

***Workers' Compensation
Medical Services Review Committee
Meeting Minutes***

June 15, 2018

I. Call to order

Director Marx, acting as Chair of the Medical Services Review Committee, called the Committee to order at 10:05 am on Friday, June 15, 2018, in Anchorage, Alaska.

II. Roll call

Director Marx conducted a roll call. The following Committee members were present, constituting a quorum:

Vince Beltrami
Jennifer House
Misty Steed

Dr. Mary Ann Foland
Tammi Lindsey
Dr. Christopher Twiford

Dr. Robert Hall
Pam Scott

III. Introduction of New Members and Guests

Each member introduced themselves and provided a brief background of their experience and affiliation.

Director Marx introduced Carla Gee with Optum, and Bill Soule, Chief of Adjudications. Workers' Compensation Board Members Pam Cline, Bronson Frye, and Dave Kester were also present to observe the meeting.

Member House noted that the MSRC committee roster should list her affiliation as Foundation Health. Director Marx made the correction to the committee roster.

IV. Approval of Agenda

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by member Beltrami and seconded by member Foland. The agenda was adopted unanimously.

V. Review of Minutes

Director Marx noted there were no minutes to review, because the minutes from the July 28, 2017 MSRC meeting had already been approved at the August 4, 2017 Special Joint Meeting of the MSRC and Workers' Compensation Board.

VI. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

VII. Fee Schedule Guidelines Development Discussion

Director Marx showed where minutes and agendas from previous MSRC meetings can be found on the Workers' Compensation website, and where relevant statistics can be found in the Division's Annual Report.

The committee reviewed the list of Action Items.

VIII. Fee Schedule Guidelines Development Discussion Cont.

The committee began discussion of the Action Items.

Item 1:

Carla with Optum described the geographic practice cost index (GPCI), and gave examples from other states. The committee decided that rounding should occur only after the conversion factor has been applied, and that the number should be rounded to the nearest two decimal places. Carla will include examples in the next draft fee schedule.

Item 4:

The committee discussed whether or not the fee schedule guidelines should note that Mt. Edgecombe is now a critical access hospital. Critical access hospitals are federally regulated, and are not subject to the Alaska WC Medical Fee Schedule. Carla suggested to include the note in the Inpatient section, and the committee agreed.

Item 3:

Carla explained Clinical Laboratory (CLAB) suggested changes. The committee briefly discussed the issue. In a future meeting Carla will provide additional analysis and the committee will return to this item.

Item 5:

Carla provided examples of hearing aid payment rules from other states. The committee discussed a few options, but will need more data before making a decision. Carla will provide additional analysis at a future meeting, and the committee will return to this issue.

Item 9:

The committee discussed and clarified that Maximum Allowable Reimbursement (MAR) was intended to mean the physician fee schedule maximum allowable amount. At a future meeting, Carla will present options on how to best articulate this in the Fee Schedule.

Item 2:

The committee reviewed the difference in multiple procedure payment reduction (MPPR) between Medicare and Alaska Fee Schedule, specifically related to endoscopy procedures. Carla will provide examples at a future meeting, and the committee will return to this issue.

Item 8:

Alaska has limited options for long-term non-acute care, which results in extended inpatient hospital stays. The current fee schedule does not provide for additional reimbursement in this situation. Member House will review the issue further.

Item 6:

The committee discussed why some of the “Q” modifier codes, but not all, are included in the Anesthesia section of the Fee Schedule. The committee clarified that their intent was to

include all of them. Carla will add the remaining Q codes to the next draft of the Fee Schedule.

Lunch 1:01pm – 2:14pm

Item 7:

Member Steed provided a graph demonstrating physical therapy codes as billed by different types of providers. The data shows that a large portion of PT codes are billed by Physical Therapists, and the committee discussed whether or not a carve-out should be made to allow physical therapists to bill at 100% of the physician MAR.

The committee recapped arguments that had been made in previous meetings, such as that many states do allow physical therapists to bill at 100%, however they have implemented utilization and frequency rules that Alaska does not have.

The committee declined to take action on this item.

Item 2:

Carla provided a general overview of multiple procedure payment reduction (MPPR). Similar to the endoscopic issue discussed earlier, the committee needs to clarify if the current “blanket” MPPR rules cover everything, or are there some exceptions where CMS rules apply. This gray area has resulted in some disputes, primarily regarding physical therapy. Carla will create a grid of Alaska vs CMS rules in individual service areas, to assist the committee in resolving this issue.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2018. This meeting will be telephonic for those members outside of Anchorage.

Meeting Adjourned 2:53 pm