

**MINUTES OF THE ILLINOIS WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION
WORKERS' COMPENSATION MEDICAL FEE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
HELD VIA WEBEX ON OCTOBER 5, 2020 AT 2:00 PM**

Present via WebEx:

David Menchetti
Amy Bilton
Dr. Preston Wolin
Dr. David Fletcher
Helena Lefkow
Michael Macellaio
Tanya Dawood

IWCC staff present via WebEx:

Michael J. Brennan, Chairman
Ronald Rascia, General Counsel
Annette Roti, Confidential Assistant to the Chairman
Cole Garrett, Deputy General Counsel
Michele Kowalski, Research and Education Manager
Cecelia Kasmierski, Associate General Counsel

Chairman Brennan called the meeting to order at 2:06PM and noted that a quorum was present. Chairman Brennan asked for a motion to approve minutes of the June 29, 2020 Meeting. Dr. Fletcher so moved, Ms. Bilton seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes as presented.

As to old and new business, Chairman Brennan and the Board proceeded to a discussion regarding Dr. Fletcher's extensive submissions, including a motion, numerous documents, and an internet presentation regarding access to care and the E and M codes. Dr. Fletcher presented the motion orally. Dr. Fletcher moved that the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission Medical Fee Advisory Board recommend to the full Commission to raise the reimbursement rate in the Illinois Medical Fee Schedule for Evaluation and Management billing codes by 30%. The proposal moves that the IWCC raise office visits Levels 99203, 99204, 99205, 99213, 99214, 99215 in all four regions of the State of Illinois by 30% pursuant to Section 8.2(b) of the Illinois Workers' Compensation Act that addresses access to care issues.

Chairman Brennan asked Dr. Fletcher to describe the codes. Dr. Fletcher advised the codes are for office visits, for evaluation and management of patients, exams, diagnosis, for treatment plans, to provide a fundamental start for management and care of the worker. Dr. Fletcher noted that this is not the first time this issue has been presented, with a second attempt occurring a couple of years ago and being defeated by the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission. Dr. Fletcher compared Illinois to the rest of the country as well as medicare.

Dr. Fletcher's motion for increases would be not be restricted to specific geographical areas or medical occupations. Chairman Brennan asked Dr. Fletcher to provide the author of one of the documents presented, a document dated June 4, 2014.

Mr. Menchetti initially requested to act as proxy on behalf of Dr. Wolin. However, Dr. Wolin was present via WebEx and participated in the meeting.

Chairman Brennan advised that Board members may wish to respond to the motion in writing. To do this in an orderly fashion, the Board would need a period of time to respond in writing and for the public to respond. After discussion, a formal vote would then be taken. Dr. Fletcher stated that he would honor the request and welcomed

comments. Mr. Rascia advised that written comments should be sent to him via email and would be due November 9, 2020. Chairman Brennan advised that, unless more meetings are needed, the Medical Fee Advisory Board will meet on December 14, 2020, and proceed with Dr. Fletcher's motion.

As to public comment, members of the public were present via WebEx and made public comment.

Upon no further business, Ms. Dawood moved to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Bilton seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 2:49PM.