

The Academy Weekly

News & Information for LTC Providers



The Academy of Senior Health Sciences, Inc.

www.seniorhealthsciences.org

Week of 4 July 2021

Ohio News

[July 1 SNF rates delayed](#)

[ODM provider meeting notes](#)

[SNF vent rates released](#)

[Scripps surveying SNF/ALs on COVID impact](#)

[HENS 3.0 delayed](#)

National News

[CMS MLN Connects](#)

Ohio News

July 1 SNF rates delayed

ODM notified the associations and managed care companies that the July 1 SNF rates will be delayed. According to ODM, MITS claims for dates of service on or after July 1 will be suspended until rates have been updated. No timeframe was given as to when they will be released. We do not anticipate them being released within the week. ([Back to top.](#))

ODM provider meeting notes

The Ohio Department of Medicaid met with the nursing home associations last week. Below are notes from the meeting:

Post Payment Reviews: For the FY 2017 and 2018 overpayment reports, 182 nursing facility reports are still open. There are about 20 providers that will face vendor offsets due to not responding to emails and mailings. There are no open periods for active providers

prior to 2017. ODM is anticipating a late fall or early winter to issue 2019 reports. ODM will continue to clean the data as they prepare for the 2019 reports. Only one year will be done at a time going forward since ODM has caught up.

MDS Exception Reviews: ODM finished the current round of MDS exception reviews on May 18. They completed 99 for all of fiscal year of 21. Twenty-eight exceeded the statutory thresholds and there were only four reconsideration requests. None of the initial outcome decisions changed because of the reconsiderations. Seventy-two of the reviews were done from March through May, all remotely. The next round of reviews is scheduled for Aug to Sept. ODM will be offering remote reviews as an option and they expect a high uptake again. Because of the results from the most recent round, ODM may go back to a facility to ensure improvements have been made. ODM noted that part of their approach will be education/training. The group discussed why there was such a large number that exceeded the exception rate. In many cases, documentation is the issue. Provider reps were concerned that the pandemic may be increasing rates as there is limited staffing and a significant use of agency staff. Furthermore, nurses may be more focused on providing care than documenting every repeat detail required. ODM agreed to establish a meeting with Myers & Stauffer, the contracted firm doing the reviews, to take a closer look at Ohio to determine if Ohio is higher than other states and if so, why that may be, and possible training or education needed to reduce the number of exceptions.

Claims Questions: (1) Payment of coinsurance for Medicare Part A stay during a Restricted Medicaid Coverage Period. MITS set-up in 2010 that a payment would not be made. ODM is currently reviewing the appropriate payment under a RMCP. (2) Three-day hospital stay missing on claims. Claims are being denied for not having the three-day hospital stay that was required prior to the public health emergency. ODM has asked that providers contact the Medicaid provider services call center and create a ticket. This allows ODM track the number of instances while also getting appropriately submitted claims paid.

Patient Liability: ODM noted that counties have been notified that a change in patient liability that has a negative impact on the Medicaid member cannot be done retroactively. According to ODM, any incorrect application of PL should be handled at the county JFS. While this appears to be minimal in the fee for service world, the MCOs appear to be making retroactive PL changes because of the 834 file. ODM said they would look into this, but any incorrect application or calculation of PL should be handled through the county. On a similar note, ODM did say they are aware of an issue with PL of waiver individuals while on a NF stay. They are working with the sister agencies and waiver providers on a solution.

Centralized Credentialing: ODM had no update on the centralized credentialing set to start in late July.

[\(Back to top.\)](#)

SNF vent rates released

The Ohio Department of Medicaid released the latest ventilator rates for nursing homes participating in the program. The rates are based on long-term acute care hospital rates with the objective of encouraging nursing homes to care for these residents instead of LTACH at a lower cost. The rates for SFY 2021 decreased by 4.9% reflecting a decline in LTACH costs last calendar year. [Please click here for more information, including the updated rates and billing information.](#) (Back to top.)

Scripps surveying SNF/ALs on COVID impact

Scripps gerontology, in cooperation with the nursing home and assisted living associations, has released a survey for SNF and AL providers this week regarding the impact of COVID. The brief survey is designed to better determine the impact COVID has had on SNF/AL finances and staffing, including the use of agency staff. Results of the survey may be used to advocate for American Relief dollars for SNF and AL providers. ***Please respond to the survey by Friday, July 16.*** (Back to top.)

HENS 3.0 delayed

Following the recent announcement of a HENS 3.0 release in July 2021, the Ohio Department of Aging (ODA) reviewed and evaluated the remaining work and testing, and feel additional time and effort are needed to ensure we have the best product for HENS users. While the HENS 3.0 release will not take place in July 2021 as originally planned, ODA remains committed to a successful launch. The updated HENS 3.0 release date is being planned for late August or early September. ODA plans to follow the same sequence of events for the implementation plan that included user guides, training videos, and a system training environment to be available to end-users no less than 4 weeks prior to the final release date. More specific timeline details will be forthcoming from ODA. (Back to top.)



National News

CMS MLN Connects

News

- [COVID-19 Accelerated and Advance Payments: Updated FAQs](#)
- [COVID-19 Snapshot: Impact on the Medicare Population](#)

Compliance

- [Hospice Aide Services: Enhancing RN Supervision](#)

MLN Matters® Articles

- [July Quarterly Update for 2021 Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies \(DMEPOS\) Fee Schedule](#)
- [October Quarterly Update to 2021 Annual Update of HCPCS Codes Used for Skilled Nursing Facility \(SNF\) Consolidated Billing \(CB\) Enforcement – Revised](#)

[View this edition as PDF \(PDF\)](#)

[View this edition online](#)

[\(Back to top.\)](#)

Find a COVID-19 vaccine

Search [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov)

Text your ZIP code to **438829**

Call **1-800-232-0233**

WE CAN DO THIS HHS.

ODDS AND ENDS

Real Time with Chicago CMS to tackle surprise billing

Join the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Chicago Local Engagement and Administration (LEA) for their series, “Real Time” with CMS Chicago on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of every Month at 10 a.m. EST. This series feature 30 minute webinars and calls with our partners and stakeholders to share updates on many of the topics we’ve heard you express an interest. The July 14th webinar will cover

NOTABLE DATES OR EVENTS

[QIN-QIO Pain Management Webinar](#)
22 September @ Noon

[Click here for QIO training series.](#)

[Click here for CMS NH COVID-19 Training](#)

"Requirements Related to Surprise Billing." [Please click here to register.](#)

NH constitutional amendment moves one step closer

The Ohio Attorney General's Office recently certified language for a constitutional amendment that would create a Nursing Facility Patients' Bill of Rights. The amendment would require the Department of Health to provide regulations that address neglect, mistreatment and abuse, set standards for the numbers of nurses and nurse aids and hours of direct care for patients. Every nursing facility would also be required to have a patient advocate to address needs of patients, implement protocols for responding to call lights and have policies for staffing deficiencies. Backers of the proposal will eventually have to collect 443,000 signatures to get the amendment on the ballot.

Fall Conference Survey

Don't forget, we want your input! [Please click here to answer a short survey to help us plan our next Fall Conference.](#) Thank you!

Modules

[Click here to view CGS Part A training events](#)

[Click here to view CGS Part B training events](#)

[Follow on Twitter](#)

[Friend on Facebook](#)

[Follow on Instagram](#)

*Copyright © 2021 The Academy of Senior Health Sciences Inc., All rights reserved.
Membership.*

*The content of this newsletter is for informational purposes only. The information is only as accurate as its sources and may change at any time. The newsletter may contain references to policy, regulations, rules, and laws and is for informational purposes only. **Please consult the appropriate professional before making any decisions.***

Our mailing address is:

The Academy of Senior Health Sciences Inc.
17 S. High St.
Suite 770
Columbus, OH 43215

The Academy of Senior Health Sciences, Inc. is a preferred provider of BELTSS continuing education units.
