

**MINUTES OF THE ILLINOIS WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION
MEDICAL FEE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
BILANDIC BUILDING, 160 N. LASALLE STREET CHICAGO, IL 60601 -
ROOM N-502
HELD ON DECEMBER 18, 2013 at 1:00 pm**

Present at the meeting:

Chairman Michael Latz
Dr. Avi Bernstein
Barb Molloy
Bill McAndrew
Diana Alvarez
David Menchetti
Dr. Michael Vendor

Participating via telephone:

Jason Keller
Dianne McGuire

Not present at the meeting:

Kim Moreland

IWCC staff present:

Ron Rascia, General Counsel
Michael Arnold, Deputy General Counsel
Brendan O'Rourke, Executive Assistant
Susan Piha, Manager of Research and Education
Barbara Bentivenga, Special Fund Counsel
Kim Janas, Secretary of the Commission
Glen Boyle, Project Manager

Chairman Michael Latz called the meeting to order and noted that there was a quorum of members present. Chairman Latz asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes for the meeting held on September 18, 2013. There was a motion by Mr. McAndrew, seconded by Dr. Vender, and unanimously carried to approve these minutes.

Chairman Latz welcomed the two new Board members to their first meeting: David Menchetti, who is a partner with the firm of Cullen, Haskins, Nicholson & Menchetti, and Diana Alvarez, who is a Senior Occupational Health Manager for Risk Management at Hyatt. Chairman Latz thanked Mr. Menchetti and Ms. Alvarez for their willingness to serve on the Medical Fee Advisory Board and stated that he looks forward to their contributions.

Chairman Latz started the meeting with the first item on the agenda, Old Business. In terms of Old Business, the Board Members discussed a memorandum prepared by Glen Boyle which was distributed to the Board Members. This memorandum included several topics, such as the reimbursement level of the Evaluation and Management (“E & M”) Codes in comparison to Medicare reimbursement rates and Neurodiagnostic and Psychology Codes. Mr. Boyle gave a short presentation about his memorandum, which included a comparison of the E & M codes with data from private health insurance and also some of the work he performed for a study for the New York Workers’ Compensation Commission. The Board members engaged in discussion about the E & M codes in comparison to Medicare reimbursement rates and the merits of Medicare reimbursement as a benchmark for compensation in the context of the provision of workers’ compensation health care services.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Chairman Latz asked the Board members if there was a motion to recommend to the Commission that the Commission consider adjusting the Evaluation and Management codes as proposed in Glen Boyle’s memorandum. There was a motion by Ms. Molloy and seconded by Ms. McGuire. The following members voted yes: Mr. Menchetti, Ms. Molloy, Ms. Alvarez, Mr. Keller, and Ms. McGuire. The following members voted no: Mr. McAndrew, Dr. Vender, and Dr. Bernstein. With five members voting yes, three members voting no, the motion carried. Chairman Latz stated that he would work with General Counsel Ron Rascia to further investigate the options for adjusting the E & M codes on the Commission’s Medical Fee Schedule.

Chairman Latz informed the Board members that a schedule of 2014 meeting dates for the Medical Fee Advisory Board would be sent out to them shortly. Pursuant to the requirements of the Open Meetings Act, this schedule will also be posted on the Commission’s website.

There was a motion by Mr. McAndrew, seconded by Ms. Molloy, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting