

Alaska Division of Workers' Compensation Medical Services Review Committee Meeting Minutes

May 30, 2025

Friday, May 30, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Director Charles Collins called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. in Anchorage, Alaska. Participation was available in person and via video conference.

II. ROLL CALL

The following Members were present:

Susan Kosinski	Jeff Gilbert	Mason McCloskey	Dr. Jeff Moore
Valerie Mittelstead	Pam Scott	Misty Steed	

Member Dr. Mary Ann Foland was excused. Members Valerie Mittelstead and Pam Scott arrived after roll call; a quorum was established.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: 10:15 AM- 11:15 AM

No public comment was made.

IV. FEE SCHEDULE DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION

Member Steed led a discussion regarding rental pricing for certain types of durable medical equipment (DME), specifically pneumatic compression cooling devices (e.g., GameReady systems), which lack established rental fees under the CMS DMEPOS file. When rental codes do not exist for a device under the CMS DMEPOS file (such as codes E1399 and E0676), providers have been submitting purchase invoices. Alaska's current methodology allows for purchase reimbursement at 120% of invoice but does not specify a consistent method for calculating rentals. After review, the committee reached consensus to apply the CMS methodology as a foundation: when no DMEPOS rental fee exists, the rental will be calculated as 10% of the purchase price (purchase invoice \times 1.20 \times 10%), with daily rates available by dividing the monthly rental by 30, while maintaining consistency with CMS values where they exist. Carla Gee and Nan Orme (Optum) will draft narrative language and examples to incorporate this calculation into the Alaska fee schedule. Nan Orme will follow up with manufacturers to confirm whether alternate HCPCS codes exist for these devices.

Break 10:01 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Carla Gee and Nan Orme (Optum) presented a year-over-year comparison of the fee schedule changes, including updates from CMS and their effect on Alaska's Medical Fee Schedule. The Committee reviewed the impact of prior changes to conversion factors and CMS fee updates. Notably, the 5% reduction to the DMEPOS multiplier in the previous year resulted in only a 2.8% decrease after accounting for CMS fee adjustments. Overall, changes to the physician fee schedule for the upcoming year are expected to result in minimal impact, with NCCI projecting approximately a 0.1% increase in professional services and a negligible effect on hospital and inpatient services. The Committee also discussed Alaska's relative insulation from federal

CMS conversion factor changes due to its use of fixed state-specific conversion factors. Areas or sections using multipliers will be more susceptible.

The Committee briefly discussed the current reimbursement levels for Independent Medical Evaluations (IME) and noted that the fees for codes 99455 and 99456 have remained static for several years. Director Collins will conduct further internal review and bring the matter back for discussion if adjustments or clarifications are warranted.

The Committee discussed billing and reimbursement related to personal care attendants and home health services for catastrophic workers' compensation claims. Member Kosinski raised whether services provided by agencies such as Home Instead are subject to the fee schedule. It was noted that some providers bill using S-codes (e.g., S9122 for home health aide or certified nursing assistant care, and S9123 for nursing care provided in the home). These codes typically do not have established values under the Medicare-based fee schedule components, resulting in payment at billed charges. Carla Gee will research how other states structure reimbursement for similar services and provide additional information at a future meeting. The Committee also acknowledged the potential complexity of establishing fixed reimbursement methodologies, such as per diem rates, for such services.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Director Collins reminded the Committee that the next meeting is scheduled for June 27, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.