Al Summary of NMHCA/NMCAL Bi-Weekly HCQS/VBP Meeting – September 3, 2025

The meeting focused on implementing a new healthcare quality surcharge program in New Mexico, which involves three structured measures and requires regular meetings every other week with smaller groups meeting in between to discuss updates and concerns. The group reviewed specific measures for healthcare facilities, including infection control, patient experience, and behavioral health coordination, while discussing upcoming webinars and training sessions with requirements for participation and attendance tracking. Various operational challenges were addressed, including data reporting, privacy concerns, and scheduling issues, with the group agreeing to raise these concerns in upcoming work group meetings and reassess privacy matters after initial discussions with HCA.

New Mexico Healthcare Quality Surcharge

The meeting focused on the implementation of the healthcare quality surcharge program in New Mexico, with Lori Greer-Harris explaining that the program involves three structured measures worth a total of 300 points. Vicente outlined the meeting structure, which will occur every other week, with smaller groups meeting with the Healthcare Authority and NetHealth in between to discuss updates and concerns. The group was reminded to review meeting notes and documents before future discussions, and Lori emphasized the importance of understanding the three measures to ensure compliance and maximize points for members.

Healthcare Facility Structured Measures Review

The meeting focused on structured measures for healthcare facilities, with Pat emphasizing their importance for achieving Tier 4 status. Lori discussed updated ICD-10 codes related to dementia, which are crucial for MDS reporting and funding distribution. The group agreed to address any questions or concerns before proceeding with the main discussion, and Lori was set to share a screen to review the structured measures.

Infection Control Program Training Sessions

The meeting discussed the upcoming three structured measures for the infection control program, patient experience, and behavioral health coordination. Lori explained that nursing staff, including infection control experts, administrators, and social services directors, need to attend 30-minute sessions in September, with specific requirements for participation and attendance. It was emphasized that these sessions are monitored, and participants must be present for the entire duration. The group also discussed the need for administrators or social service directors to lead patient experience discussions, while behavioral health coordination can be led by various staff members, including directors of social services or quality specialists.

New Webinar Program and Attendance

Lgreerharris announced two upcoming webinars on September 19th and 25th, each lasting 90 minutes, where participants must have their cameras on, answer poll questions, and participate in chats. The sessions are part of a new structured measures program, and administrators will need to track attendance and submit attestation in October through PointWrite dashboards, which are still under development. When asked about the status of ECHO

sessions, Igreerharris clarified that while ECHO sessions are not part of this new program, providers can still attend for additional information.

Camera Requirements and Session Scheduling

The group discussed challenges with camera requirements and meeting times for attestation training sessions. Vicente explained that while NMHCA/NMCAL pushed back on these requirements without success, future sessions would be scheduled in the afternoon to better accommodate participants. DeeGipson suggested varying meeting times to accommodate different schedules, while Lori noted that only three sessions were scheduled for the current quarter due to late collaboration between HCA and Net Health. The group agreed to raise concerns about timing and requirements in the upcoming work group meeting, particularly regarding sessions scheduled during holidays and Net Health's availability.

ICD-10 Code Updates for Dementia

The group discussed email registration for meetings and clarified that individual emails should be sent to participants. They reviewed updated ICD-10 codes for dementia and behavior issues, effective October 2022, and agreed to distribute the new codes to membership. Lori shared that the updated measures for MDS I-8000 would be F02.811, F02.818, F03.911, and F03.918, and Pat mentioned these would be included in the bulletin.

Enhancing Data Tracking for Redistribution

The group discussed the need for better reporting and data tracking in PointRight to accurately identify residents eligible for high-acuity add-on redistribution. David suggested requesting quarterly data from the association to validate redistribution and track money left on the table due to unmet quality metrics. Vicente clarified that the reset program is not structured on a bell curve, aiming to allow all facilities the opportunity to achieve Tier 1 status, though some subjective measures may prevent some facilities from reaching this tier.

DeeGipson's Care Compare Score Dilemma

The group discussed DeeGipson's unique situation of not having a Care Compare score due to a recent change in licensing status, which resulted in the loss of historical survey data. David acknowledged this was an unusual case and offered to advocate on DeeGipson's behalf, noting that the lack of a score could impact funding tiers. The group also discussed changes to the antipsychotic medication measure in the new program, which will be monitored rather than scored, and DeeGipson shared her experience managing residents on antipsychotic medications while maintaining their quality of life.

Healthcare Data Privacy Strategy Meeting

The meeting focused on discussing concerns and strategies related to data sharing and privacy with healthcare authorities. Lori encouraged participants to contact Net Health for guidance on hospitalization point measures. Dee expressed concerns about involving families and residents in facility discussions due to potential negative reactions. Pat and David highlighted the need to address privacy issues, such as HIPAA compliance, during the upcoming meeting with HCA. The group agreed to reassess these concerns after the first call with HCA in two weeks.

Next Steps

- 1. Vicente to request meeting invites for the September structured measure sessions from HCA and share with members.
- 2. Vicente to bring up concerns about meeting times to the HCA work group, suggesting varying times for future sessions.
- 3. Vicente to ask HCA about the camera requirement and technical difficulties during sessions.
- 4. Vicente to request HCA to provide dates for October, November, and December sessions as soon as possible.
- 5. Lori to review PointRight reports to see if there's information about high acuity residents.
- 6. Vicente to ask HCA/PointRight if they can provide reports showing residents who trigger high acuity add-on.
- 7. Vicente/NMHCA to distribute the updated ICD-10 codes for dementia to all members.
- 8. Pat to include the updated ICD-10 codes in the bulletin.
- 9. Vicente/Work Group to bring up Dee's question about facilities without Care Compare scores.
- 10. Vicente to take notes from this meeting and send them to the entire group.
 - 11. Pat to ask HCA about privacy safeguards for information shared during structured measure sessions.

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Felix Agosto Calibre Post Acute Maintenance Director

Nicole

Nicole Andujo La Vida Llena **Health Services Administrator**

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