

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

July 13, 2018

**I. Call to order**

Director Marx, acting as Chair of the Medical Services Review Committee, called the Committee to order at 10:04 am on Friday, July 13, 2018, in Anchorage, Alaska.

**II. Roll call**

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

Dr. Mary Ann Foland  
Pam Scott

Dr. Robert Hall  
Misty Steed

Jennifer House  
Dr. Christopher Twiford

Members Beltrami and Lindsey were excused.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

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

**IV. Review of Minutes**

A motion to adopt the June 15, 2018 minutes was made by member Foland and seconded by member Hall. The June 15, 2018 minutes were unanimously adopted by the committee.

**V. Public Comment**

Christopher Frost - United Physical Therapy

- Requested that the committee revisit the issue of physical therapists being reimbursed at 85% of the physician MAR.
- Requested that the committee act now, rather than waiting for the legislature to implement treatment guidelines.
- Stated physical therapists play a critical role in getting injured workers back to work.
- Stated this cuts into small business margins at a time when the cost of doing business in Alaska is growing.
- Approximately 10% of patients are workers' compensation.

**VI. Fee Schedule Guidelines Development Discussion**

Item 1:

Carla presented draft language and examples regarding when a conversion factor should be rounded. The committee approved the additions.

Item 4:

Carla demonstrated where a note has been added to the draft guidelines, stating that Mt. Edgecombe is now a critical access hospital. The committee approved this change.

Item 3:

Carla presented additional analysis of CLAB charges, nationally and in Alaska, over the past few years. Director Marx suggested using the national average, rather than establishing an Alaska rate. The committee supported this simpler approach. Carla proposed updated language for the draft guidelines and the committee agreed.

Item 9:

Carla proposed language, including an example, to clarify that MAR is intended to mean the physician fee schedule maximum allowable reimbursement amount. The committee agreed to this amended language.

Item 8:

Member House did not have any additional analysis to provide on this item.

Item 6:

Carla proposed new language to clarify "Q" modifier codes. The committee agreed with the updated language.

New Issue:

Carla introduced a new issue. The current HCPCS, in the Medicare Part B Drugs section, references a pricing file that includes approximately 30 medicine codes that are not valued in RBRBS. Carla asked the committee if the intent is to include these codes. The committee decided this is unlikely to be an issue, and declined to take action.

Item 5:

Carla provided additional data regarding hearing aid payment rules. The committee discussed and agreed that hearing aid hardware should be billed at 130% of the invoice price. Carla will add this to the draft guidelines.

Item 2:

Carla provided additional data and examples regarding MPPR. The committee discussed the issue, then invited Sherry Ryan with the Alaska Chiropractic Society to provide testimony. The committee unanimously decided to use CMS rules for MPPR, except for modifiers 50 and 51. Carla will shore up areas of the guide that speak to modifiers 50 and 51, and will provide examples.

*Break 11:47am - 12:02am*

The committee walked through each of the changes in the current draft Medical Fee Schedule.

The committee discussed options for moving forward in their goal of reaching a single conversion factor of 126. One suggestion was to decrease all physician groups above 126, and another suggestion was to decrease inpatient and outpatient hospitals.

The committee decided on a 5% conversion factor reduction for laboratory, radiology, and surgery. Next year, the committee intends to fully analyze all groups, and make more progressive reductions.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2018. This meeting will be telephonic for those members outside of Anchorage.

*Meeting Adjourned 1:12 pm*