

# **ALASKA WORKERS' COMPENSATION MEDICAL SERVICES REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING**



**July 13, 2018**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b><u>TAB 1</u></b>	<b>Agenda</b>
Page 4	
<b><u>TAB 2</u></b>	<b>MSRC Meeting Minutes June 15, 2018</b>
Page 6	
<b><u>TAB 3</u></b>	<b>MSRC Member Roster June 2018</b>
Page 10	

# TAB 1

**ALASKA WORKERS' COMPENSATION**  
**MEDICAL SERVICES REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING**

July 13, 2018

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
DIVISION OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION  
3301 Eagle Street, Room 208  
Anchorage, Alaska

**AGENDA**

**Friday, July 13, 2018**

<b>10:00 am</b>	Call to order Roll call establishment of quorum
<b>10:05 am</b>	Approval of Agenda
<b>10:10 am</b>	Approval of minutes from June 15, 2018 meeting
<b>10:15 am</b>	Public Comment Period
<b>11:15 am</b>	Break
<b>11:30 am</b>	Fee Schedule Guidelines Development
<b>1:00 pm</b>	Lunch Break
<b>2:00 pm</b>	Fee Schedule Guidelines Development
<b>3:00 pm</b>	Break
<b>3:15 pm</b>	Fee Schedule Guidelines Development
<b>5:00 pm</b>	Adjournment

# TAB 2

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

June 15, 2018

**I. Call to order**

Director Marx, acting as Chair of the Medical Services Review Committee, called the Committee to order at 10:05 am on Friday, June 15, 2018, in Anchorage, Alaska.

**II. Roll call**

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

Vince Beltrami  
Jennifer House  
Misty Steed

Dr. Mary Ann Foland  
Tammi Lindsey  
Dr. Christopher Twiford

Dr. Robert Hall  
Pam Scott

**III. Introduction of New Members and Guests**

Each member introduced themselves and provided a brief background of their experience and affiliation.

Director Marx introduced Carla Gee with Optum, and Bill Soule, Chief of Adjudications. Workers' Compensation Board Members Pam Cline, Bronson Frye, and Dave Kester were also present to observe the meeting.

Member House noted that the MSRC committee roster should list her affiliation as Foundation Health. Director Marx made the correction to the committee roster.

**IV. Approval of Agenda**

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

**V. Review of Minutes**

Director Marx noted there were no minutes to review, because the minutes from the July 28, 2017 MSRC meeting had already been approved at the August 4, 2017 Special Joint Meeting of the MSRC and Workers' Compensation Board.

**VI. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**VII. Fee Schedule Guidelines Development Discussion**

Director Marx showed where minutes and agendas from previous MSRC meetings can be found on the Workers' Compensation website, and where relevant statistics can be found in the Division's Annual Report.

The committee reviewed the list of Action Items.

**VIII. Fee Schedule Guidelines Development Discussion Cont.**

The committee began discussion of the Action Items.

Item 1:

Carla with Optum described the geographic practice cost index (GPCI), and gave examples from other states. The committee decided that rounding should occur only after the conversion factor has been applied, and that the number should be rounded to the nearest two decimal places. Carla will include examples in the next draft fee schedule.

Item 4:

The committee discussed whether or not the fee schedule guidelines should note that Mt. Edgecombe is now a critical access hospital. Critical access hospitals are federally regulated, and are not subject to the Alaska WC Medical Fee Schedule. Carla suggested to include the note in the Inpatient section, and the committee agreed.

Item 3:

Carla explained Clinical Laboratory (CLAB) suggested changes. The committee briefly discussed the issue. In a future meeting Carla will provide additional analysis and the committee will return to this item.

Item 5:

Carla provided examples of hearing aid payment rules from other states. The committee discussed a few options, but will need more data before making a decision. Carla will provide additional analysis at a future meeting, and the committee will return to this issue.

Item 9:

The committee discussed and clarified that Maximum Allowable Reimbursement (MAR) was intended to mean the physician fee schedule maximum allowable amount. At a future meeting, Carla will present options on how to best articulate this in the Fee Schedule.

Item 2:

The committee reviewed the difference in multiple procedure payment reduction (MPPR) between Medicare and Alaska Fee Schedule, specifically related to endoscopy procedures. Carla will provide examples at a future meeting, and the committee will return to this issue.

Item 8:

Alaska has limited options for long-term non-acute care, which results in extended inpatient hospital stays. The current fee schedule does not provide for additional reimbursement in this situation. Member House will review the issue further.

Item 6:

The committee discussed why some of the “Q” modifier codes, but not all, are included in the Anesthesia section of the Fee Schedule. The committee clarified that their intent was to

include all of them. Carla will add the remaining Q codes to the next draft of the Fee Schedule.

*Lunch 1:01pm – 2:14pm*

Item 7:

Member Steed provided a graph demonstrating physical therapy codes as billed by different types of providers. The data shows that a large portion of PT codes are billed by Physical Therapists, and the committee discussed whether or not a carve-out should be made to allow physical therapists to bill at 100% of the physician MAR.

The committee recapped arguments that had been made in previous meetings, such as that many states do allow physical therapists to bill at 100%, however they have implemented utilization and frequency rules that Alaska does not have.

The committee declined to take action on this item.

Item 2:

Carla provided a general overview of multiple procedure payment reduction (MPPR). Similar to the endoscopic issue discussed earlier, the committee needs to clarify if the current “blanket” MPPR rules cover everything, or are there some exceptions where CMS rules apply. This gray area has resulted in some disputes, primarily regarding physical therapy. Carla will create a grid of Alaska vs CMS rules in individual service areas, to assist the committee in resolving this issue.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2018. This meeting will be telephonic for those members outside of Anchorage.

*Meeting Adjourned 2:53 pm*

# TAB 3

**Alaska Workers' Compensation Medical Services Review Committee, AS 23.30.095(j)**

The commissioner shall appoint a medical services review committee to assist and advise the department and the board in matters involving the appropriateness, necessity, and cost of medical and related services provided under this chapter. The medical services review committee shall consist of nine members to be appointed by the commissioner as follows:

- (1) one member who is a member of the Alaska State Medical Association;
- (2) one member who is a member of the Alaska Chiropractic Society;
- (3) one member who is a member of the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association;
- (4) one member who is a health care provider, as defined in AS 09.55.560;
- (5) four public members who are not within the definition of "health care provider" in AS 09.55.560; and
- (6) one member who is the designee of the commissioner and who shall serve as chair.

Committee Membership as of June 14, 2018

<b>Seat</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Chairperson	Marx	Marie	Director, Division of Workers' Compensation
Alaska State Medical Association	Hall, MD	Robert J.	Orthopedic Physicians Anchorage, Inc.
Alaska Chiropractic Society	Twiford, DC	Christopher	Arctic Chiropractic
Alaska State Hospital & Nursing Home Association	House	Jennifer	Foundation Health
Medical Care Provider	Foland, MD	Mary Ann	Primary Care Associates
Lay Member - Industry	Steed	Misty	PACBLU
Lay Member - Industry	Scott	Pam	Alaska Timber Insurance Exchange
Lay Member - Labor	Beltrami	Vince	AFL-CIO
Lay Member - Industry	Lindsey	Tammi	Industry