

The Academy Weekly

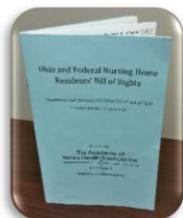
News & Information for LTC Providers

The Academy of Senior Health Sciences, Inc.

www.seniorhealthsciences.org

Friday, 17 November 2017

No Weekly next week. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!!



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Ohio News

1. [ODM addresses case-mix reviews with associations](#)
2. [MITS issue with Hospice/Home Health claims fixed](#)
3. [NF alternative hydro rehab program open to all SNFs](#)
4. [Budget numbers save hospitals from 5% Medicaid cut](#)

National News

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6. [CMS outlines SNF VBP program in webinar](#)
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Ohio News

1. ODM addresses case-mix reviews with associations

The Ohio Department of Medicaid told SNF associations today that they would not be using the SDR, which was more stringent than the RAI manual, when they perform case mix exception reviews. The Academy and other associations objected to the use of the SDR, noting it was acting as a new set of regulations and in some cases went counter to the RAI manual that MDS nurses use. The department said they would follow the current rules for performing the exception reviews. ODM also said that the reconsideration process would go through ODM's Medical Director's office, which has an MDS nurse on staff. ODM anticipates starting the case mix exception reviews in early December. ([back to top](#))

2. MITS issue with SNF and Hospice/Home Health claims fixed

ODM notified The Academy on Wednesday that the problems NFs & ICFs-IID were experiencing with claims denying due to questionable overlapping payments for Hospice or Home Health/PDN have been resolved. The claims are processing as intended. Affected claims can be resubmitted for payment. ([back to top](#))

3. NF alternative hydro rehab program open to all SNFs

House Bill 64 of the 131st General Assembly, the previous budget bill, established a pilot program for up to 5 SNFs in certain counties that utilize hydrotherapy pools to provide services. H.B. 49 extended that program and created the opportunity for all providers to apply if less than 5 initially applied. From the RFP:

"The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) is soliciting applications to identify five (5) qualified nursing facilities, licensed and certified by the Ohio Department of Health, to participate in a demonstration project, the Nursing Facility Alternative Rehabilitation Model (the demonstration), to provide care and services to eligible recipients in lieu of hospital inpatient services in freestanding long-term care hospitals (LTCHs). This demonstration is expected to reduce errors in service delivery by improving continuity of care through a reduction in the number of transitions between different types of medical settings. Rather than an individual transferring from an acute care hospital to an LTCH, to a nursing facility (NF), an individual can transition from the acute care hospital directly to a NF. Pursuant to Section 327.270 of Am. Sub. H.B. 49, this demonstration aims to provide the proper incentives for nursing home providers to accept high needs (i.e., high cost) residents while maintaining or improving quality of care. ODM will issue award letters to selected providers to provide care for high needs residents at an enhanced rate who otherwise would have received care and services at a freestanding LTCH." [Please click here for more information.](#) Note that applicants must utilize a hydrotherapy pool. [\(Back to top\)](#)

4. Budget numbers save hospitals from 5% Medicaid cut

The state's Medicaid budget is in the black and appears to be on track for the remainder of the fiscal year. That is good news for the hospitals. ODM and OHT had indicated that in order to meet appropriation levels in H.B. 49, the budget bill, they would have to make rate reductions to some providers. Hospitals were to take the brunt of those cuts - up to 5%. The latest budget numbers show Medicaid will under spend by about \$160 million this fiscal year, enough to avoid the additional hospital cuts. ODM will readdress the issue this spring as they look at SFY2019 budget numbers.

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Federal News

5. CMS to cut 340B pharmaceutical rates significantly

CMS will significantly reduce the 340B pharmaceutical rates beginning in FY2018. According to a Wolters Kluwer blog: "In calendar year (CY) 2018, CMS will change its reimbursement for separately payable drugs and biologics (other than pass-through drugs and vaccines) acquired through the 340B Program from average sales price (ASP) plus 6 percent to ASP minus 22.5 percent. Rural sole community hospitals, PPS-exempt cancer hospitals, and children's hospitals will be exempt from this policy for CY 2018. This change, [said](#) CMS, addresses recent trends of increasing drug prices and will save beneficiaries about \$320 million on copayments in 2018. CMS will offset the projected \$1.6 billion decrease in drug payments by redistributing this amount for non-drug items and services across the OPPIs." [Read the full blog post by clicking here.](#)

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6. CMS outlines SNF VBP program in webinar

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) provided more details of the SNF VBP program this week during an MLN webinar. The webinar provided an overview of the program, including a timeline of key events and how the money will be dispersed. Two percent of the rate paid to providers will be withheld with 60% of those funds being returned to providers. Since less than 100% will be returned, the majority of providers will see a decrease in their rate. Providers will receive two sets of points. The first is on how well they do compared to a national benchmark. The second is on how well the provider did relative to their own benchmark (A measure of improvement). Points will be tallied in these two areas for a total score. The scores will then be used to determine how much, if any, a provider receives for VBP. [More information is available in the PowerPoint slides that can be downloaded by clicking here.](#) [\(Back to top\)](#)

7. CMS MLN Connects Provider eNews

News & Announcements

- [New Medicare Card: New Webpage Information](#)
- [CAHs: Deadline to Apply for a Hardship Exception is November 30](#)
- [Virtual Group for MIPS in 2018: Apply by December 31](#)
- [QMB Remittance Advice Issue](#)
- [IRF/LTCH Quality Measure Reports: Measures Added](#)
- [Hospice Quality Reporting Program: Quarterly Update](#)
- [Physician Compare: How to Update Your Listing](#)
- [Recognizing Lung Cancer Awareness Month and the Great American Smokeout](#)

Provider Compliance

- [Evaluation and Management: Correct Coding — Reminder](#)

Upcoming Events

- [Quality Payment Program Year 2 Final Rule Call — November 30](#)
- [Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program Model Expansion Call — December 5](#)
- [National Partnership to Improve Dementia Care and QAPI Call — December 14](#)

Medicare Learning Network Publications & Multimedia

- [Hospital Call: Audio Recording and Transcript — New](#)
- [Medicare and Medicaid Basics Booklet — Revised](#)
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