

***Workers' Compensation***  
***Medical Services Review Committee***  
***Meeting Minutes***  
May 21, 2021

**I. Call to order**

Director Collins, Chair of the Medical Services Review Committee, called the Committee to order at 9:03 am on Friday, May 21, 2021. The meeting was held by telephone and video conference.

**II. Roll call**

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

Vince Beltrami	Dr. Mary Ann Foland	Dr. Robert Hall	Jennifer House
Timothy Kanady	Susan Kosinski	Pam Scott	Misty Steed

Director Collins introduced senior staff present, and Carla Gee and Nan Orme with Optum.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

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

**IV. Review of Minutes**

The August 11, 2020 minutes were previously approved at the August 28, 2020 joint meeting. There were no minutes to approve.

**V. Fee Schedule Guidelines Development Discussion**

Director Collins stepped through the 2022 Fee Schedule Issues for Consideration.

Member Steed suggested that the committee review utilization of code 92633 for auditory rehabilitation / post-lingual hearing loss. Carla stated that Optum data may not be available, however member Foland suggested that the committee members research within their organizations.

The committee discussed the public health emergency code, 99072, and whether the code needed to be clarified for future use. Although the code is being abused by some providers, the committee was hesitant to limit the code beyond CMS rules. Member Foland commented that these expenses are considered the cost of doing business and are generally should not be billed to the insurance company. Member Steed suggested capping the code. Committee members will research this further and continue the discussion at a future meeting.

Member Kosinski asked if the Division's Annual Report could be provided. Director Collins explained that the 2020 annual report data was still being audited, however the 2019 report would be included in the next meeting packet.

## **VI. Director's Report**

Director Collins provided an overview of pending legislation that may impact the Alaska Medical Fee Schedule, upcoming changes from CMS and AMA, and the Alaska Workers' Compensation COVID-19 statistics to date.

*Break 10:00 am – 10:15 am*

## **VII. Public Comment**

Malan Paquette – representing self

- Promotes anti-fraud resources from the Federal trade commission, Crime Stoppers, certified fraud examiners, and other anti-fraud agencies.
- Urged the committee to consider fraud prevention in the medical community.
- Commented on the 2021 cruise ship season in Alaska.

Allison Leigh – representing self

- Made complaints and allegations against Director Collins, the Division's annual report, and a number of other individuals and entities.

## **VIII. Fee Schedule Guidelines Development Discussion Continued**

Member Steed provided an update on the Drug Formulary workgroup, in partnership with the Workers' Compensation Board. The workgroup continues to make progress and intends to present their report at the October Board meeting.

The committee discussed treatment guidelines. Director Collins provided a history of the treatment guidelines workgroup. Member Kosinski and member Scott stated their support for treatment guidelines.

Carla Gee suggested a few improvements to the Fee Schedule for clarification and readability regarding TENS Units and durable medical equipment. Member House motioned to accept the revised language defining the markup at 20% and member Steed seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Optum will add the revised language to the draft 2022 Fee Schedule.

Member Steed brought forth an issue that hearing aid testing was being billed separately from evaluations. Member Steed motioned that testing be added to the hearing aid section as part of the bundled first year of treatment and that the reevaluations that are done when getting a new set of hearing aids needs to be done by a physician. Member Kosinski seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Optum will add the revised language to the draft 2022 Fee Schedule.

Carla Gee brought forth an issue with the online pricer tool, that reimbursement is drastically different if a provider subtracts the expense of implant or not, which determines whether it is an outlier service. Carla asked if the committee wished to add language to clarify this. The committee requested additional information, which Carla will provide at a future meeting.

Carla Gee brought forth an issue regarding codes added due to the pandemic. Currently the fee schedule is silent on this issue and Carla suggested the committee consider add guidance

for new codes adopted by AMA and/or Medicare during the course of the year. The committee will discuss this at a future meeting.

The committee began review of conversion factors, and Carla described some areas that may need to be adjusted. Carla will continue to gather data to provide at a future meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2021. This meeting will be held by telephone and video conference. A motion to adjourn was made by Member Beltrami and seconded by Member Scott. The motion passed unanimously.

*Meeting Adjourned 11:54 pm*