

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

August 4, 2017

**Friday, August 4, 2017**

**I. Call to order**

Workers' Compensation Director Marie Marx called the Medical Services Review Committee (MSRC) and Alaska Workers' Compensation Board (Board) to order at 9:06 am on Friday, August 4, 2017, in Anchorage, Alaska.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Roll call**

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

Stacy Allen	Brad Austin	Pamela Cline
Chuck Collins	Bradley Evans	Jacob Howdeshell
Linda Murphy	Donna Phillips	Brett Stubbs
Rick Traini	Pat Vollendorf	Robert Weel
Lake Williams		

Director Marx noted that Board members Kester, Steele and Letuligasenoa were excused. Board members Lefebvre and Plikat were absent.

Director Marx welcomed back David Kester to the Board. Member Kester was appointed effective July 7, 2017.

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

Dr. Mary Ann Foland	Tammi Lindsey	Dr. William Pfeifer
Ross Newcombe	Pam Scott	Misty Steed

Director Marx noted that Members Hall and Beltrami were excused.

Director Marx introduced senior staff present.

**IV. Agenda Approval**

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

**V. Approval of MSRC July 28, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

A motion to adopt the minutes from the July 28, 2017 MSRC meeting was made by MSRC member Foland and seconded by MSRC member Pfeifer. All MSRC members who were in attendance at the prior MSRC meeting unanimously voted to adopt the minutes, as amended.

**VI. MSRC's Presentation of Recommendations to Board**

The MSRC presented its recommendation to the Board.

*Break 10:00am-10:15am*

**VII. Public Comment Period 10:15am- 11:15am (ended 10:37am)**

LeeAnn Carothers – representing Physical Therapy Association

- Opposition to 15% decrease to maximum allowable reimbursement of 97xxx codes. This decision was made with incomplete or non-existent data, and no other states have this decrease.
- This decrease will reduce access to care, as it will not allow physical therapists to meet their cost per visit.
- Physical Therapy is critical, reduces overall costs compared to surgery and reduces opiate use.
- Physical Therapists have a doctorate level education.

Karen Norton – representing Providence Medical Center

- Requested clarification of Implant Outlier calculation.

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

The MSRC continued its presentation of its recommendation to the Board.

Director Marx explained the reasoning behind the Committee's difficult decision to not recommend a carve-out for services provided by physical therapists at this time. The maximum allowable reimbursement amount has been reduced for many stakeholder groups. The guidelines should retain the current fee schedule language until the physical therapy issue is reviewed again at next year's MSRC meetings. In the interim, the Division will work to collect data relating to this issue.

**IX. Proposed Regulation Changes**

Amend 8 AAC 45.083(a), relating to fees for medical treatment and services. Board member Collins moved to approve the amendment of 8 AAC 45.083(a), including the Alaska Medical Fee Schedule Guidelines incorporated by reference. Board member Weel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with Board member Evans abstaining.

**X. New Business**

The Board requested that Director Marx obtain, in advance of the 2018 MSRC meetings, billing and paid data relating to physical therapy and acute care inpatient hospital services. Director Marx will work to see what data may be available from Optum, Fair Health, NCCI, insurers, self-insured employers such as the State of Alaska, physical therapy providers, and clearinghouses.

Director Marx reminded the Board members the next regular board meeting is October 5-6, 2017. The meeting will be by teleconference.

The MSRC has tentatively scheduled the following meetings in 2018: June 15th, June 29th, July 13th and July 27th.

The next special joint MSRC/Board meeting was scheduled for August 10, 2018. It will be an in-person meeting.

Motion to adjourn was made by Board member Weel at 11:44am. Board member Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

*Meeting Adjourned 11:44am*