

***Workers' Compensation  
Medical Services Review Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
July 26, 2019***

**I. Call to order**

Director Mitchell, acting as Chair of the Medical Services Review Committee, called the Committee to order at 10:04am on Friday, July 26, 2019, in Anchorage, Alaska.

**II. Roll call**

Director Mitchell 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	Pam Scott	Misty Steed	

**III. Approval of Agenda**

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

**IV. Review of Minutes**

A motion to adopt the June 21, 2019 minutes was made by member Steed and seconded by member Beltrami. The June 21, 2019 minutes were unanimously adopted by the committee.

**V. Public Comment**

No public comment.

**VI. Fee Schedule Guidelines Development Discussion**

Carla Gee with Optum stepped through the proposed changes for the 2020 Medical Fee schedule, then presented an interactive tool that models the effects of multiplier changes.

The committee discussed potential reduction rates. It was agreed that 5% reductions would not be sufficient to meet their 4-year goal, and more progressive reductions were needed. Using the modeling tool from Optum, the committee focused on reductions to laboratory, radiology and surgery. The committee suggested a long-term goal of bringing the Alaska fee schedule within 185% of Medicare.

*Lunch Break 12:18 pm – 1:35pm*

The committee continued discussion of the reduction rates and tentatively agreed on 20% for the radiology and surgery, and 7% for laboratory. Carla will provide additional data at the next meeting for discussion before a final decision is made.

The committee discussed an issue that was brought up in public comment at the previous meeting, regarding a chiropractor who was performing procedures outside the normal chiropractic scope of practice. The committee discussed the option to establish a standard in the fee schedule to limit a medical provider from being reimbursed for treatments provided

outside their scope of practice as defined by the State licensing agency. Sherri Ryan with the Alaska Chiropractic Society was invited by the committee to provide comment. She explained that scope of practice is provided by statute, while the governing licensure board of each medical profession determines how the scope is administered. The committee chose to do more research before taking a stance on the issue.

The committee discussed payment standards for non-FDA approved procedures. Carla provided a comparison of guidelines from other states. Kaylee Von with Corvel Corporation provided comment to clarify guidelines from Oregon and Washington. The committee opted to adopt language similar to Wyoming, which states the medical provider must document the necessity of an off-label medical service. Carla will provide draft language at the next meeting.

The committee discussed hearing aid hardware and services. Carla provided a comparison of guidelines from other states. At the will of the committee, Carla will provide draft clarification language for specific hearing aid and service codes, based on NCCI data.

The committee discussed evidence based treatment guidelines. The committee agreed that they did not have enough information or data to make any decisions for the 2020 Fee Schedule.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 9, 2019. This meeting will be telephonic for those members outside of Anchorage.

*Meeting Adjourned 3:11pm*