

*Medical Services Review Committee /
Workers' Compensation Board
Special Joint Meeting
Meeting Minutes*

August 28, 2020

I. Call to order

Workers' Compensation Director Charles Collins called the MSRC and Board to order at 9:04 am on Friday, August 28, 2020. Due to concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held by telephone and video conference.

II. Roll call

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

Bradley Austin	Randy Beltz	Pamela Cline	Sara Faulkner
Bronson Frye	Jacob Howdeshell	Sarah Lefebvre	Robert Weel
Lake Williams	Kimberly Ziegler		

Director Collins noted that members Bob Doyle, Julie Duquette, Justin Mack, and Nancy Shaw were absent. Member Diane Thompson resigned from the Board. Members Bronson Frye and Jacob Howdeshell arrived after roll call.

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

Dr. Mary Ann Foland	Dr. Robert Hall	Jennifer House	Susan Kosinski
Pam Scott	Misty Steed		

Member Vince Beltrami were excused. Member Timothy Kanady was absent.

III. Agenda Approval

A motion to approve the agenda was made by member Weel and seconded by member Austin. The agenda was approved by unanimous vote.

IV. Approval of MSRC August 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes

A motion to adopt the minutes from August 11, 2020 meeting was made by member Foland and seconded by member Steed. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

V. Approval of joint Board/MSRC August 23, 2019 Meeting Minutes

A motion to adopt the minutes from the August 23, 2019 special joint meeting of the Board and MSRC was made by member Beltz and seconded by member Weel. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. MSRC's Presentation of Recommendations to Board

The MSRC, through Carla Gee and Nanette Orme with Optum, presented its recommendation to the Board. Carla walked through the track changes version of the draft 2021 Fee Schedule.

The MSRC explained the reasoning behind the TENS unit proposed language. Because there is no TENS Unit code, some companies are known to charge several times over the unit cost. Additionally, these companies have been signing up injured workers for a lifetime prescription to TENS unit supplies at a highly inflated price, for example \$50 for a pack of 8 batteries. The proposed language was designed to mitigate both of these issues.

The MSRC explained that the hearing aid language was proposed in response to some offices that are requiring the injured worker to pay up front for the hardware.

The MSRC explained that even though the COVID-19 pandemic has greatly affected the medical community, the MSRC knew that Medicare would be giving a bump and so they chose to make 5% reductions in some areas, to stay in line with national averages.

Break 10:01 – 10:16am

VII. Public Comment Period 10:15am- 11:15am

No public comment was made.

VIII. MSRC's Presentation of Recommendations to Board Cont.

Member Beltz moved to approve the proposed 2021 Medical Fee Schedule. Member Lefebvre seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Proposed Regulation Changes

Amend 8 AAC 45.083(a), relating to fees for medical treatment and services. Member Austin moved to approve the amendment of 8 AAC 45.083(a). Member Weel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The MSRC and Board discussed the schedule for the 2021 Special Joint meeting. Member Weel motioned to hold the 2021 joint meeting on August 27, 2021. Member Austin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

A motion to adjourn was made by member Austin, and seconded by member Beltz. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned 11:18am