ended.

Addressing PNM System Technical Issues

Erin addressed the ongoing technical issues with the Pnm system, particularly focusing on problems with Medicaid eligibility and claim submissions. She reported that a solution had been found for processing claims with non-covered days, although a workaround was needed for the inability to print a PDF of the eligibility response. Erin also noted that while remittance advice issues were considered resolved, there were still problems with missing remits and incorrect rate payments. She stressed the importance of communication with the department of Medicaid to resolve these issues, which were causing significant administrative work for the admissions department and preventing the submission of certain claims.

Quality Navigator and Provider Update Process

Erin reported that a particular issue had been successfully resolved, which was positively acknowledged by pete. The main focus of the discussion was the Quality Navigator, previously known as the Nursing Home Quality Navigator. pete informed the team that the Department of Aging had planned to conduct a survey, which was later confirmed to have been received by Stephanie and Deborah Bissell. He also introduced a new provider-specific information update process, aimed at gathering information for a grant application to the Department of Aging. The deadline for completing the survey was August 2nd, and pete promised to clarify the staffing measure and its calculation in future communications.

CMS Staffing Measures and 5 Star Guide

pete clarified the calculation method for staffing measures reported by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). He explained that CMS reports data quarterly, but the data only changes quarterly, and the staffing measures are reported monthly but also change quarterly. He also indicated that the specific measure used is total nurse staffing hours per resident day adjusted for case mix. pete apologized for not sharing the 5 Star Technical Users Guide earlier and guided the team to a specific page and table within the guide that contains staffing measures.

State Scoring System and Rate Reconsiderations

pete discussed the State's scoring system, highlighting that discrepancies existed between the scores calculated by their team and those awarded to providers. He

suggested that the team review their rate setting, offering various options for assistance, and reminded them that rate reconsiderations were available until the end of June. Eli indicated he had a question for pete.

Data Source and Staffing Measures Update

pete and Eli discussed the data source for their reports, confirming it comes from the provider info table on the CMS data website. They clarified the data includes raw scores and case mix adjusted scores, and pete thanked Erin for the link to the data. A point of confusion arose regarding the data for the frozen quarter, which pete explained was not double-counted but included in the report. The team decided to use the four most recent quarters for their analysis. pete also discussed upcoming changes to the staffing measures, which will be recalculated using more current data, but the impact on the January 25th deadline was uncertain. Lastly, pete acknowledged a detailed post by Angel Weber, which provided additional information for a survey, and opened the floor for questions.

Concerns About Unnecessary Osas and PDPM

Jane expressed her concerns about facilities potentially completing unnecessary Osas in October, as they may not be used for payment until July. pete acknowledged her concerns, but couldn't provide a definitive answer due to the uncertainty surrounding the availability of Osas. He suggested it's likely that some form of Pdpm methodology would be implemented from July 1st, but couldn't confirm this. He also mentioned a trend towards developing blends of various Pdpm components to potentially replace the nursing component. Jane thanked pete for his input.

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