

## **LeadingAge NY raises PRI audit issues with OMIG**

In a Jan. 18 meeting with LeadingAge NY, officials from the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG) indicated they are reexamining the bases for some of the disallowances identified in previous draft audits of nursing home Patient Review Instruments (PRIs).

OMIG is now in the process of issuing revised draft PRI audits and conducting exit conferences with several facilities. Among the PRI audit issues LeadingAge NY raised with OMIG were: (1) Primary medical condition; (2) toileting assistance; (3) physician visits; (4) therapy services; and (5) the dementia add-on. OMIG indicated they are reviewing their initial findings on these and other issues, and that the revised draft audits will provide greater detail on the bases for proposed reclassifications of residents' RUG scores and overturn some of the findings.

This recent activity follows a Nov. 1 ruling by the Appellate Division of the NYS Supreme Court upholding OMIG's authority to audit PRIs, even though DOH had previously prescribed an audit process and engaged an audit contractor (i.e., IPRO). The court did confirm that individual facilities can challenge PRI audit findings.

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