

Meeting Transcript

August 26, 2025

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Transcript

Robert B. Snyder:

Well, good afternoon everyone. I'm Doctor Robert Snyder. I'm the medical director for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation. Welcome you to this Medical Payment Committee. I have asked Leann Lewis to chair the meeting in the absence of Mary Yarborough. I think that Mister Cromer does have a proxy and Leanne also has a proxy, so I believe that we can start the meeting. If you would please, Leanne.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

OK, looks like the first thing we need to do is call roll, right?

Robert B. Snyder:

Correct.

Mark Finks:

Yes, this is Mark Finks. I'll be glad to call the roll.

Robert B. Snyder:

Mark.

Mark Finks:

So just start out—Miss Leanne Lewis.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Present.

Mark Finks:

And you hold the proxy for Mr. Josh Heffinger?

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Yes.

Mark Finks:

Mr. Will Cromer?

Will Cromer:

Present.

Mark Finks:

And you hold the proxy for Doctor Yarborough?

Will Cromer:

Sure. Glad to.

Mark Finks:

Miss Jennifer Guffey?

Doctor Roy Johnson?

Doctor Robert Snyder?

OK, we have including proxies, we have six out of seven, so that is enough for a quorum.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

OK. OK. And then Dr. Snyder, do you want to go through our phone participants and do introductions?

Robert B. Snyder:

Sounds good. OK. So could whoever's on the phone at 417269 please identify themselves?

Nancy Grace:

Yes, this is Nancy Grace. And I am with Ozark Anesthesia.

Robert B. Snyder:

OK. Thank you. And 615335?

Tommy Castleberry:

Tommy Castleberry with Concentra Medical Centers.

Robert B. Snyder:

OK. Hi there. The couple other people that I do not recognize—Darren Thomas?

Darren Thomas:

Darren Thomas, Chief Operating Officer of Easy Scripts Pharmacy, LLC.

Robert B. Snyder:

OK. And David Ward?

David Ward:

Hi, good afternoon. I'm an attorney here in Nashville with the firm Eric Leedis Gilman. Two of our clients have notifications here today, one on Mr. Anthony Bates and then one on Paul McAuliffe.

Robert B. Snyder:

OK. Thank you. OK, very well. OK, next, Leanne?

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

OK. So our next item on the list is to look at the meeting minutes from our last meeting that we had. And do I have from the group a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting?

Jennifer Guffey:

I motion to approve. This is Jenny.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

OK. And Leanne? I'll go ahead and second it. All in favor?

Robert B. Snyder:

Aye.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

OK. Any opposed? Alright, then that passes as recommended. Now to our agenda for today...The first thing under old business is to go through cases, so I'll turn it over to you, Doctor Snyder.

Robert B. Snyder:

OK. So the summary to the cases has been sent to the committee members. I'll start to run through them.

We have some holdover cases from 2024.

- The first one was S8 SH Knoxville vs. Mitchell, where DME was not paid. A 90-day letter was sent from the last committee on May 7. No response was received as of August 7, so that case will be closed.
- Case 2024-87 is the same. A 90-day closure letter was sent out on May 7. No response was received by August 25, so that case is closed.
- Case 2024-88 was closed and not reviewed by the committee.

Now on to cases for 2025.

- The first one is St. Francis Conifer vs. Public Entity, where there was an incorrect payment to a fee schedule for lumbar discectomy. St. Francis billed \ \$391,738.50 and \ \$32,846.44 was paid. Conifer expected more.

Robert B. Snyder:

Christina, you have a report on this case?

Christina Pendrak:

I do. The provider is requesting additional allowance for the hospital stay for the surgery date of service 2/22/24, stating they were underpaid. Initial reimbursement was \ \$740.73, then they were reimbursed an additional \ \$1,105.71.

The patient was in on 2/15 for pre-op lab work, chest X-ray, and EKG. They returned on 2/22 for spinal surgery, stayed overnight, and were discharged the next day.

According to Tennessee fee schedule guidelines, pre-admission lab and radiology may be billed separately when performed 24+ hours prior to admission. Only the EKG had supporting documentation.

The spinal fusion CPT code 22633 is a CMS AJ1 status indicator, meaning implants are not reimbursed separately. The bill type was 137 (hospital outpatient corrected claim), and implants are not carved out under this type.

The allowed amount should be \ \$33,117.86. St. Francis was reimbursed \ \$32,846.44. So the amount due to the provider is \ \$271.42, with supporting documentation for pre-op lab work.

Robert B. Snyder:

Any comments or questions? A lot of work went into that. Thank you, Christina.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Yeah, that was a lot for the end result to be \ \$271. That's unusual for us. Any questions before I ask for approvals? No? OK. Do I have a motion to accept the recommendation?

Jennifer Guffey:

Motion to accept.

Roy Johnson:

I move.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

I'll take that as a second. All in favor?

All:

Aye.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Any opposed? That one passes as recommended. Thanks so much for your work on that one.

Robert B. Snyder:

Next case is 2025 #19, Easy Scripts Pharmacy vs. Great West, where a PPO discount was taken without a contract. I believe we have a representative from Easy Scripts.

Ashley Dike:

Yes, this is Ashley from Easy Scripts. We originally billed Great West \ \$77.40 for acetaminophen, codeine, and tramadol. They paid \ \$46.44, discounted by Reliant HealthPartners.

They applied a PPO contract, but we are not part of their network. They later said they are not a network but a cost containment company and wouldn't explain their pricing. We appealed and received additional payment for one date of service. What remains is \ \$30.96 for May 20, 2024.

Robert B. Snyder:

So Great West could not provide documentation of a valid contract?

Ashley Dike:

That is correct.

Robert B. Snyder:

Committee?

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

I can't think of a similar case. It sounds like they thought there was a contract, but later said it was a proprietary process. I think our role is to say the fee schedule is what it is. We can't rule on contract validity. Doctor Snyder?

Robert B. Snyder:

I'll ask Amanda.

Amanda Terry:

I agree.

Robert B. Snyder:

So I suggest the committee say that without a contract, the additional \ \$30.96 is due to the provider.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

I'll make that recommendation. Is there a second?

Will Cromer:

I'll second.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

All in favor?

All:

Aye.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Any opposed? That passes as discussed.

Robert B. Snyder:

Case 22 is Doctor Hazelwood vs. Reinsurance. Z code was not paid, but there was an incorrect initial submission, and to this date we have not received an updated correct submission. So that case remains pending.

Case 24 is Doctor Hazelwood vs. Hartford, where a denied Z code was paid.

Case 25 was another Z code by Sedgwick that was paid.

Case 26, another Sedgwick Z code that was paid.

Case 27, a Z code and a global code were paid.

Now on to case 28 through 37. This is a complicated case I'll try to summarize.

This was an individual who originally had a compensable lung injury in 2017. In 2019 or 2020, the claim was settled for open medicals. In early 2024, the individual passed away after multiple providers, short hospital stays, and ambulance services.

The insurer would not pay without proper claim forms (UB-04 or CMS-1500). The insurer submitted that they were unable to get responses from the providers.

What complicates this is that the case is in mediation over death benefits. The estate and benefits are in mediation before the Bureau.

In the past, we have not acted as a collection agency for insurers. However, this is a difficult situation.

There are two options:

1. Allow the mediator to try to get the providers.
2. Allow committee staff to try to contact the providers.

There are seven different providers, so either way, it's a significant effort. I bring this to the committee's attention and ask what their wishes are.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

To make sure I understand—one solution is for the Bureau to contact the providers on behalf of the mediator and ask for the bills on the proper forms?

Robert B. Snyder:

Yes, we would be contacting them on behalf of the Bureau's mediation.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

I know the Bureau has tried to contact providers in the past when additional information was needed. We never got a response, but we did try.

Robert B. Snyder:

Yes.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

I imagine the Bureau has better information to get this documentation than the mediator might.

Robert B. Snyder:

If we get enough information, we can certainly contact the providers. I'm asking the committee to agree to allow the Bureau to try to contact the providers at least once.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

I can't think of anything problematic about that, besides adding work to your side.

Will Cromer:

What happens if you get no response?

Robert B. Snyder:

We'll just give it one try if we have enough information.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Seems reasonable and helpful.

Robert B. Snyder:

Yes, this is about the estate of this poor lady. The family is trying to get resolution.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

OK, sounds good.

Robert B. Snyder:

Case 38: Doctor Hazelwood vs. Gallagher Bassett. Office visit was denied for prior surgery. This was again an incorrect Z code, recoded as a surgery, and the office visit was denied.

The bill was \ \$230. Nothing was paid. Expected \ \$195.21. Recommendation: additional \ \$195.21 due to the provider, less any contractual discounts.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Looks like another one where the Z is being translated to a 2. We've had a bunch of those.

Robert B. Snyder:

Yes.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Any questions from the committee? Do I have a motion to accept the recommendation?

Jennifer Guffey:

Motion to accept.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

I'll second. All in favor?

All:

Aye.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Any opposed? That one passes as recommended.

Robert B. Snyder:

Case 39: another global Z code was paid.

Case 40: deferred—payment for a right below elbow prosthesis. We have not received all the information yet.

Case 41: Ozark Anesthesia Associates vs. Van Lear Paradigm. Incorrect payment for anesthesia. Billed \ \$1,995. Paid \ \$1,066.28. Expected \ \$1,425.

The reductions used were incorrect:

- Fair Health benchmark data for the wrong geographic area
- Out-of-state provider rules applied incorrectly
- Adjustment code for local regulations misapplied

The procedure code was correctly applied. The provider used ASA relative value guidelines for Missouri, which is not correct for Tennessee.

They only requested the Tennessee maximum allowable reimbursement. The correct amount due is \ \$358.72, less any contractual discounts.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Looking at the bill form, this facility is in Missouri. Missouri doesn't have a fee schedule, so that might be the issue.

Any questions from the committee? Do I have a motion to accept the recommendation?

Roy Johnson:

I move to accept.

Jennifer Guffey:

Second.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

All in favor?

All:

Aye.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Any opposed? That recommendation passes as noted.

Robert B. Snyder:

Case 42 is a different date of service but the same patient and outcome. The recommendation due is \ \$358.72.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Exactly the same as the last one. OK. Any questions on this one?

David Ward:

Quick question—this is David Ward. I'm pulling up the notifications our clients had. Is Case 42 the one concerning National Interstate?

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

National Interstate would be the employer?

David Ward:

I believe they're the TPA. I believe bills were sent to them instead of Paradigm Network.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

The explanation of review says the payer is Paradigm.

David Ward:

Right. I noted the Ozark rep is on the line as well. I'll connect with you after this to make sure everyone's on the same page. I have 41, 42, and 43, which I anticipate are all the same situation—out-of-state provider fee schedule issues.

Nancy Grace:

Yeah, no problem.

Robert B. Snyder:

That's correct. So you're going to contact them?

David Ward:

Sure. I didn't jot your name down, but—

Robert B. Snyder:

Who's on the line for Ozark Anesthesia?

Nancy Grace:

Nancy.

Robert B. Snyder:

Nancy, would you give Mr. Ward your phone number?

Nancy Grace:

Yes, it's 417-269-4521.

David Ward:

Thank you, Nancy. I'll be in touch this week.

Robert B. Snyder:

OK. I ask the committee to rescind their agreement on Case 41, please.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

I'll make the motion to rescind the decision on 41. Do I have a second?

Roy Johnson:

I'll second it.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

All in favor? Any opposed? That is rescinded. So 41, 42, and 43 will be resolved outside of this.

Robert B. Snyder:

OK. Miss Grace or Mr. Ward, would you notify us once agreement on these three has been made?

David Ward:

Absolutely.

Robert B. Snyder:

Thank you.

Case 44 is Doctor Hazelwood vs. Zurich, a mis-coded Z code again. The recommendation is an additional \$324.03 due to the provider, less any contractual discounts.

David Ward:

What case number was this? I have one with Doctor Hazelwood, but it's not until 63.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

This is 44.

David Ward:

All right, I'll hang tight.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Any questions? Do I have a motion to accept the recommendation?

Jennifer Guffey:

To accept.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

I'll second. All in favor?

All:

Aye.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Any opposed? That one passes as recommended.

Robert B. Snyder:

Case 45 has been paid for Z code.

Case 46: Sims Murphy vs. Liberty Mutual. A procedure code for a board-certified neurosurgeon was not paid at the 275 rate. Billed \ \$16,830, paid \ \$8,208.94, expected \ \$9,797.79. The medical fee schedule supports the \ \$9,797.79. Additional due to the provider: \ \$1,588.85.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Any questions from the committee? I'll make a motion to accept the recommendation. Do I have a second?

Jennifer Guffey:

Second.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

All in favor?

All:

Aye.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Any opposed? That one passes as recommended.

Robert B. Snyder:

Case 47 is another Z code violation. Doctor Hazelwood. Additional due to the provider: \ \$138.06.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Any questions? Do I have a motion to accept the recommendation?

Jennifer Guffey:

Motion to accept.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

I'll second. All in favor?

All:

Aye.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Any opposed? That one passes as recommended.

Robert B. Snyder:

Case 48 was a Z code again—paid.

Case 49: Chattanooga Orthopedic Group vs. Liberty Mutual. Denied due to no prior authorization for a follow-up appointment. Nothing was paid. Expected amount due: \ \$172.57.

There was a note that the code was denied for services considered unrelated or not covered under the workers' compensation claim. However, documentation shows verbal authorization was given by the previous adjuster, which was later denied by a new adjuster.

The adjuster's responsibility includes knowing what prior authorizations were given.

Recommendation: pay \ \$172.57 and include in the letter that it is the adjuster's responsibility to cancel follow-up appointments.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Some of the documentation is hard to read. Where is the authorization and denial shown?

Robert B. Snyder:

The denial code is 5795.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

That's on the explanation of review. Does the doctor's office documentation show the verbal authorization and later denial?

Robert B. Snyder:

Not sure I have that in front of me.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

The review request says the adjuster advised verbal authorization was given by the previous adjuster, and the new adjuster denied it. Since it was verbal, and there's documentation of that, it makes sense.

Any questions from anyone else?

I'll make a motion to accept the recommendation. Is there a second?

Roy Johnson:

I'll second it.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

All in favor?

All:

Aye.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Any opposed? That one passes as recommended.

Robert B. Snyder:

Case 50: different date of service, same situation—verbal authorization received for aspiration of knee fluid and injection. Denial code was 293, stating prior authorization was required.

I'm not sure prior authorization is needed for knee aspiration during an orthopedic office visit. Recommendation: \ \$373.36 due to the provider.

Will Cromer:

I move we adopt the recommendation.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Is there a second?

Jennifer Guffey:

I second.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

All in favor?

All:

Aye.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Any opposed? That one passes as recommended.

Robert B. Snyder:

Case 51: paid.

Case 52: paid.

Case 53: paid.

Fortunately, a lot of these finally got paid.

Case 55: billed \ \$202, paid \ \$37.20. Medical fee schedule indicates an additional \ \$150.07 is due.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Any questions?

Is there a motion to accept the recommendation?

Jennifer Guffey:

I will not be able to sign in on this one.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

I'll make the motion to accept the recommendation. I just need a second.

Roy Johnson:

I'll second it.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

All in favor?

All:

Aye.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Any opposed? That one passes as recommended.

Robert B. Snyder:

Case 56: we have a report from Christina. Tenova vs. ESIS on a reduced code. Christina?

Christina Pendrak:

Yes. This provider is requesting additional reimbursement for date of service 4/1/2024 for a partial knee replacement. The fee schedule guidelines for that date reference Fair Health rate pages.

The allowed amount for CPT code 27446 is \ \$18,809.73. The provider was reimbursed \ \$13,517.66. Therefore, the amount due to the provider, less any contractual allowances, is \ \$5,292.07.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Any questions? It's a lot, but pretty straightforward.

I'll make a motion to accept the recommendation. Is there a second?

Jennifer Guffey:

Second.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

All in favor?

All:

Aye.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Any opposed? That one passes as recommended.

Robert B. Snyder:

Case 57: denied office visit again with the global and Z code issue. Recommended additional due to the provider: \ \$248.18.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Is there a motion to accept the recommendation?

Roy Johnson:

I move to accept.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

And a second?

Jennifer Guffey:

I second.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

All in favor?

All:

Aye.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Any opposed? That one passes as recommended.

Robert B. Snyder:

Case 58: another denied Z code and drug test and office visit after an earlier miscoding of the Z code to a procedure code. Additional due to the provider: \ \$212.18.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Any questions? One question I have—have we seen some of these processed by Gallagher Bassett being reconsidered correctly? There are a lot of them.

Robert B. Snyder:

Not to this date.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Okie dokie. I'll go into what we've tried to do to correct these in a few minutes.

Robert B. Snyder:

I get tired of doing these too.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

You read my mind.

Robert B. Snyder:

Yes.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

I'll make the motion to accept the recommendation. Is there a second?

Roy Johnson:

I'll second it.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

All in favor?

All:

Aye.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Any opposed? That one passes as recommended.

Robert B. Snyder:

Case 59 is very interesting. The attorney for ICW appealed to the committee for overbilling and impairment rating. I spoke to the physician's assistant, who agreed to continue trying to justify the charge and the impairment rating. This one is still pending.

The physician's office understands that if they are paid over the fee schedule, they must reimburse within 180 days. So far, we're not close to that timeline.

Case 60: St. Francis vs. Hartford—deferred.

Case 61: Baptist Memphis vs. Sedgwick—closed for untimely submission.

Case 62: West Bend Mutual did not pay a physician for a missed appointment. It was coded correctly. Recommendation: pay \ \$200 and notify the company of Rule 0800-02-17-.14.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Any questions from the committee? Is there a motion to accept the recommendation?

Jennifer Guffey:

Motion to accept.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

I'll second. All in favor?

All:

Aye.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Any opposed? That one passes as recommended.

Robert B. Snyder:

Case 63: another Z code violation. Additional due to the provider: \ \$150.07.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

I'll make a motion to accept the recommendation. Is there a second?

David Ward:

Real quick—this is the claim involving our clients. The Z code was incorrect?

Robert B. Snyder:

The Z code was paid at a discount. The visit was denied because it was within the global period post-surgery. The Z code was reconfigured as a procedure code, which led to the denial.

David Ward:

Got it. What's your advice to our clients?

Robert B. Snyder:

Read our handbook and update billing systems to identify Tennessee-specific Z codes. It's similar to Colorado's process.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

It's likely their systems don't recognize codes starting with letters like Z. Software updates may be needed.

David Ward:

Understood. What was the amount again?

Robert B. Snyder:

\ \$150.07.

David Ward:

That represents the difference between the denied visit and the fee schedule?

Robert B. Snyder:

Yes.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Is there a motion to accept the recommendation?

Roy Johnson:

I move to accept.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

I'll second. All in favor?

All:

Aye.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Any opposed? That one passes as recommended.

Robert B. Snyder:

Case 64: a missed appointment was paid.

Case 65: a discount for a behavioral assessment for depression, which was properly coded with a modifier.

They billed \ \$480. Paid \ \$413.23. Expected \ \$419.84.

Difference due to the provider: \ \$6.61, unless there are contractual discounts.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Any questions from the group on this one?

Will Cromer:

Move to accept.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

I'll second it. All in favor?

All:

Aye.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Any opposed? That one passes as recommended.

Robert B. Snyder:

The good news is we're finished. The last two have been paid. Yay.

Thank you, everybody, for your patience on these.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Let me see what's on the agenda. That was a lot of cases. We haven't had that many in a while.

Next item on the agenda is medical fee schedule updates.

Robert B. Snyder:

The medical fee schedule is currently in the Attorney General's Office for approval. Once it clears, it will be published on the Secretary of State's website and will become effective within 90 days.

We're just waiting for comments or required changes.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Any questions about that before we go on?

No?

Next item is issues with Z codes, which goes back to what I was asking about.

Robert B. Snyder:

After our last meeting in early May, I sent penalty letters regarding Z code issues to four companies:

- Sedgwick
- Gallagher Bassett
- Travelers
- Mitchell/Coventry/Enlyte

Sedgwick has corrected their issues—thank you, Jennifer.

For the others, it's too soon to tell if new claims are being processed correctly.

We'll wait and see if they've updated their systems.

Case 63 was a different company, and fortunately, we had a representative to help with that one.

But we did notify all four companies that were identified with Z code issues.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Sounds good to me.

Robert B. Snyder:

Hopefully I won't wear out the committee with more of these.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

If we continue to see them—on the Gallagher Bassett ones, I'll see if I can get in touch with someone at Coventry or Enlyte.

I know they're still doing bill review for Gallagher Bassett.

I'll try to reach out.

Robert B. Snyder:

I sent the letter to Brian Allen.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Yeah, he's always been responsive. He mostly handles pharmacy, but he should know someone who can help.

Robert B. Snyder:

Hopefully we won't see much more of that.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

OK.

Robert B. Snyder:

Go ahead and announce new business.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

New business—one thing not on the agenda:

We all need to send in our conflict of interest forms, right?

Robert B. Snyder:

Please.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Everyone on the committee, please send those to Lacy as soon as you can.

Next item: WCRI reporting.

Robert B. Snyder:

WCRI issued their latest comparison of prices paid for professional services across 36 states.

Tennessee ranks about fifth lowest.

We're within 5% of most states with fee schedules.

States without fee schedules are significantly higher.

Tennessee is 27th out of 37 in terms of prices paid—toward the bottom.

Cumulative growth in prices paid for physician services is only 8% from 2008 to 2024, compared to a 30% average across states.

This data supported our recommendation for fee schedule increases, which are now with the Attorney General.

These include:

- Physical therapy: ~30% increase
- Professional services: 20–40% increase depending on service

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

That's good information to know.

Next item is the rate table analysis from NCCI.

Robert B. Snyder:

NCCI, as part of their duties to the Workers' Comp Advisory Council, evaluated the impact of the medical fee schedule changes that went into effect April 1 with the Fair Health rate tables.

The combined impact on medical costs overall was negligible:

- Hospital outpatient services: +0.3%
- Ambulatory surgical centers: +3%
- Physician services: -0.6%

So overall, the impact of the April 2025 changes was negligible.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

There's a nice summary on page 3 of the documents for anyone skimming.

Any questions or comments from the group?

Any other new business that didn't make it to the agenda?

No?

Any announcements?

Robert B. Snyder:

None that I have today.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

I don't have any.

Robert B. Snyder:

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 14. Please mark your calendars. If there are any conflicts, let us know early.

Also, we have one announcement: the platform we used today was more complicated than the previous one.

We were just notified that our Information Services extended the TenCloud contract.

So we'll be going back to the TenCloud format for the next meeting—just sign in with a password, no account creation needed.

That should make things easier for everyone.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Sounds good.

The second meeting—can everyone look at their calendars for December 9?

Let us know if you have any conflicts. We're trying to get it in before the holidays.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

I can make that meeting.

One note: I'll be returning from a trip to England the day before, so I probably shouldn't lead the meeting due to jet lag.

Robert B. Snyder:

OK, we'll make a note of that.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

How about everyone else?

We're missing a couple people who gave proxies, so we'll check with them by email.

Will Cromer:

December 9 looks OK for me.

Roy Johnson:

As well.

Robert B. Snyder:

Jennifer, are you OK?

Jennifer Guffey:

Yes, that date is fine.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

OK, great.

Robert B. Snyder:

Great.

I want to thank Christina. That first case was a real challenge—thank you for all your work.

Christina Pendrak:

You're welcome, Doctor Snyder.

Robert B. Snyder:

And thank you to the committee for your diligence—not only reviewing the cases but also showing up for the meetings. We appreciate it very much.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Yes, thanks everybody.

I'll make a motion to end the meeting. Can I get a second?

Will Cromer:

Second.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

Motion moves. We are done.

Thanks, everybody, for coming today.

Robert B. Snyder:

Have a good holiday. Be safe.

Leann Lewis – ManageWare Solutions:

You too. Bye.

Troy Haley:

Appreciate your work.

Roy Johnson:

Alright, bye-bye.