

Meeting summary for OHCA NF Member Call (09/24/2024)

Quick recap

The meeting covered various topics including the private room program rollout, immediate jeopardy incidents in nursing facilities, and upcoming changes to Medicare revalidation processes. Discussions also included a CMP grant application for medication aide training, updates on case mix scoring requirements, and new reporting obligations for skilled nursing facilities. Additionally, the meeting addressed changes in vaccination reporting, Medicaid revalidation, and clarifications on Legionella testing requirements.

Next steps

- Facilities that did not freeze their CMI to continue completing OSAs through September 30, 2025, unless otherwise notified by the Department of Medicaid.
- Facilities to prepare for off-cycle Medicare revalidation by reviewing the new 855A form and instructions, and involving legal counsel in the process.
- Facilities to watch for direct notification from CMS regarding their Medicare revalidation due date, expected between October and December.
- Facilities to review and prepare for the updated NHSN reporting requirements for COVID-19 vaccinations, effective September 30th.
- Facilities to use the new online fire incident reporting form from the Fire Marshal's office starting October 1st, if needed.

Summary

Private Room Program Rollout and Approval Process

pete and Mandy discussed the slow rollout of the state's private room program and the need for members to share any approvals they've received. pete also addressed the issue of denials of applications due to providers having a 1-star rating, explaining that this can be resolved by reapplying after an improvement in ranking. However, he emphasized that members need to wait until their facility's new star rating appears on care compare before reapplying.

Private Room Approvals and Future Legislation

pete discussed the department's approach to approving private room applications, emphasizing that providers must complete necessary steps before approval. He highlighted the risk of providers being shut out for not revising applications to reflect actual private rooms ready. pete addressed an issue where providers adding beds after July 1, 2023 cannot apply for those additional beds as private rooms under current law, acknowledging this as an anomaly. He mentioned potential future legislative changes

but none currently allowed. pete stated a December 18th deadline for payment dates of approved providers and the need for revenue codes, which Erin is obtaining. Only around 51 out of 1,000 providers are receiving site visits due to private room definition concerns. pete then handed over to Mandy to discuss immediate jeopardies.

Addressing Rising Immediate Jeopardies and Incidents

Mandy discussed the significant increase in immediate jeopardies (IJs) at the meeting, noting that the number had risen to 61 for the first half of 2024, the highest since she joined the organization. She highlighted that there were 35 citations in the second quarter of 2024, affecting 32 different buildings, with the majority related to abuse and neglect. Mandy expressed concern over these incidents and the need for improved safety measures. She also discussed the increasing number of incidents in previous quarters, including abuse, pressure ulcers, dialysis, medication errors, choking, and administration issues. Mandy emphasized the importance of meeting the required level of care for patients experiencing changes in condition and the challenges some facilities face in obtaining stat labs or stat X-rays.

Discussing Lab Services and Grant Application

Mandy discussed the recommendation to reach out to hospitals for assistance in providing lab services to nursing facilities, and encouraged questions via email. Erin then presented the application for a Cmp. Grant, which would cover medication aid training and certification for nursing assistants. She explained the two pathways for the grant and the need for a letter of support for each facility. Erin also addressed a question about the expanded scope of practice for medication aids, emphasizing the need for competency demonstrations before implementation. Lastly, pete reminded the group about the availability of a letter of support template and encouraged participation in the grant application.

Osa Case Mix Scoring and Medicaid Updates

pete discussed the ongoing situation with the Osa, a manual for case mix scoring. He clarified that facilities not having frozen their case mix score would be required to use the Osa until September 30th, 2025. pete also mentioned that the Department of Medicaid had responded to their pushback, stating that there's a possibility that the use of the Osa could continue beyond June 30th, 2025, depending on legislation. He advised facilities not to freeze their case mix score and to continue doing Osas. pete also mentioned that they are working with other provider groups to come up with a solution and are awaiting data from Medicaid. He encouraged all to stay tuned for further announcements and to reach out with any questions.

Medicare Revalidations and Enrollment Process Changes

pete discussed upcoming changes in Medicare revalidations and enrollment processes for skilled nursing facilities. He explained that over the next three months, every Medicare-certified skilled nursing facility will be required to revalidate and file new 855A

forms, as part of the government's efforts to increase transparency. pete also shared links to relevant forms and a fact sheet in the chat for further reference. He emphasized the importance of paying attention to notifications received, as they require a submission within 90 days. pete highlighted a new 20-page skilled nursing facility appendix that requires extensive disclosure, and advised involving legal counsel in filling out these forms. He clarified that this process only applies to skilled nursing providers with Medicare agreements, and failure to submit the revalidation in time could result in severe consequences, including termination of Medicare participation.

Upcoming Reporting Changes and Licensure Updates

pete discussed upcoming reporting changes, including a new fire incident reporting form starting October 1st. He mentioned CDC guidance on reporting vaccinations through NHSN, with a webinar planned for more details. pete reminded everyone about the monthly Medicaid revalidation process and updating enrollment information. He clarified that skilled nursing facilities are not subject to Barclay Water Management's Legionella testing requirements, and new licensure rules from the Department of Health are not expected to include Legionella testing. pete also discussed the upcoming Medicare revalidation process over three months, with CMS expected to send notifications by letter or email. There will be no SNP member call the first week of October due to the AHCA Convention.

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