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Bulletin Board Newsletter Michigan Home Health Association



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Board of Directors

Jill Roby-Snyder

◆ When we hear about enforcement action being taken against unscrupulous individuals involved in the home care industry, it reinforces the importance of MHHA continuing to maintain a high standard Code of Ethics by our members. It was just last summer that the US Department of Justice served indictments to individuals operating home care agencies here in Michigan for Medicare fraud and more recently announced convictions. Well this past week, Federal enforcement action resulted in action of federal agencies and state law enforcement after a Texas doctor and the owners of five home health care agencies were charged with \$375 million in fraud against Medicare and Medicaid. Just as we did last summer, I once again commend federal officials for their swift enforcement action, this time in Texas. On behalf of the Michigan Home Health Association, I congratulate the US Department of Justice and the Department of Health & Human Services for taking decisive action to stop the alleged fraudulent diversion of Medicare funds away from vulnerable patients in need. Curbing fraud and abuse of home care patients is why MHHA remains committed to licensure of home care agencies in our state. ◆ Kristyn Gall, CFO of Optimal Care represents MHHA at DOJ Anti-Fraud Task Force meeting here in Michigan. Thank you Kristyn, we appreciate the important work you do representing MHHA members at these meetings. ◆ On March 25 - 27, MHHA members will meet in Washington DC for scheduled meetings with our Michigan Congressional Delegation to convey the MHHA home care public policy priorities. If you would like to join us, please let Barry Cargill or I know of your interest so we can answer your questions and hopefully have you join us for these important meetings. The event is in cooperation with the National Association of Homecare and Hospice and MHHA members are joining with others across the nation for the NAHC "March on Washington". ◆ April 19th is the State Legislative Day in Lansing. Hope you will join us at 10:30, in room 404 of the State Capitol for this annual event. This event is free but we request that you register so we have a lunch count. Find a registration form on the homepage of the MHHA website, www.mhha.org or the MHHA Events page.

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Rehab

Ruth Benjamin

◆ The Rehab Committee did not meet in February. ◆ Next meeting: Thursday March 15th with Clinical Ops. Please send agenda items to Ruth at ruth.benjamin@midmichigan.org. Hope to see you there!

Membership

Barbara Serra

◆ The membership survey data is complete. Edge Partnership is finishing up the phone interviews and collating the data from the non-member surveys. We hope to have a complete report by the April Board of Directors meeting.

Please help me welcome our new members!

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Reimbursement

Chris Kisell & Amy Gil

◆ The Reimbursement Committee is excited to have Linda Rutman at the March 21st Committee meeting to speak on legislative changes, models of care and health care reform. The committee meeting starts at 9:30 and Linda will join us at 11:00 for an hour presentation followed by a question and answer period from 12:00-1:00. If you are planning on attending please send me an email at Christopher.Kisell@stjohn.org so that I can track attendance. Thank you! ◆ The Reimbursement Committee met in person on February 15, 2012. We discussed the next benchmarking which will be for the period of January-March 2012. The data will be due by the first week of May and the results will be available at the Annual Conference. ◆ Also discussed at the meeting were dual eligibles, issues with 5010 and other relevant topics. ◆ Healthcare and reimbursement are in a time of change, we urge agencies to join us to stay informed. If you have questions or topics, please send them to Amy or I and we'll get them on the agenda. Let's share the knowledge and work together to solve our issues. ◆ If you would like more information I can be reached by email at Christopher.Kisell@stjohn.org or by phone at (586)-753-0139. Chris Kisell, Chair of Reimbursement Committee. Amy Gil, Co-chair can be reached by e-mail at Agil@uhhs.org or by phone at (734) 981-8820.

Hospice

Rene Wheaton & Laura Bonde

◆ The next Hospice Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 7, 2012.

Regulatory

Joan Taylor & Paula Stopjik

◆ The Regulatory Committee members continue to identify issues with face-to-face requirements and have concerns regarding the amount of resources that is dedicated to obtain the documentation. Several agencies have difficulty obtaining the documentation from physicians; none of the agencies in attendance are without concerns and are facing financial impact from the face-to-face requirement. Suggested that a request to NAHC be made to look at concerns of patient access from the patient's side not the agencies side - and take the concern to March on Washington. The OASIS Q & A released on January 13, 2012 provides some clarification on late face-to-face encounters. This clarification statement will put the agency at risk for LUPAs or problems with resetting the therapy visit counts for assessments. ◆ The Committee completed the review and discussion of the survey protocol. ◆ There were several hot topics for discussion. ICD-10 will become part of the standing meeting agendas. We suggest agencies budget expenses for education and increased labor expenses for coding. CHAPS has decided to hold changes in standards until they involve stakeholders. Most of the agencies in attendance have received and completed request for re-validation from CMS. There is an option to do on paper or PECOS, attendees stated that PECOS not working and suggest doing documentation on paper. ◆ **Next meeting is March 15, 2012** following Clinical Operations meeting at the MHHA office. State Legislative day is on April 19, 2012. It was decided that the Regulatory meeting will be deferred and committee members are encouraged to attend the State Legislative day, more details to be provided at the March meeting.

IV/Infection Control

Deb Opalowski & Rachel Aultman

◆ The IV/Infection Control Subcommittee continues to work on updating and reformatting the IV procedure manual. The purpose of the project is to ensure the manual has the most current Intravenous Nurses Society standards of practice reflected. The team did not meet in February, but will meet after Clinical Operations on Thursday 3/15/2012. If you have any questions or would like to join the group or contribute to this project, please contact the MHHA office.



Education

Deb Holman

◆ The Education Committee continues to work on planning the MHHA Annual Conference. ◆ Mark your Calendars! MHHA has scheduled another ICD-9 Coding Workshop for March 26 & 27, 2012 and a third day on March 28th on ICD-10 preparations. MHHA will be holding a “Blueprint for OASIS” workshop on April 25th and 26th with testing on the 27th. MHHA has re-scheduled the Corporate Compliance Workshop for Home Health to June 19th. ◆ Please submit any other workshop ideas or speakers to thelen.cindy@mhha.org if you think it would be of great interest to the membership. We want to host trainings that the membership needs and wants.

Public Policy

Linda Rutman & John Ruswinckel & Michael Bartz

◆ Last Month, the Public Policy Committee reported our recommendation for the National Policy Priorities and this month the Committee met to recommend the State Policy Priorities. State Priorities for 2012 are:

- Support SB 221 (Mark Jansen, R-28) to require licensure of the home care industry in Michigan.
- Oppose HB 4936 and other efforts to amend Auto No-Fault by reducing Personal Injury Protection (PIP) coverage and to impose unreasonable reimbursement fees for in-home services.
- Restore the companionship exemption for in-home services.
- Support adequate reimbursement rates for Medicaid providers of home care, home medical equipment and Children’s Special Health Care Services (CSHCS).
- Support of Michigan’s Medicaid MI Choice Waiver Program.
- Prohibit single source health care provider contracts.

◆ On April 19, MHHA members are invited to our State Legislative Day where we will convey the above issues to our state elected leaders. We meet at 10:30 in room 404 of the State Capitol for a quick briefing on the issues and at 11:00, we will host a lunch in the West Wing of the State Capitol for our legislators and members of their staff. There is no cost to MHHA members but we ask that you register so we can order food and also so you can let us know who your state leaders are. Register from the MHHA Home Page at www.mhha.org or on the MHHA Events page. ◆ March 25 - 27. Join MHHA members for the National Association of Homecare & Hospice “March on Washington”. Contact the MHHA office for more details and to let us know if you will participate. ◆ The Public Policy Committee meets regularly via teleconference at 10 a.m. on the first Friday of each month. We hope you will feel welcome to join us as a member of the Committee.

Private Duty

Thomas Mann & Sheila Doeden

◆ The Private Duty Committee held a teleconference meeting on Tuesday February 21, 2012. Several members participated. Barry Cargill provided the Executive Director report that included reminders of several key dates and functions important to MHHA and private duty:

1. NAHC March on Washington – March 25-27
2. MHHA Legislative Day – April 19, 2012
3. MHHA Annual Conference – May 23-25

MHHA has identified 7 priority issues to be outlined as the talking points for the NAHC March on Washington. One of the issues addresses the companionship exemption. This will be a focal point in discussion with our federal and state legislatures. ◆ The licensing bill continues to remain in motion. MHHA does support adding Registry’s to the bill. Initially Registries were not included in the bill as some thought it may cause some unnecessary controversy. However, after discussions with the NPDA and MHHA it was concluded that Registry’s should be included as part of the bill. ◆ Auto No-Fault reform continues to progress. Concerns regarding changes to PIP coverage and fee schedules are the focal point. It appears the insurance industry is willing to make some compromises to their initial stance; however, any changes are to be determined at this point. The Hospital Association has been instrumental in supporting CPAN and the prevention of Auto No-Fault reform. ◆ The MHHA membership survey has been completed. The Board of Directors has reviewed the preliminary results and is working with Edge Partnership to correlate the information. The information will be used to determine an enhanced focus on the value MHHA provides its members, and to serve as a foundation for the MHHA Strategic Plan. ◆ Tom Rowley and Sheila Doeden reported that the PD Reimbursement SubCommittee will progress as a standing agenda item on the main PD Committee agenda. The Sub-committee will continue its relationship with the standing reimbursement committee by attending their monthly meeting and providing updates as it relates to private duty services. ◆ A speaker on Healthcare Exchanges in Michigan will hopefully be available to present at the PD meeting in March. ◆ Private duty members were asked to consider serving on the MHHA Education Committee. There is currently one individual serving on the Education Committee with a focus on private duty, but another member would be great. Any private duty member interested in serving on this committee should contact Cindy Thelen at the MHHA office or Deb Holman (chair of the Education Committee). It will be a main priority of the Private Duty Committee to enhance the educational offerings to its members. Having good representation on the Education Committee will be very important. ◆ The next Private Duty Committee meeting will be held in Okemos on Tuesday March 20, 2012 at 12:30pm.



Clinical Operations

Shari Wilson & Donna Kleinschmit

◆ The Clinical Operations Committee met February 16, 2012 at 9:30 at the MHHA office. ◆ NGS - Met on February 29, 2012. ◆ MDLARA - Rick Brummett provided follow up regarding DME competitive bidding and dilemma related to need for pharmacy license in state for oxygen and respiratory meds that most DME companies were not aware of. ◆ Senate Bill 221, licensing bill, still alive; MDLARA needs to address staffing and financial resources. ◆ The long term care insurance companies have in their contracts that the services must be provided by a licensed agency. The State of Michigan is at a disadvantage because of the lack of licensing. Barry requested letter be generated by MDLARA and addressed to MHHA stating that there is no licensing in the State of Michigan for in home nursing services. This letter could then be provided to the insurance companies requesting information on licensed agencies. A meeting is to be scheduled with Larry Horvath, Jill Roby Snyder (MHHA Board President) and Barry Cargill to further discuss. ◆ One home care complaint and 9 hospice complaints; most regarding 24/7 availability. ◆ Home Health Survey approve 16 with 94 pending; Hospice has 3 surveys in the cue for licensing. Question: Is MDLARA involved when a hospice house voluntarily closes with response: Only if there are nursing home beds associated to the hospice house. ◆ OSCAR report distributed. ◆ Kathryn Haldimand and Dierdre Laviolette new Health Care Surveyors in training. A surveyor will attend future MDLARA liaison meetings. Currently complaints surveyed are being triaged and scheduled according to severity. Question: Patient had Medicaid - Patient is going to outpatient therapy for total knee replace. Can home health agency provide home infusion care for pneumonia? Rick will follow up with Joyce Hight regarding Medicaid coverage. Question: What does an agency do when they have concern regarding the appropriateness of the surveyor during a survey by MDLARA? The agency should contact Rick Brummett at: rwbrumm@michigan.gov or 517-241-3831. ◆ BCBSM: Refer to Michael Bartz's documentation in last months issues of the Committee Bulletin Board. ◆ IVTherapy/Infection Control: No February meeting. ◆ Rehab Subcommittee: At Annual Conference: One full day focused on therapies. ½ day with Arnie Cisneros and ½ day LSVT BIG and LOUD. Refer to APTA website for clarification regarding functional reassessment. ◆ New Business: State Legislative Day April 19, 2012: Will determine at the next Clinical Operations meeting if car-pooling or getting a bus to transport to the Capital Building is an option. ◆ NAHC Report on February 9, 2012: Medicare RACs Begin Focus on Home Health. ◆ No Survey Reports to date. ◆ Agenda Additions: BCBSM Survey-previous experiences shared with the group. ◆ Next meeting: March 15, 2012.

Ethics

Sue Clemen-Stone

◆ The Committee is currently reviewing committee documents including the Code of Ethics, Patient's Rights and Responsibilities and the Resource Document for Developing Policies and Procedures related to Ethics for Home Care. These documents can be reviewed on the MHHA website. Membership input is welcome and desired. ◆ Committee is also discussing ways to recruit members to the Committee and needs assistance from the membership.

Complex Rehab

Michael Barner

◆ The Complex Rehab Committee met earlier this month and recommended support for a separate benefit category for complex rehabilitation technology products. The proposal received favorable support from MHHA's HME and Public Policy Committees and Board support is expected at the March 8th meeting. Legislation will soon be introduced in the Congress to establish the separate benefit category to recognize the customized nature of the technology and the broad range of services necessary to meet the unique medical and functional needs of people with complex medical conditions. The current Medicare home medical equipment benefit cannot adequately differentiate complex rehab technology and the related services required. MHHA will partner with AA Homecare and the National Coalition for Assistive and Rehab Technology (NCAR) to help pass this important legislation. We will alert you when the legislation is introduced and what you can do to help pass this important Medicare change for CRT. ◆ Discussions continue with MHDC's Lisa Trumbel who is heading up the labor reimbursement work group for the Department. Some top concerns being discussed are:

- Payment for repair labor on all items regardless if there is a HCPCS or fee schedule established.
- Establish a standardized labor rate manual for repair labor hours.
- Rental payment for "loaner" equipment during a repair episode.
- Service fee for "In-Home" service calls.

Lisa will establish future meeting dates/times for further work on this issue. ◆ MDCH Liaison. The following dates are for the next MDCH - DME Liaison meetings:

- Monday, April 9, 2012
- Monday, July 9, 2012
- October 8, 2012



HME/Infusion Pharmacy

Matt Metzger & Julie Johnson

◆ Medicare Competitive Bidding Timeline Update 3/30/2012
60-day bid window closes. Please go to www.dmecompetitivebid.com for the full details. VGM Website continues to provide valuable information on Competitive Bid information such as subcontracting at: <http://www.vgmnCBServices.com> ◆ AAHomecare. We continue to participate with AAHomecare in discussion regarding Competitive Bidding Options. ◆ **Report Any Problems Associated with Payers.** Please report any problems regarding Payers that you believe may affect all members to Barry Cargill. While individual problems should be handled with individual carriers, you can certainly report any issues you believe we as a membership should address as a common problem of all providers, i.e., such as BCBSM, Medicaid, Medicare and the like. Your HME Chairs along with MHHA staff will determine if they need attention at Liaison meetings with that particular carrier. ◆ **Next HME meeting in March.** Next HME Teleconference on Monday, March 19, 2012 at 10 a.m. Notice will be sent with phone number, etc.

PAC

Larry Treece

◆ Greetings to all PAC supporters, friends, neighbors, or anyone who supports the efforts of MHHA. I'm sure most of you are following the politics of Michigan closely as we just finished a Republican Primary. Romney won but I think we ALL won as we had the opportunity to see what is on the minds of Politicians. What are the ISSUES...and what direction will Home Care go....will OBAMA Care go forward? Regardless we must be ready. We are monitoring many issues at MHHA.....Public Policy met last Friday and we all will continue to put our message forward to support HOME CARE in Michigan. ◆ REQUEST: Consider donating to the PAC Silent Auction that will be held at the Annual Conference in May. It is our one major fundraiser of the year and we need your participation and support to make it a success. Consider tickets to sports and other events, gift baskets of any kind, jewelry, unique items, purses and bags. Help make this year's auction the best yet. Please e-mail me at: ccgpresident@aol.com or complete the form at the MHHA office if you can participate and help out in any way. ◆ *"On March 8, the MHHA PAC is a co-sponsor for a fundraising reception being held for State Representative Chuck Moss. Representative Moss is the Chair of the House Appropriations Committee and a good friend of MHHA. MHHA Member Greg Jamian is an organizer of this event and we appreciate his involving MHHA as a co-sponsor. My hat goes off to Greg for his active political engagement with legislators and setting an example for MHHA members and the home care industry. Any member wishing to attend the Representative Moss fundraiser should Contact Barry at the MHHA office Cargill.barry@mhha.org for information about the event being held in 6 - 8pm in Bloomfield Hills tomorrow. "*



MHHA Newsletter Links of Interest

[The Aide's Role in Recognizing Signs/Symptoms of Heart Attack Teleconference](#) - March 8, 2012

[Hospice Education - Caring for the Stroke Patient in Hospice](#) - March 13, 2012

[The Art of ICD-9 & 10 Coding for Home Health](#) - March 26-29, 2012

[Home Health Aide Test - Detroit](#) - April 4, 2012

[24th Annual MHHA State Legislative Day](#) - April 19, 2012

[Blueprint for OASIS Accuracy - Two Day Workshop and Exam](#) - April 25-27, 2012

[MHHA Annual Conference Registration](#) - May 23-25, 2012

[Home Health Corporate Compliance Workshop](#) - June 19, 2012

MDCH Questions Needed

<http://m360.mhha.org/admin/forms/ViewForm.aspx?id=28910>

NGS Questions Needed

<http://m360.mhha.org/admin/forms/ViewForm.aspx?id=28911>

BCBS Call for Questions

<http://m360.mhha.org/admin/forms/ViewForm.aspx?id=28912>

Additional Events

<https://m360.mhha.org/ViewCalendar.aspx>

Additional Links of Interest

<http://mhha.org/displayassociationlinks.cfm>

MHHA March Committee Calendar

[Hospice Committee Meeting](#) – March 7, 2012

[Board of Director's Meeting](#) – March 8, 2012

[HME Committee Teleconference](#) – March 19, 2012

[Private Duty Committee Meeting](#)- March 20, 2012

[Reimbursement Committee Meeting](#) – March 21, 2012

[Clinical Operations Committee Meeting](#) – March 15, 2012

[Regulatory Committee Meeting](#) – March 15, 2012

[Ethics Committee](#) –March 19, 2012

[Education Committee Meeting](#) – March 22, 2012

[Public Policy Teleconference](#) – April 6, 2012