

Official Minutes

Medical Fee Guide Committee Meeting

October 10, 2019 at 1:08 P.M.
10 E. Baltimore Street, 3rd Floor
Baltimore, MD 21202

Present:

Committee Members:

Derek Kram, M.D.
Gregory M. Gilbert
Ari Laric, Esq.
James Groschan, P.T.
Craig Ross, M.D.
Charles Thorne, D.C.
Carmine D'Alessandro, Esq.
Antonio Lopez, Esq.
Rudolph Rose, Esq., Principal
Keith Segalman, M.D.

MD WCC Staff:

Comm. Allan H. Kittleman, Chair of MFG Committee
Mary Ahearn, CEO
Jerome Reichmister, M.D., Medical Advisor
Regina Brown, Director of Support Services
Theresa Cornish, COO
H. Scott Curtis, Esq., Assistant Attorney General
Janet Vanderpuije, Med. Cdng. Mngr. /Secretary

Guests:

Gustavo Matheus, Esq., Anderson & Quinn

Commissioner Kittleman called the meeting to order and requested that each individual introduce him or herself.

Chairman Kittleman provided a review of the Fee Guide Committee's mission; and then opened the floor for comments or issues concerning access in the community.

Issues from the Committee:

- Discussions regarding access to care issues in relation to non-surgical neurologic care due to shortage of doctors willing to accept workers' compensation claims;
- Once treatment is found compensable, access is not a problem but some patients need early intervention and there is a delay pending approval from carriers.
- There is no access problem with MRI's; sufficient vendors will provide.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Kittleman and committee reviewed the October 12, 2017 minutes for approval. Minutes were amended due to minor clerical errors and resubmitted. Minutes were approved as amended.

Old Business: Fee Schedule mission should include a statement that the review is to include updating CPT Codes to new CPT codes for 2020. This update is performed annually.

New Business: Guest Gustavo Matheus, Anderson & Quinn in Rockville MD represents hospitals and raised concerns on hospital billing. He suggested that even though the Commission issued an advisory opinion, that there is the need to clarify the language in the incorporation by reference section of the regulations. Specifically, that when there is a hospital rate set by HSCRC for a specific service and the WCC fee schedule has also set a rate for the same service that the rate as set by the HSCRC be given deference. Chairman Kittleman will discuss the topic at the next Commission meeting on October 24, 2019.

The Committee discussed telemedicine and that the fee guide regulations may need minor revisions to ensure proper coding is used. Committee indicated that they were not seeing much use of telemedicine in Maryland. It was suggested that a pilot program for telemedicine might be worthwhile.

The Committee also discussed marijuana as it relates to current usage in the workers' compensation industry. The Commission has not taken any action pending federal statutory issues resolved. The question was raised as to whether the Medical Fee Guide Committee could meet during the upcoming legislative session if marijuana legislation is introduced. Chairman Kittleman indicated that the Committee could reconvene in March if necessary. Committee members should email their request. Scott Curtis apprised the Committee of the Safe Banking Act that was passed by the feds preventing penalties for banks and credit unions only.

Dr. Chuck Thorne moved for adjournment; seconded by Carmine D'Alessandro and the meeting adjourned at 1:35 P.M.

Minutes submitted by:

Minutes Approved by:

Janet Vanderpuije
Medical Fee Guide Secretary

Commissioner Allan Kittleman
Medical Fee Guide Committee Chair

Date