



## Medicaid Rate Review Public Meeting

### November 19, 2021 Minutes

Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing  
303 E. 17th Avenue, Denver, CO 80203  
Webinar, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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

## 1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Meeting Overview

Eloiss Hulsbrink, Rate Review Stakeholder Relations Specialist, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

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

### A. Members on Webinar/Phone

Kelli Ore, Maureen Welch, Tim Dienst, Vennita Jenkins, Wilson Pace, Robert Hernandez, Jude Wolpert, Christi Mecillas, Melissa Benjamin, Kim Kretsch.

### B. Department Staff Participants

Eloiss Hulsbrink, Bettina Schneider, Victoria Martinez, Kevin Martin, Jeff Laskey, Marli Firillo, Kelly O'Brien, Amanda Villalobos.

## 2. Meeting Minutes

MRRAC members discussed and voted on meeting minutes from the June 25, 2021 MRRAC meeting. The MRRAC voted to approve the meeting minutes. Additionally, MRRAC members discussed and voted on meeting minutes from the September 24, 2021 MRRAC meeting. The vote to approve the meeting minutes was unsuccessful. Committee members noted that the minutes did not reflect conversation around benchmark methodology and did not use robust terminology when discussing the services in review and therefore did not approve the minutes. Feedback was taken back



by the department and amendments were made, resulting in a rediscussion and vote of the September meeting minutes during the next MPRRAC meeting.

### 3. 2021 Medicaid Provider Rate Review Recommendation Report

The committee discussed the Department's Medicaid Provider Rate Review Recommendation Report, which was submitted to the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) in November 2021.

The Department received stakeholder comments which disagreed with the Emergency Medical Transportation (EMT) conclusion that 40.92% of the benchmark is sufficient for provider retention and member access because of inaccurate data. The stakeholder was in agreement with the Department's recommendation of increasing the rate for EMT to 80% of the benchmark. Feedback was taken back by the Department and the Department will have a response regarding these comments at the next public meeting.

The committee discussed the timeline of the recommendation report with an emphasis on the process the report goes through, and frustration about the report's submission to the JBC before the Medicaid Provider Rate Review Advisory Committee (MPRRAC) was able to discuss it was noted. Committee Members expressed concern about their lack of inclusion and role in the process. Departmental leadership clarified that the recommendations are shown to the committee beforehand and committee discussion and stakeholder feedback from the September 24, 2021 meeting are incorporated into the final recommendation report. Feedback from committee members about how the MPRRAC process can be improved was taken back by the Department and will be integrated and discussed during the next meeting.

### 4. Introduction to Year Two (Cycle Two) Service Groupings

The Department provided an overview of Year One (Cycle 2) services, including the data methodology and validation processes.

Additional updates to the presented population pyramids were requested concerning the scales for the X-axes. The Department noted this request.

#### A. Physician Services

The Department presented initial utilization data, including service descriptions, and population and location utilization trends. See slides 31-56 in the [November Presentation](#) for more information.

#### *Stakeholder Feedback*

No stakeholder feedback was received.



***Committee Discussion***

The committee had no questions or feedback about the initial Physician Services data.

**B. Injections & Miscellaneous J-Codes**

The Department presented initial utilization data, including service descriptions, and population and location utilization trends. See slides 57-58 in the [November Presentation](#) for more information.

***Stakeholder Feedback***

No stakeholder feedback was received.

***Committee Discussion***

The committee had no questions or feedback about the initial Injections & Miscellaneous J-Code data.

**C. Dialysis & Nephrology**

The Department presented initial utilization data, including service descriptions, and population and location trends. See slides 59-61 in the [November Presentation](#) for more information.

***Stakeholder Feedback***

No stakeholder feedback was received.

***Committee Discussion***

The committee had no questions or feedback about the initial Dialysis & Nephrology data.

**D. Laboratory & Pathology**

The Department presented initial utilization data, including service descriptions, and population and location trends. See slides 62-64 in the [November Presentation](#) for more information.

***Stakeholder Feedback***

No stakeholder feedback was received.

***Committee Discussion***

The committee had no questions or feedback about the initial Laboratory & Pathology data.



## E. Vision & Eyeglasses

The Department presented initial utilization data, including service descriptions, and population and location trends. See slides 65-67 in the [November Presentation](#) for more information.

### *Stakeholder Feedback*

No stakeholder feedback was received.

### *Committee Discussion*

The committee had no questions or feedback about the initial Vision & Eyeglasses data.

## 5. Annual Training

The Department delivered annual training to MPRRAC members in accordance with [24-3-7- 102\(1\), C.R.S](#) (page 66).

Committee members provided recommendations about ways to improve the annual training in the future and discussed concerns about covering the full extent of the [bill](#). Feedback was taken back by the Department about reviewing the original statute and scope of the committee.

## 6. Medicaid Provider Rate Review Advisory Committee (MPRRAC) Vice Chair

The newly appointed MPRRAC chair, Dixie Milton, was unable to attend the meeting, so the previous MPRRAC chair, Tim Dienst, served as acting chair throughout the meeting and opened nominations for the MPRRAC vice-chair. Tim Dienst nominated Christi Mecillas, who was not on the call at the time of the nomination, for the MPRRAC vice-chair. The motion did not pass due to some members abstaining from voting due to the uncertainty of Mecillas' interest. Eloiss will reach out to Mecillas after the meeting to gauge interest. Nominations and voting will continue to the next meeting.

## 7. Next Steps and Announcements

The Department outlined the next steps for Cycle Two, Year Two rate comparison, and access to care analysis work, including previous year access visuals to prepare new and returning committee members on what type of data to expect in the next meeting and report.

The Department confirmed the date for the next quarterly meeting, to be held on Friday, February 25, 2022, and discussed the primary purpose of the meeting.



The Department included information about a [JBC meeting](#) that took place one day before the MPRRAC meeting, which contained a discussion regarding the MPRRAC process.

## **8. Meeting Adjourned at 12:10 p.m.**

