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## Meeting summary for HME Committee (04/09/2025)

### Next steps

- *Laura to follow up with Trixie from Blue Cross on the status of configuring their systems for the CPAP RUL update.*
- *Beth to check on the outcome of the CPAP audit they tried using the 5-year loophole.*
- *Laura to compile new topics for the annual Blue Cross meeting.*
- *Melissa to send Mary Ellen the email about Northwood Blue Cross accounts showing no DME coverage.*
- *Mary Ellen to contact Amy at Availity about misleading copay and deductible information.*
- *All attendees to use the AAHomecare website to send letters to representatives supporting HR 2005 (75/25 bill).*
- *Laura to continue working with Senator Sylvia Santana's office on the CPAP supplies and 8% fee cut budget requests.*
- *Laura to meet with lobbyists to work on the house side for CPAP supplies and 8% fee cut issues.*
- *Laura to distribute the notes from the Michigan Medicaid liaison meeting once received.*
- *All attendees to be prepared for potential future competitive bidding for CGM, ostomy, and urological supplies.*

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### Summary

### Blue Cross Cost-Cutting and System Updates

Laura reported that Blue Cross is currently undergoing a 600 million dollars cost-cutting effort, focusing on hospitals, and there are no expected increases in their costs. Laura also mentioned that Blue Cross is working on updating their system to count from the delivery date of DME equipment instead of the end of the 13-month capped rental. However, they are still experiencing issues with this configuration. Beth mentioned that she tried to use a loophole for a CPAP audit but hasn't followed up yet.

Melissa indicated there is a new provider rep for Grand Rapids. Her name is Leah Moore.

Laura also noted that they need to schedule an annual meeting with Blue Cross, but they need to bring up new issues that weren't discussed in the last meeting. We created a list on the call of these items:

- *EXL Audits*
- *PA/NP not allowed for Diabetic supplies*
- *Call center wait times, inability to understand with the accent, inability to understand and respond accurately to the reason for the calls*
- *3% vs 4% in Oxygen Policy*
- *Availity showing Northwood but No DME benefits in the portal inaccurately*

### **Education Committee**

Cindy provided an update on the Education Committee, including the availability of conference registration, the deadline for overnight room reservations, and the announcement of scholarship and spirit of caring winners.

### **IT Subcommittee and Legislative Updates**

The meeting focused on the IT Subcommittee and legislative updates. The IT Subcommittee hasn't had a meeting yet.

The legislative updates were discussed, with a particular emphasis on the HR 2005 bill and the potential impact of tariffs on pricing. The group also discussed the new advocacy and policy layout on the AAHome Care website and the need for increased awareness on federal rules without public comment

periods. The group thanked Beth for bringing the Aetna CPAP issue to their attention, which has been put on hold at Aetna for review.

In the meeting, Laura and Mary Ellen discussed the absence of Ashley and covered the topic well.

### **Michigan Budget Process**

Laura discussed the ongoing budget process and her requests to increase CPAP supplies to Medicare levels and rescind the 8% fee cuts in DME. She mentioned meeting with lobbyists to work on these issues and the budget process's expected completion in September. Laura also addressed the Department of Health and Human Services' stance on CPAP supplies, stating they believe their current offerings are appropriate and Medicare is too generous. She plans to work with Senator Sylvia Santana to address the disparity in treatment between Medicaid and other populations.

### **CRT Implementation and Revalidation Issues**

Laura discussed the receptiveness of a member of the Legislative Department to their argument. Laura also mentioned the implementation of CRT on the Michigan Medicaid website, which now includes a directory for CRT providers. Melissa confirmed her inclusion on the Medicaid provider list. The CRT committee was removed from the agenda as its main goal was to pass legislation, which has been implemented.

Melissa and Mary Ellen discussed a revalidation issue with NOVITAS, which was resolved.

The open infusion seat on the board was discussed, with no nominations received.

### **Induction and Future Meeting Plans**

Melissa was inducted into the Hall of Fame, and Laura mentioned that they would honor her at their awards luncheon. The team also discussed their involvement in future meetings. Mary Ellen expressed relief at completing the meeting on time and hoped for no tornado in Kalamazoo. The meeting ended with thanks and good wishes for the rest of the day.