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| A picture containing text, clock  Description automatically generatedMedicare & CMS/NGS WorkgroupMeeting Minutes & AgendaDate: 8/28/24 |
| *Committee Members:* [x]  Jennifer Stark, Chair [ ]  Rachel Eastwood, Vice Chair [ ]  Katie Troumbly, Board Liaison [ ]  Brianna Lindell[x]  Stephanie Andersen [x]  Jill Arvidson [x]  Paula Berger [x]  Vickie Brand[x]  Lisa Hanowski [ ]  Jerri Hiniker [x]  Jessica Kirchoff [x]  Kayla Wohlers  |
| Others Present: Kathy Messerli  |
| Staff Present: Vickie Brand |
| Agenda Item | **Discussion** | **Motion and Vote Follow-Up or Action Item** | **Responsibility** | **Deadline** |
| 1. Call to Order |  |  |  |  |
| 2. Advocacy & MHCA Updates | NAHC -NHPCO Alliance - Dr. Steven Landers will be the new president. Extensive home health experience. Bill Dombi retiring, will be presenting at the annual meeting and saying farewell. **Federal Level:** Revised bill: asking CMS not to move forward with future cuts. Will be sending out blast outs to send messages to congress people this fall. MEDPAC: pushing CMS to do clawbacks **State Level:**Trying to meet w/ managed care health plans regularly. Meeting w/ state Medicaid director scheduled. Workforce Advocacy: scrubs camps promoting health care careers in high school. AI: are any agencies starting to consider AI for productivity, OASIS, etc. Lisa Hanowski: Pulse and MuseKayla Wohlers: Pulse and AI Bots for predictive declines, orders. Jill Arvidson: AI for intake. Looking at Forcura and Worldview. Looked at Metalogic. Co-Pilot in the M365 platform are being used at Allina and Lifespark from an operations perspective. | * AI: Jess will find out what platform Allina providers are trialing in the clinics.
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| 3. Workgroup Resources * HH Order document
* Website review assignment
 |  Reviewed HH Order document and provided feedback Discussion around standing orders in HH: Consensus – Regulations do not support use of standing ordersWebsite Review: **Medicare Regulation Resources Section:**Do we want just current rules/regs/resources OR keep historic links as well? Can we have a folder/location w/ past final rules/links?  | * Jen will send feedback on Order document to Rachel for review and finalization
* Jen will send folder suggestions to Kathy to see if changes can be made
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| 4. [CY 25 HH Proposed Rule](https://public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2024-14254.pdf) | Jen didn’t see Comments come from NAHC re: the 2025 Proposed Rule. OASIS for all: are private pay and non skilled episodes included?Allina asked for clarity in their recommendation response.  | * Kathy will look into NAHC comments. – sent via email for review.
 |  | * Completed during 8/28 meeting
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| 5. RAC Denials using COPs for review (Not admitting within 48 hrs)  | Direction is to appeal. Admitting within 48 hrs should not be part of the RAC review, is Condition of Participation, not a Condition of Payment. RACs are getting aggressive with denials. Message is to appeal to fight back, in attempt to win 2nd level appeal, and collect the data. Lifespark: survey in March – cautioned that they saw a trend in request for delayed admission. No tag but cautioned them.  |  |  |  |
| 6. MAC/[NGS – When Certifying Provider Changes](https://www.ngsmedicare.com/home-health-documentation?lob=93618&state=97186&rgion=93624&selectedArticleId=11274551) | When PCP changes mid-episode, the change in certifying provider needs to be documented in the record. NGS indicates potential for payment denials. No direct guidance given, however seem to be looking for something formal. Can we ask NAHC? Concerns with this requirement: delays in care, F2F concerns, timely DC planning from inpatient facilities, will stretch already limited resources.  | * Jen will reach out to NAHC to see if there is anything that is being looked at re: this change.
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| 7. Nurses Aid Registry Delays | Has anyone had issues/delays getting their HHAs registered? Kayla – did have some HHAs lapse and they did pull from patient care. But have instated an auto reminder process through HR. Allina – there has been a delay in getting re-registrations back timely. Lifespark – they have been seeing up to a 30-day delay. **Question to Group:** Is it required for HHA’s to be on the registry? **Group Consensus**: it’s up to each agency’s policy. Need to follow policy/job description requirementsVickie did reach out to the registry x2 on behalf of MHCA but has not heard back yet | * Vickie will let group know if she hears back from Registry regarding issues
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| 8. Humana Denials  | Rachel: Issues with claims being down coded due to inpatient stay (bill type 223 inpatient part B) billed for the stay, stating its not a qualifying stay Jill: Humana is about 100% record review for claims. Steph: UHC patients were getting billed for copays for home health. Jen: Humana sending takebacks before processing final results letter. One payer (unknown) stating 1 visit = 4 visits, exceeding their visit count, limiting needed patient visits  |  |  |  |
| 9. Open Discussion |  | *
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| 10. Wrap-Up |  |  |  |  |
| 11. Adjournment | Meeting adjourned 2:31pm |  |  |  |
| Next Meeting Date & Location: October 30, 2024 via Zoom |