

***Workers' Compensation
Medical Services Review Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2020***

I. Call to order

Director of Labor Standards and Safety Joseph Knowles and Director of Workers' Compensation Charles Collins, as co-chairs of the Medical Services Review Committee, called the Committee to order at 9:03 am on Friday, August 11, 2020. Due to concerns related to the COVID-19 public health disaster, the meeting was held by telephone and video conference.

II. Roll call

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

Vince Beltrami	Dr. Mary Ann Foland	Jennifer House	Susan Kosinski
Pam Scott	Misty Steed		

Members Dr. Robert Hall and Timothy Kanady were absent. Member House arrived after the morning break.

III. Introduction of New Members and Guests

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

IV. Approval of Agenda

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

V. Review of Minutes

A motion to adopt the July 10, 2020 minutes was made by member Scott and seconded by member Foland. The July 10, 2020 minutes were unanimously adopted by the committee.

VI. Fee Schedule Guidelines Development Discussion

Director Knowles stepped through the updated Fee Schedule Issues for Consideration and highlighted the areas that the Committee had taken action on.

Director Knowles provided an update on the Alaska Workers' Compensation COVID-19 statistics.

The committee discussed the meeting schedule for 2021. The Committee proposed the following meetings in 2021: May 21, June 18, July 16, and August 6. Member Foland motioned to approve the proposed dates, and Member Scott seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Break 9:45 am – 10:11 am

VII. Public Comment

No public comment was made.

VIII. Fee Schedule Guidelines Development Discussion Continued

Carla Gee walked through the track changes version of the draft 2021 Fee Schedule.

Member House raised concern with the proposed language under Drug and Pharmaceuticals, regarding “compounded or mixed” drugs. After discussion, the committee chose to remove the bullet stating, “Comparable to prepaid or private healthcare plans in the community, and to replace “compounded and mixed” with “compounded and/or mixed”. The proposed changes were accepted by the committee.

The Committee discussed the proposed language regarding TENS Units, and how to close some potential loopholes. The committee replaced some of the language in the proposed TENS Units section with language from the off-label section. Optum to provide final language after lunch.

The committee discussed the proposed Hearing Aid language, and made one additional change that a hearing aid may be replaced every 4 years, unless deemed medically necessary.

Director Knowles asked the Committee to affirm that they did not plan to make changes to pathology or clinical laboratory. The Committee confirmed there would be no changes made in those areas.

Lunch 11:38 am – 1:05 pm

Following the lunch break, Nanette Orme with Optum presented the final language proposals for TENS Units and Hearing Aids. The committee made one additional change to the TENS Units section, to state that “unlisted” codes are not valid for billing TENS Units. The Hearing Aid language was accepted without amendment.

Carla Gee with Optum completed the walkthrough of changes for the 2021 fee schedule. No additional amendments were discussed.

Member Foland motioned to approve the 2021 Alaska Medical Fee Schedule, as amended. Member Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The committee discussed the possible agenda items for 2021, including utilization standards, drug formulary, and WC costs relative to other states.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 28, 2020. This will be a joint meeting of the joint MSRC and Workers’ Compensation Board. Due to concerns related to the COVID-19 public health disaster, the meeting will be held by telephone and video conference. A motion to adjourn was made by Member House, and seconded by Member Steed. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned 1:42 pm