



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE Medicaid Provider Rate Review Advisory Committee (MPRRAC)

September 18, 2020

Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
303 E. 17th Avenue, Denver, CO 80203
Webinar

A recording of this meeting is available at this [link](#).

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Eloiss Hulsbrink, Rate Review Stakeholder Relations Specialist, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Roll Call

There were sufficient members for a quorum with fourteen members participating. All individuals participated remotely, due to ongoing health and safety requirements regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

A. Members on Webinar/Phone

Tim Dienst, David Friedenson, Robert Hernandez, Vennita Jenkins, Kim Kretsch, Gretchen McGinnis, Christi Mecillas, Dixie Melton, Kelli Ore, Wilson Pace, Valerie Schlecht, Matt VanAuken, Maureen Welch, Murray Willis.

B. Department Staff Participants

Matt Colussi, Jami Gazerro, Eloiss Hulsbrink, Alex Koloskus, Jeff Laskey, Gina Robinson, Alex Weichselbaum.

3. Meeting Minutes

MPRRAC members discussed and voted on meeting minutes from MPRRAC meetings on February 21, 2020 and June 19, 2020. Wilson Pace asked for a note be added stating that the committee raised reviewing three procedure codes in PT/OT in the February 21, 2020 meeting minutes; Rob Hernandez agreed and confirmed the request. The MPRRAC voted to approve all meeting minutes, with the amended change mentioned above.



4. MPRRAC Vice Chair

The Chair sought verbal nominations for the Vice Chair position. No members self-nominated for the position. Dixie Melton was nominated by Tim Dienst. The nomination was seconded by Wilson Pace. The committee approved Dixie Melton as Vice Chair by unanimous vote.

5. Guiding Principles

The committee discussed whether the benchmark should be included in guiding principles. Members suggested it should be part of ongoing discussions, but not necessarily a guiding principle. The committee will consider benchmarks at a later meeting.

6. Year Five Services Working Recommendations

A. Pediatric Personal Care (PPC)

Department recommendations, including key considerations and feedback, were shared with the committee. See slides 18-21 of the [September MPRRAC presentation](#) for more information.

Committee Discussion

The committee discussed the effect of different state minimum wages on the rate comparison. The Department agreed to take back the feedback on minimum wages and include it in its considerations.

Stakeholder Comment

The Department did not receive any feedback from stakeholders regarding PPC services during the September MPRRAC meeting.

B. Home Health

Department recommendations, including key considerations and feedback, were shared with the committee. See slides 25-30 of the [September MPRRAC presentation](#) for more information.

Committee Discussion

A committee member asked the Department if data considered both live-in and external providers and whether it would be possible to get a breakdown between the two. The Department confirmed that both were included in the data, but that the breakdown by type is not currently collected in claims data.

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The committee asked the Department how many Home Health visits exceed one hour. The Department did not have the data at hand, but committed to looking at the claims data to see if it would be possible to determine the average visit length by looking at usage of extended and regular rates.

Stakeholder Comment

Themes of stakeholder feedback included:

- providers would like the Department to offer a 90% match with the Medicare Low Utilization Payment Adjustment (LUPA) rates; and
- home health speech therapy rates are fair when compared to stand alone outpatient speech therapy rates.

C. Private Duty Nursing (PDN)

Department recommendations were shared with the committee. See slides 34-38 of the [September MPRRAC presentation](#) for more information.

Committee Discussion

A committee member raised concerns that Medicaid is trying to push skilled tasks into in-home billing codes. Other committee members noted that they liked the current recommendation.

Stakeholder Comment

Themes of stakeholder feedback included:

- providers could not offer competitive salaries for PDN (mainly LPNs) because they can make more in other types of settings;
- other states' Medicaid rates are not a good comparator for PDN rates; and
- children are remaining in the hospital longer than necessary because of a lack of available in-home services necessary for discharge.

D. Pediatric Behavioral Therapy (PBT)

Department recommendations were shared with the committee. See slides 42-45 of the [September MPRRAC presentation](#) for more information.

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Committee Discussion

A committee member suggested that the policy be expanded to include other types of PBT beyond Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA). The Department clarified that the PBT benefit covers services beyond ABA, including services such as Play Therapy and Relationship Development Intervention. The member offered to share a recent Tricare report with committee members.

Stakeholder Comment

Themes of stakeholder feedback included:

- Increased complexity (e.g. EVV, more PAR requirements) is leading to lower provider retention.

E. Speech Therapy

Department recommendations were shared with the committee. See slides 49-52 of the [September MPRRAC presentation](#) for more information.

Committee Discussion

A committee member raised concerns with rebalancing. It was noted that speech therapy rates could previously not be rebalanced in a budget-neutral way as assessed by Department finance staff, however, Department staff are actively working to advance this.

A committee member noted that they were very concerned about the impact of low rates and COVID on the number of available providers.

Stakeholder Comment

Themes of stakeholder feedback included:

- Recommending a rate increase as rates are less than what was being paid 15-25 years ago;
- Low rates are having a disproportionate impact on children of color;
- Low rates and increased workload from EVV are making it difficult to retain providers; and
- Providers may have to limit services to Medicaid members unless rates are substantially increased, or services are changed to timed billing.

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F. Physical/Occupational Therapy (PT/OT)

Department recommendations were shared with the committee. See slides 56-59 of the [September MPRRAC presentation](#) for more information.

Committee Discussion

A committee member suggested that a different approach to rebalancing may need to be taken for the three PT/OT evaluation codes Colorado reimburses based on complexity, as there is nothing to compare to.

Stakeholder Comment

Themes of stakeholder feedback included:

- Telehealth has had a positive impact on servicing, but COVID has caused a number of jobs to be lost; and
- Colorado is the only state to have assigned different rates to the three separate servicing codes. Medicare did not assign different values as they wanted to assess utilization before determining rates.

G. Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (POS)

Department recommendations were shared with the committee. See slides 63-66 of the [September MPRRAC presentation](#) for more information.

Committee Discussion

There were not any questions or comments from the committee regarding POS services.

Stakeholder Comment

The Department did not receive any feedback from stakeholders regarding POS services during the September MPRRAC meeting.

H. Vision

Department recommendations were shared with the committee. See slides 70-73 of the [September MPRRAC presentation](#) for more information.

Committee Discussion

There were not any questions or comments from the committee regarding vision services.

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Stakeholder Comment

The Department did not receive any feedback from stakeholders regarding vision services during the September MPRRAC meeting.

7. Next Steps and Announcements

The Department acknowledged concerns with IT issues during the meeting, including the lack of real-time closed captioning. The Department confirmed that it had learned of changes to the real-time closed captioning requirements and that they would be unavailable for this meeting shortly before the start of the meeting. The Department committed that it would be provided for future meetings at the Department's expense, and that the situation for the current meeting was an anomaly due to a recent change in policy.

The Department acknowledged committee concerns about the current fiscal climate in Colorado, but noted that this should not impact committee discussion as the purpose of the committee is to help inform the Department's work; the Department will navigate these considerations through existing legislative processes.

Updates were shared with the committee, including upcoming meeting dates. See slide 77 in the [September MPRRAC presentation](#) for more information. Wilson Pace was thanked by the Department and the committee for his service as chair.

Committee members agreed that another meeting before the next scheduled meeting on November 20, 2020 would be helpful to finish discussions around guiding principles and meeting operations, but also began the discussion during this meeting past the scheduled meeting end time. The Department agreed to follow-up.

8. Meeting Adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

