



MINUTES OF THE MEDICAID PROVIDER RATE REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MPRRAC)

The Colorado Department of Health Care
Policy and Financing
303 East 17th Avenue, 7th Floor Conference Room

Friday, November 17, 2017

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Audio from the full meeting can be accessed via

<https://cohcpf.adobeconnect.com/polxp4klqvcv/>. This document contains a high-level summary of discussions during the meeting.

1. MPRRAC Members Present (in person or via phone)

Gigi Darricades, Rob DeHerrera, Tim Dienst, Jennifer Dunn, Sue Flynn, Lisa Foster, Dixie Melton, Tom Rose, Arnold Salazar, Arthur Schut, Barbara Wilkins-Crowder, Murray Willis, Jody Wright

2. Agenda Review

Committee members were unable to approve meeting minutes from September 15, 2017, because a quorum of committee members was not present. September 15, 2017 meeting minutes will be presented for approval during the February 16, 2018 MPRRAC meeting.

3. 2017 Recommendation Report

Lila Cummings, the Department's Rate Review Stakeholder Relations Specialist, outlined the Department's year two recommendations, which appeared in the [2017 Medicaid Provider Rate Review Recommendation Report](#):

Physician Services and Surgery:

1. A payment methodology that differentiates rates based on place of service.
2. For services in regions where the Department's access analysis was inconclusive, the Department will continue access analysis and utilization monitoring.
3. A budget-neutral rebalancing of certain individual physician service and surgery rates with payments below 80% and above 100% of the benchmark.

Anesthesia:

4. A reduction in anesthesia service rates to 100% of the benchmark.

Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waivers:

5. Increasing the rate for alternative care facility (ACF) services.

6. Increasing rates for other waiver services as identified through the ongoing rate setting process, with special attention to services:
 - a. Identified by stakeholders through the rate review process; and
 - b. With the biggest gaps between current rates and rates developed via the new rate setting methodology.

4. Year Three Services

Lila Cummings outlined the year three approach and schedule. She then outlined the proposed groupings for year three services:

- Primary Care and Evaluation and Management (E&M)
- Radiology Services
- Physical and Occupational Therapies
- Maternity Services
- Surgeries
- Other Physician Services
- Dental Services

More information regarding service groupings is found in the [Year Three Services and Top Procedure Codes by Paid Amount](#).

Department staff then presented basic descriptions, descriptive statistics, and answered questions for year three service groupings.

Primary Care and E&M

Department Policy Specialist's Richard Delaney, Elizabeth Freudenthal, and Melanie Reece presented information regarding:

- E&M Services
- Vaccines and Immunizations
- Family Planning Services
- Primary Care Alternative Payment Methodology (APM)

For more information, see the [MPRRAC PowerPoint presentation](#), slides 14-16.

Lynn Trefren, from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, provided additional information regarding the administration of vaccines. Lynn stated that providers have expressed that the administration fee for vaccines does not account for the costs associated with the required documentation and patient consultation associated with administering vaccines.

Radiology Services

Department Policy Specialist Alex Weichselbaum provided information regarding radiology services. For more information, see the [MPRRAC PowerPoint presentation](#), slides 17-18.

Physical and Occupational Therapies

Alex Weichselbaum also provided information regarding physical and occupational therapies. Alex noted that some of these services received a targeted rate increase in July 2015 and the

Department observed an increase in providers after the targeted rate increase. For more information see the [MPRRAC PowerPoint presentation](#), slides 19-20.

Jody Wright, a committee member, asked for more information regarding physician assistants as providers of physical and occupational therapies. Alex said that for many of these services, the Department allows physician assistants to bill directly for these services.

Maternity Services

Department Policy Specialist's Melanie Reece and Susanna Snyder provided information regarding maternity services. For more information see the [MPRRAC PowerPoint presentation](#), slides 21-23.

Surgeries

Department Policy Specialist Jesse Durfee provided information regarding maternity services. Jesse noted that the surgeries under review this year make up a small proportion, about 17%, of total surgery expenditures. Other surgeries were reviewed in year two of the rate review process. For more information see the [MPRRAC PowerPoint presentation](#), slides 24-25.

Other Physician Services

Richard Delaney provided information regarding other physician services, also referred to as procedures. Richard noted that these services are not highly utilized. For more information see the [MPRRAC PowerPoint presentation](#), slides 26-27.

Dental Services

Department Policy Specialist's Alan Kislowitz and Yvonne Castillo provided information regarding dental services. Alan noted that the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing began offering adult dental benefits in July 2014. He also noted that there is a \$1000 annual maximum for adult dental services, but that dentures are not included in that dental cap. Alan also explained that the Department contracts with DentaQuest, an Administrative Service Organization (ASO), for dental services. For more information see the [MPRRAC PowerPoint presentation](#), slides 28-29.

5. Stakeholder Comment

Edie Busam, a principal with Aponte & Busam, provided public comment regarding procedure codes and provider types included in the Department's Primary Care APM. Lila Cummings noted that Edie's comments were outside of the scope of the rate review process, but she would connect Edie with the appropriate Department staff.

6. Next Steps

Lila Cummings noted that for the February 16th MPRRAC meeting, she encouraged committee members to spread the word about the meeting and come prepared with questions. She said that the direction of the meeting would largely be driven by the questions the Department received ahead of, and during, the meeting.

7. Meeting Adjourned