Minutes for the January 13, 2017 Meeting of the MSSNY-HCA Task Force

Attendees
Evelyn Dooley-Seidman, MD
Jay Slotkin, MD
Anne Calvo
Marianne Grady
Michelle Mazzacco
Sandy Merlino
Elizabeth Zicari
Al Cardillo, HCA Staff
Moe Auster, MSSNY staff

The minutes of the November 18, 2016 meeting were approved.

WASHINGTON UPDATE
Al Cardillo noted that there could be opportunities for revision to the Medicare and Medicaid F2F requirements with a new Administration but unclear at this point.

Al also noted the recent adoption of burdensome new Medicare Conditions of Participation requirements that will become effective on July 1, 2017.

Dr. Dooley highlighted that these new requirements were another reason why it was necessary to be sure that Nurse Practitioners be permitted to sign orders for home care. Al noted that Senator Schumer had advanced such legislation. Dr. Dooley also discussed concerns with requirements for how quickly a physician must see a home care patient after certification.

Pam Joachim noted that these requirements don’t prohibit the service but prohibit collecting payment. Al noted that these requirements place new time pressures on physicians that will drive them away from recommending home care for patients. Dr. Slotkin re-iterated the importance of addressing these burdens for both physicians and home care agencies.

Dr. Slotkin asked about HCA efforts to quantify home care services that go unpaid. Al noted that HCA had used unpaid claims data from several agencies to highlight to CMS and Medicaid the practical consequences of these requirements.

Follow-Up Activity: Moe will reach out to AMA and American Academy of Home Care Medicine (Dr. Slotkin provided contact info) to assess if efforts to redress F2F and other administrative burdens on physicians are being actively pursued, and the status of these efforts. Moe will also continue to coordinate with Al regarding HCA efforts on a national level.

UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF MEDICAID F2F
Al discussed HCA meetings with the NYS Health Department regarding efforts to ease the requirements associated with the July 1 implementation of the F2F requirement for Medicaid patients. He noted their advocacy that patients enrolled in Medicaid Managed Care plans be exempted from the F2F, similar to patients enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans. He noted that we should advocate that managed care be liberally construed to incorporate patients served by ACOs or through a DSRIP Performing Provider System (PPS). He indicated that he would like to work with MSSNY to develop a document that
articulated a proposed series of criteria and circumstances where a patient would not be subject to the Medicaid F2F requirement.

Both Dr. Dooley and Anne Calvo expressed concerns regarding differential treatment based upon which insurance a patient had. Moe noted that the goal would be to frame the removal of these burdensome requirements in the context of programs the NYSDOH were advancing. He also noted that before any letter was sent it would be shared with the Task Force.

**Follow Up Activity:** Moe will work with Al to put together a document articulating this set of circumstances when F2F documentation would not be required for Medicaid patients.

**UPDATE ON CMS PROBE AND EDUCATE ACTIVITIES**
Al noted a recent CMS "probe and educate" activity which are designed to remind home care agencies and physicians of specific CMS requirements. Al suggested that HCA develop an article that MSSNY could include within its newsletters to physicians reminding physicians of various requirements inherent when their patients receive home care services. Al also noted activities coordinated with HANYS earlier this year to get CMS to provide an educational webinar.

Elizabeth Zicari noted that it was important that county medical societies also publish this information for their member physicians. Dr. Slotkin strongly agreed with the requirements that physician be better educated. Pam Joachim stated concerns with the pre-admission requirement of which physicians needed to be better educated.

**Follow Up Activity:** HCA to provide MSSNY with information for a MSSNY e-news and News of New York article regarding the subjects of these "Probe and Educate" Initiatives.

**ENHANCED COMMUNICATIONS**
Al noted that he had invited MSSNY staff and physicians to be part of the HCA HIT Committee, the next meeting of which will occur in February.

Al discussed recent legislation advocated for by AARP that had increased discharge planning requirements on hospitals. This prompted a discussion regarding working with the hospitals to standardize the information in their HIT systems that will be make it easier for physicians to complete the necessary certifications for home care eligibility. Sandy Merlino suggested that we bring this request to the Greater New York Hospital Association. Pam noted that the key is physician buy-in.

**VALUE-BASED PAYMENT INITIATIVES**
Al noted the likely re-introduction of the Hannon-Gunther legislation to facilitate collaboration between physicians, hospitals and home care, as well as his goal to seek funding for similar projects in the State Budget.

**FOLLOW UP**
The group agreed that the Task Force members would meet again on Friday, February 10.

The meeting ended at 1:20 PM