

Meeting summary for OHCA NF Member Call (02/27/2024)

Quick recap

The team discussed the resumption of exception reviews for providers who did not freeze their Cmi on March 4th. There was also a discussion about the availability of Nhs, but no specific decision was reached. pete mentioned the next step in their legal proceedings, which is to engage in mediation, and changes to the Medicare rate penalties and data reporting standards. He also discussed the process of applying for category 2 rooms and a new quality improvement project related to behavioral health from the Center for Excellence for Behavioral Health.

Summary

Exception Reviews and Improvement Projects

pete informed the team that exception reviews would resume on Monday, March 4th for providers who did not freeze their Cmi. He also mentioned that these exception reviews would likely cover the fourth quarter of 2023. Ashley was acknowledged for posting a link to the list of improvement projects. Mandy confirmed that she was able to join the meeting a bit late, but encouraged others who were still joining. There was also a discussion about the availability of Nhs, but no specific decision was reached.

Zoom Participation and NHS Updates

Mandy welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided instructions for participation via the Zoom platform. pete then discussed the absence of NHS updates and mentioned that the group often doesn't receive these urgent announcements. pete also mentioned that the next week's call was uncertain due to his attendance at another conference. He mentioned a couple of member questions that were received earlier, but didn't elaborate on the content of these questions. pete then passed the meeting over to Mandy.

Supreme Court Mediation Initiated

pete informed the team that the next step in their legal proceedings was ordered by the Supreme Court, which was to engage in mediation. The mediator appointed by the Supreme Court is currently speaking with both sides separately and may have already communicated with the state. The mediator's role is to facilitate negotiations with the aim of potentially resolving the case outside of court. pete noted that further discussions towards settlement may occur, depending on the attitude of the state. Joe inquired about the expected timeline, and pete responded that a response could be expected by the end of the week.

Bad Debt Survey Discussion

pete discussed the recent increase in bad debt among members, which led the team to conduct a survey to gather more data and understand the issue better. He requested all members to fill out the survey, and emphasized the importance of the billing and reimbursement committees participating. pete also mentioned the critical mass of participation in the call and mentioned plans to discuss the QR, but did not elaborate further.

Medicare Rate Penalties and Data Reporting Standards

pete discussed changes to the Medicare rate penalties and data reporting standards. He mentioned that the standard for completing Mds to the 80% standard has been changed by CMS to a 90% standard starting from January 1st. This change will not impact reimbursement immediately but will do so from October 1st, 2024. He emphasized the need for continued attention to the expanded list of data elements to avoid penalties. pete also highlighted that resident interviews are crucial for data collection and should be conducted at the time of assessment. He announced a CMS webinar on March 26th to assist providers in avoiding a 2% penalty. Finally, pete mentioned that starting from April, there will be reductions in staffing stars for some providers who fail to report turnover data, which could result in a one or two-star penalty on staffing.

Report, QSO, Spreadsheet, QRP Webinar, Deadline, Contact Details

pete discussed several topics including the report that has been forwarded, a QSO on the topic of which he wasn't sure, and a spreadsheet link that provides more detailed data on each facility. He also mentioned a QRP webinar to be held by CMS on March 26. Furthermore, he stressed the upcoming March 1 deadline for providers to apply for category 2 prior. pete encouraged anyone lacking information to contact him or any team members for further details.

Category 2 Room Application Process Discussed

pete discussed the process of applying for category 2 rooms, which is similar to the category 1 process. He clarified that the category 1 process is still open and applications can be submitted at any time. pete mentioned that they are in a limbo period as the state has not received CMS approval for the state plan amendment, but they have some third-hand information indicating that it may have been filed. He emphasized that there will be no notifications until CMS approves the program. pete also assumed that there will be a vetting process for category 2 applications and that applications will be accepted until there is no more room.

Private Room Status and Application Process Update

pete discussed the status of private rooms, mentioning that they had reached a 'magic number' of around 29,000 to 31,000, depending on the mix of category one and two rooms. He emphasized that the daily rates for these rooms, \$30 for category one and \$20 for category two, were unlikely to change unless CMS demanded a change. pete

also highlighted a change in the application process for category one rooms. If a provider's status improves after filing the application, they must file a new application. He advised against holding off on filing applications for category one or two, even if there's a belief that there will be a surge of applications. Lastly, Pete shared a link for CMS QRP training.

Behavioral Health Quality Improvement Project Announced

Pete announced a new quality improvement project related to behavioral health from the Center for Excellence for Behavioral Health. He also mentioned another potential project through SCRIPTS HIPPIE program, which is currently not open for participation due to financial considerations. Furthermore, he discussed the launch of a new version of the Consumer Guide, now called Quality Navigator, in a Governor's press conference. However, there were concerns about how providers can update their information in this new guide. Jill added that an email was sent out about some technical issues with NHS, which might be related to the issues discussed.

Next steps

- Complete the survey on bad debt increases among members.
- Providers should apply for Category 2 private rooms by March 1st.
- Check the links for the CMS QRP training and the Quality Navigator in the chat.

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