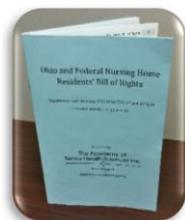*News and information for LTC providers.*

The Academy Weekly
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Friday, 02 June 2017

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Ohio News

1. HB 49: Amendments are in...
2. HB 49: ICF-ID reimbursement overhaul would tie to funding increase
3. BELTSS board changes
4. ODM delays exception reviews
5. Save the Date: Fall Conference Oct 26 and 27!
6. State continues preparation for MLTSS

Federal News

7. CMS to issue new Medicare cards with MBI #s
8. CMS MLN Connects Provider eNews

Ohio News

1. HB 49: Amendments are in...

Senate amendments are in for House Bill 49, "The Budget Bill." Senators will now begin the task of combing through over a 1,000 amendments and determine changes to the bill. The Academy is monitoring several initiatives, including implementation of MLTSS, ICF-ID reimbursement (see separate story below), SNF funding, waiver rates, case-mix exceptions for P4P programs, FPF payment deadline extension, and hospice exceptions for state QM calculations. The Senate is expected to begin its review of amendments this weekend. The bill is expected to pass the Senate on June 12, giving conference committee about 2 weeks to settle the differences. (back to top)

2. HB 49: ICF-ID reimbursement overhaul would tie to funding increase

The Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) has been working for well over a year with interested parties on a new reimbursement system for ICF-ID providers. The new system would include a new acuity methodology, peer grouping, and capital reimbursement (fair rental value). An amendment to HB 49 agreed to by the department and interested parties would tie the new reimbursement system to a 2% increase in ICF-ID spending. It also outlines the transitions period to the new system. Providers would be "held harmless" in that their rate would not be below the rate the provider would have received under the previous reimbursement system for 3 years. DODD would have to calculate two rates each rate setting period - one under the previous methodology and one using the new methodology. Rate increases would be limited by DODD during that

transition period. After 3 years, all providers would be paid under the new reimbursement system. The Senate still has to insert the amendment into the bill and include the 2% increase in funding. (back to top)

3. BELTSS board changes

BELTSS has announced changes to its governing board. Board Members Jill Wilson (Chairman), Douglas Spitler, and Michele Stokes will be leaving. BELTSS is thankful for their hard work and will miss their dedicated service to the organization. BELTSS welcomes Michael Coury as their Chairman and Terrence Holecek as their Vice-Chairman. BELTSS is looking forward to their leadership as the board continues to advance the development of highly qualified and competent LNHAs.
(Back to top)

4. ODM delays exception reviews

The Ohio Department of Medicaid has decided to delay the implementation of case-mix exception reviews until at least July. In response to comments by the associations, including The Academy, ODM wanted to allow time to review the comments and determine what actions need to be taken. (Click here to read our comments.) We will keep you updated as we continue to work with ODM on this issue. (Back to top)

5. Save the Date: Fall Conference Oct 26 and 27!

Save the date for the ASHS/OANAC 2017 Fall Conference! The conference will be held October 26 and 27 at the Quest Conference Center in Columbus, OH. We are already lining-up some great presenters - more information will be available in the coming weeks. We hope to see you there! (Back to top)

6. State continues preparation for MLTSS

The Ohio Department of Medicaid continues to prepare for expanding MLTSS. ODM held an interested party meeting this week to review current progress and outline the implementation timeline. They released a "Key MLTSS Design Features" document that outlines their expectations on how the program will be implemented. The document does spotlight SNFs in several areas, including paying higher quality SNFs more, having a one-year transition, and not requiring MCOs to contract with poor quality providers. ODM continues to be on the timeline of starting to enroll individuals in July of 2018 with full implementation by Jan 1, 2019. The RFA is expected to be released in early July, with plan selection in October or November. Readiness review would occur in Spring of 2018. More information is available on their website by clicking here. (Back to top)

Federal News

7. CMS to issue new Medicare cards with MBI #s

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is readying a fraud prevention initiative that removes Social Security numbers from Medicare cards to help combat identity theft, and safeguard taxpayer dollars. The new cards will use a unique, randomly-assigned number called a Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI), to replace the Social Security-based Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) currently used on the Medicare card. ***CMS will begin mailing new cards in April 2018 and will meet the congressional deadline for replacing all Medicare cards by April 2019.*** This week, CMS launched a multi-faceted outreach campaign to help providers get ready for the new MBI. CMS is committed to a successful transition to the MBI for people with Medicare and for the health care provider community. CMS has a website dedicated to the Social Security Removal Initiative (SSNRI) where providers can find the latest information and sign-up for newsletters. CMS is also planning regular calls as a way to share updates and answer provider questions before and after new cards are mailed beginning in April 2018. (Back to top)

8. CMS MLN Connects Provider eNews

MLN Connects® for Thursday, June 01, 2017
News & Announcements

- New Medicare Cards Offer Greater Protection to More Than 57.7 Million Americans
- EHR Incentive Programs: Submit Comments on Proposed Changes by June 13

- [New Quality Payment Program Resources Available](#)
- [Review 2017 EHR Incentive Program Requirements](#)
- [CY 2017 eCQM Resources and Tools](#)

[Provider Compliance](#)

- [Automatic External Defibrillators: Inadequate Medical Record Documentation](#)

[Claims, Pricers & Codes](#)

- [Hospices: Submit Adjustments to Correct Payment Errors](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

- [National Partnership to Improve Dementia Care and QAPI Call — June 15](#)
- [CLIA Certificate of Provider-performed Microscopy Webcast — June 28](#)
- [Improvements to the Medicare Claims Appeal Process and Statistical Sampling Call — June 29](#)

[Medicare Learning Network Publications & Multimedia](#)

- [Required Workaround for Hospices Submitting RHC and SIA Payments at the End of Life MLN Matters Article — New](#)
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