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1	COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
2	CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
3	FOR MEDICAID SERVICES
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6	IN RE: OPTOMETRIC TAC
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10	HELD VIA ZOOM
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13	DATE:
14	MAY 4, 2023
15	1:00 P.M.
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3	ATTENDEES:
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7	Dr. Karoline Munson, Chair
8	Dr. Matt Burchett
9	Dr. Gary Upchurch
10	Dr. Steve Compton
11	Dr. James Sawyer
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16	(and many more were on ZOOM)
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1	DR. MUNSON: Okay. So I'm Dr. Munson.
2	Actually, Dr. Burchett is on the phone
3	call, but he is not feeling terribly well,
4	so he has asked me to go ahead and take the
5	helm today. So I'm glad that he could at
6	least join us, and I hope that you feel
7	better, Dr. Burchett.
8	So looking here to make sure we've got
9	our quorum. All right. So I think we are
10	good on that.
11	So the first move for us will be for
12	the approval of the minutes from the
13	previous meeting. So I will call for a
14	motion to approve those meeting minutes.
15	DR. UPCHURCH: I make a motion.
16	DR. COMPTON: Okay, go ahead. Steve
17	Compton. I'll second.
18	DR. MUNSON: Thank you, Dr. Upchurch, and
19	Dr. Compton, for the second.
20	Okay. So Item 4 on our agenda today
21	is some Old Business. So, DMS, you get the
22	floor pretty much our whole meeting today on
23	this old business. So I'm just going to go
24	ahead and pose these questions, and then
25	whomever from the Department has the best

1 ability to answer them, just go ahead and 2. chime in for us. 3 So does DMS have the no-show report to 4 share with the TAC for the optometrists? 5 know we've had e-mail in the past, but I did 6 not see one leading up to this meeting. 7 MS. BICKERS: Oh, he's logging in right 8 now. Just one second. 9 Justin, have you gotten in yet? 10 MR. DEARINGER: Yes, thank you. 11 DR. MUNSON: Do you want me to repeat that 12 question, then, so he can hear it? 13 MS. BICKERS: Yes, please. 14 DR. MUNSON: All right. So we are on No. 4 15 of our agenda under Old Business, and we 16 are asking does DMS have the no-show report 17 to share with the TAC for the optometrists? 18 From last meeting we did have an update 19 before our meeting, and I did not see one 20 come through prior to this meeting. 21 MR. DEARINGER: No. I've still -- I've got 22 that report pending. It's one that we have 23 asked for. We are just waiting to get that 24 information back. So I don't have that 25 available today. We will have that

available very soon.

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And, again, just kind of a reminder, we are currently working on and hoping to have available soon -- I know it was scheduled for an April release date that got pushed back again. Hopefully, it's going to be sometime this month for the no-show portal or the no-show dashboard. That will be a public access website and it's going to be -- anybody will be able to access that dashboard to be able to look at each provider type, each county, break it down several different dimensions to be able to look at the no-show list and what reasons were given for those no-shows. So that hopefully will be done within the next month or so. I've been kind of expecting it for the last several months, to be honest, and it's been delayed a few times. It's in production with our IT contractors. been for a little while. The actual report that we asked for, I think they misinterpreted that information of us asking for an update on the actual no-show dashboard. So we have not received that

1	yet. We have corrected that to let them
2	know that we just needed a no-show for
3	optometry to get that information to this
4	TAC, so they should be sending that pretty
5	soon.
6	DR. MUNSON: And then how will that be
7	distributed? Just via e-mail to us on the
8	TAC?
9	MR. DEARINGER: Right. I will send that to
10	our staff that does the Technical Advisory
11	Committees and they will e-mail each TAC
12	member.
13	DR. MUNSON: Perfect. Okay, great. Thank
14	you.
15	And then next for DMS, has there been
16	any update on the Kentucky Board of
17	Optometric Examiners electronically sending
18	licenses to DMS?
19	MS. DUDINSKIE: Hello, this is Jennifer
20	Dudinskie for Program Integrity. So as of
21	February the 13th that was the last
22	contact we had with Carson Kerr he
23	stated there were still issues with the old
24	system and that it was a holdup on their
25	side. I had staff reach back out last

week, and there has been no response from their office at this time. That is all I have.

Any question, comments on that portion? I have the next portion, too, on the updated license piece. Okay. The next question -- I hope you-all can hear me. I'm getting messages that my internet is unstable.

So we do have 163 optometrists who have not updated their license. So typically we have a notice that's issued 30 days prior to give -- send a notification that provider you need to do this. I just found out this morning that for whatever reason that failed and that notification didn't go out. So I requested that they send a notification out today to those optometrists. As of noon that should have been issued, so, you know, just to give a little extra notification out there for those optometrists to update their license.

Any other questions for me?

DR. MUNSON: Not on that. Thank you.

MS. DUDINSKIE: Uh-huh (affirmative).

1	Sure.
2	DR. MUNSON: So moving along, we are
3	continuing our discussion with the 2023 New
4	Medicaid vision material benefit for adults
5	and children. So first and foremost, is
6	there any update on the CMS approval on
7	these new enhanced benefits?
8	MS. LEE: Hello, this is Lisa Lee. I'm the
9	Commissioner for the Department of Medicaid
10	Services. We are continuing to work with
11	CMS regarding those benefits. We had a few
12	questions regarding responding to those and
13	we are awaiting their approval.
14	DR. MUNSON: Okay. Have they given you any
15	timeline on that?
16	MS. LEE: They have not given us a timeline
17	right now.
18	DR. MUNSON: Okay, thank you.
19	And then if we could discuss the
20	answers that we received from the Optometric
21	TAC's recommendation to the MAC. And so I
22	may I may have Sarah, if you're on here
23	or Dinah, chime in with that so we can maybe
24	be a little more specific with what we are
25	asking DMS to clarify. That's what happens

1	when you put somebody in charge of a meeting
2	like two hours before it starts.
3	MS. BEVINGTON: Dr. Munson
4	DR. MUNSON: I can hear you a little bit.
5	MS. BEVINGTON: Dr. Munson, this is Dinah.
6	Can you hear me?
7	DR. MUNSON: Yeah. Yeah, I can. You're
8	good now.
9	MS. BEVINGTON: Yeah. So the Optometric
10	TAC, as you know, is a group devoted to
11	submit some recommendations to the MAC.
12	Those recommendations were received and we
13	received a response from the MAC. I don't
14	know if perhaps this is included on the
15	agenda just to make sure that all of the
16	TACs members know what response was
17	received. I'm happy to go through that if
18	there's any additional questions. We don't
19	have any additional questions here at our
20	office. I think this was just included
21	just as a follow-up because last time we
22	met we had not heard back, or we had voted
23	to submit them and we had not heard back
24	from our recommendations, but now we have
25	and I believe everyone on the TAC has heard

1	that, has gotten that response, but I don't
2	know if any other members wanted to ask
3	questions about that.
4	DR. MUNSON: So do we have any other of our
5	TAC members, Dr. Compton, Dr. Sawyer,
6	Dr. Upchurch, Dr. Burchett anybody have
7	any questions on what was submitted back?
8	DR. COMPTON: Dr. Munson, I was a little
9	confused, especially on the
10	medically-necessary contact lenses for
11	children along with eyewear. Hasn't that
12	been a benefit all along? Haven't we
13	always been able to fit medically-necessary
14	contacts on children?
15	DR. MUNSON: I believe that's correct.
16	DR. COMPTON: The response was that the
17	Department would need what numbers that
18	would affect, but they are already doing
19	it, so I wasn't real clear as to what
20	everybody needs to know about that.
21	MS. LEE: This is Lisa. Hi, Dr. Compton.
22	So our children's benefit, you're
23	correct, we could always do contact lenses
24	through the EPSDT. That's the Early
25	Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and

1 Treatment program or benefit. 2. services could always be performed. So in 3 the event that anything needs to be provided 4 to children over and above that benefit, it 5 just, you know, needs to be through the 6 EPSDT benefit. We -- the language I think 7 may have been -- with that may have been just a little bit confusing. We didn't need 8 9 to know the number for children so much as 10 we would have the adults, so I hope that we 11 clarified that answer. I think that there 12 were a couple of responses to those -- to 13 those recommendations and I hope that's been 14 clarified. But that has always been a benefited for children. 15 16 DR. COMPTON: Commissioner, thanks. 17 think there may be another disconnect that 18 we all need to be on the same page when we 19 talk about medically-necessary contact 20 lenses, or I'm using the term luxury 21 contact lenses, those folks that just want 22 contact lenses because they don't want to 23 wear glasses or what have you. There may 24 be some confusion between all the parties 2.5 involved and all these expanded benefits as

1 to what is what, so to speak. So just to 2. me it's like, you know, maybe we are not all on the same page, but that could just 3 4 be me. 5 MS. LEE: And I think maybe that's what the 6 response was trying to state, that the 7 contact lenses should be medically 8 necessary. But I agree that we need to go 9 back and look at the language to make sure 10 that we clear up any confusion related to 11 the coverage of the services that we are 12 providing. I believe the expanded services 13 we -- everything in Medicaid, of course, 14 has to be medically necessary for us to 15 deliver those services, but I believe that 16 the intent is that we will cover contacts 17 and/or glasses for individuals regarding 18 their vision needs, that we would cover 19 them and they have to be medically 20 necessary, of course, the contact lenses. 21 So if somebody needs -- for example, 22 somebody needs correction, vision 23 correction, we would think that they could 24 get either glasses or contact lenses, but 25 I'll have to defer back to Justin and to see

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if that was the intent in the regulation, that anyone could get either contact lenses or glasses, or was there special criteria for contact lenses.

MR. DEARINGER: This is Justin Dearinger. Thank you, Commissioner.

No, you are absolutely correct, the intent was -- has always been and currently is, even in the new reiteration, that contact lenses are for medical necessity only. And we spoke with multiple providers when we initially created the administrative regulations. They talked about instances where contact lenses were the preferred choice for certain instances and certain indications, and that's what we were trying to do was to give the provider the choice of exactly what type of corrective prescription that that individual needed based on that provider's assessment and that individual's needs. And so that's why it says they can have one or the other, and it is, you know, basically left to the discretion of the clinician that's prescribing those lenses.

If there's, you know, any thought that

1	clinicians in the state of Kentucky wouldn't
2	be capable of making some of those choices
3	or things like that, we could talk about
4	that maybe with the Board. That might be a
5	better discussion for them. But for us on
6	our fee schedule, we only open that up to
7	allow for prescribers clinicians,
8	prescribers to prescribe exactly what they
9	felt necessary for their individual patients
10	based on their analysis and their expertise.
11	And we show that on the fee schedule as well
12	as the administrative regulation.
13	MS. LEE: And, for example, we would not
14	cover contact lenses if someone did not
15	have did not need vision correction and
16	they just, for example, wanted to change
17	the color of their eyes. Those contacts
18	would definitely not be covered. That's an
19	example of contact lenses that would not be
20	medically necessary for individuals.
21	DR. MUNSON: So let me let me just make
22	sure this is just Dr. Munson that
23	when you talk about the medical necessity,
24	it is actually defined by either their
25	clinical diagnosis or their prescription.

1	So for someone who is, you know, just
2	you are wearing reading glasses, so let's
3	say they just want to have contacts so they
4	can see to read, then that is not what it
5	falls into medically necessary.
6	Now, if they are very, very
7	nearsighted I believe the statute is
8	minus eight and above then someone that
9	falls into that would be considered
10	medically necessary. So it is the same
11	MS. LEE: Yes, that's correct.
12	DR. MUNSON: So I want to make sure that
13	this isn't any different than what we have
14	already been following for children.
15	MS. LEE: That is correct.
16	DR. MUNSON: Okay, perfect. Thank you.
17	DR. COMPTON: That clears up the confusion.
18	DR. MUNSON: Absolutely. And then will
19	that is that already now reflected on
20	the new vision fee schedule, that it is
21	medically necessary only for the
22	reimbursement for the contact lenses?
23	MS. LEE: Yes, I believe that is it's
24	definitely spelled out in the regulation.
25	DR. MUNSON: Okay. And then is that going

1 to be included on the fee schedule as well, 2. annotated on that, or just in the 3 regulation? MS. LEE: We can -- we can go back and look 4 5 at the fee schedule and see if it's 6 annotated on there. If not, we could -- we 7 could add that if the TAC thinks that's 8 something that would be useful for the rest 9 of the population. 10 DR. MUNSON: It would just -- it would make 11 it easier to keep that kind of clean that 12 way. Perfect. Thank you. And then -- go 13 ahead. 14 MS. BEVINGTON: I'm sorry, one quick thing. 15 So what we have heard from a number of 16 providers is that the patient population 17 believes that they have a choice between 18 glasses or contact lenses. And then when 19 you pull the vision fee schedule, that's 20 the language that is utilized, it's a 21 choice between contact lenses or glasses. 22 The medically-necessary language to include 23 on that vision fee schedule and any 24 communication out to patients would be very 25 helpful to help clarify that, because our

1	providers are on the front lines having to
2	explain that not everyone gets contact
3	lenses just because they prefer to have
4	that as their method of vision correction.
5	MS. LEE: Okay. So would it be helpful
6	then if the Department drafted up
7	drafted a letter maybe, or some sort of a
8	communication, and let the TAC review it to
9	see if we could clear up some of this
10	confusion, and are you saying you think it
11	would be better for the members and the
12	providers, or both?
13	MS. BEVINGTON: Absolutely, for both as
14	well. Yeah.
15	MS. KLINGELHOFER: This is March Vision.
16	This is Tyania from March Vision. We are
17	using the language, elective contact
18	lenses. And just recently we have been
19	guided to tell our providers that it's
20	eight units covered, and it's glasses or
21	contacts, and that is what's specific on
22	the benefits. So we we do need some
23	clarify. Members need clarity, providers
24	need clarity. This is just causing a bunch
25	of chaos for us on the MCO side, and we're

1 in May. Let's just say we're -- you know, 2. we are halfway through the year with these 3 new benefits. DR. DAVIS: This is John Davis from 4 5 EyeQuest. I want to reiterate that 6 statement that it's so confusing. Maybe I 7 can ask just one maybe simple case in 8 point. Maybe -- Dr. Munson, let's assume 9 the patient comes into your office and they 10 are, whatever, minus 1.25 sphere; right? 11 They are 12 years old. They are at 1.25 12 They maybe have a little cell, 13 whatever. It doesn't matter. Right? So 14 they see with glasses 20/15 correctable. 15 They say, no, I don't wants glasses this 16 time; I'd rather have contact lenses. 17 it our understanding that that patient now 18 is allowed to have contact lenses instead 19 of glasses at that visit? Let's assume, 20 right, you don't have a contraindication to 21 it. You just say, fine, that's what they 22 want. Would that be part of the criteria 23 for when we would cover contact lenses for the kids, do you think, based on your 24 25 understanding?

DR. MUNSON: All right. So you are asking me based on my understanding in the clinical setting. No, because the regulations are written that for them to be medically-necessary contacts, that child needs to be a minus eight or higher. So, yes, clinically they could get them, but would the coverage come from them personally? Yes. Would it come from DMS?

And I'll ask Commissioner Lee if I'm interpreting that correctly, but I believe that is.

MS. LEE: I think I need to take this back to some of our policy folks and our medical director to make sure. I've been taking notes and got the information that you-all have asked. But I want to go back and just clarify, are we now saying that individuals can have contacts or glasses, and that if that's the case, then we need to clarify that, or are we saying that, no, they can only get contact lenses in the event that it meets medical-necessity criteria and here would be -- and here is the criteria.

MS. ALLEN: This is Nicole with Avesis -MR. DEARINGER: I just want to say that the
way that we currently interpret it in our
regulation, at least in the last one that
was filed and the current regulation that
was filed, that it would have to meet
medical necessity. We have said that in
each regulation. In both places we have
said that specifically that it had to meet
medical necessity. And medical necessity
would be if the clinician decided that it
was medically necessary for that individual
to have contacts.

It doesn't have to specifically be a medical issue, you know. It could be that the -- you know, maybe a child has some form of autism where they won't keep the glasses on their face and they decide that contacts are a better solution. There are a multitude of different areas and reasons why a clinician may choose to describe -- or prescribe medical contacts over glasses; however, it has to be a medical necessity and medically necessary for them to be able to do that. And I think we state that in

1	the regulation and in the previous
2	regulation as well.
3	MS. LEE: Thanks, Justin. I still think
4	there is some confusion based on the
5	conversation that we are having. There
6	still seems to be and I think Nicole
7	from Avesis were you going to say
8	something?
9	MS. ALLEN: Commissioner Lee, thank you. I
10	just wanted to confirm that for Humana, for
11	Aetna, and also for WellCare, based upon
12	the $4/12$ care revisions we reinstituted the
13	medically-necessary criteria. So for the
14	adults and for children, contact lenses are
15	not in lieu of eyeglasses. They are
16	covered under medical necessity. We are in
17	the process of updating our plan sheets for
18	the providers, so that will that will be
19	released very shortly, or very soon, I
20	should say. Thank you.
21	MS. LEE: And I think, Dr. Munson, that
22	was what Nicole just said is your
23	understanding, too, that contact lenses are
24	not covered in lieu of, but must meet
25	medical necessity.

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Correct. And this is DR. MUNSON: discussions in previous times with the TAC, and if the TAC members would like to chime in -- we had actually gone over this in detail in a special-called meeting, because initially I don't believe, and the other TAC members can bring their recollection, but I don't believe initially when this was presented that it was just contact lenses. There was no dialogue in there about medical necessity at all, and that was something that we brought. That was a recommendation that we brought to the MAC that it was medically necessary only.

It was already there in statute for children, but when this expanded benefit came out that it was expanded to adults, but it kind of became a free-for-all, and I feel like that's also what some of the MCOs on the call are talking about, is it has been kind of a moving target because that medical necessity wasn't -- wasn't hammered out and wasn't written out for people to understand. And in addition, Justin's scenario -- and I understand that you are not a doctor, but

I -- I almost cannot imagine getting a
contact lens in an autistic child's eye that
will not wear glasses. I can't imagine them
letting us come and do that.

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But when we talk about medical necessity, that is already defined in statute. I've been in practice 22 years. It has been in Medicaid to tell us when that is allowed and when it is not allowed. it's not like I can say, oh, my, minus four, plays football, and he could potentially get hurt by having his glasses on under his helmet, so I'm going to deem that medically necessary. I as a practitioner don't have the leeway. The Department of Medicaid has told us what parameters is medically necessary and what is not. And so that is not something we need to reinvent the wheel. The Department has already done that. just need to make sure that it is referenced across the board, and we as practitioners need to know, so we know which direction we are going, and also the recipients need to understand what benefits they do or don't So I think Dr. Upchurch has had

several instances of this, so I'm going to let him kind of give his background on it.

DR. UPCHURCH: Well, our understanding in -- and this has been horrible. I've talked with all the MCOs. They are in a bad position. I've talked to providers, multiple providers. We are all in the position where these patients are coming in and their understanding is, is that they can choose either contact lenses or they can choose glasses. And, you know, we are put on the front line and it's difficult.

So we've got some MCOs that -- several MCOs that are providing that, several that are not. And at this point I'm in total agreement with the TAC. We have guidelines, Medicaid does, on what is medically necessary. And I've been -- I've been going -- you know, I've been going against the grain on that because we have been told, or we have been implied that we could -- you know, people could get contacts. I'm all for making this plain that what exactly the stipulations are, and also getting that information to the patients, because it's --

1 it's killing us on the front line. 2. And to put contact lenses on children, 3 especially when you're saying you are providing a year's supply, but you're not; 4 5 you're providing one unit per eye, which is only one box, which is six lenses per eye, 6 that's only six months' supply at maximum, 7 8 then we are looking at potential major 9 problems down the road as those people 10 overwear those type of lenses. 11 I hope that helps. I hope that's what 12 you were after, Karoline. I don't know. 13 DR. MUNSON: Yeah. Thank you, 14 Dr. Upchurch. 15 MS. LEE: That helps me tremendously, too. 16 And I think that there is a bigger 17 conversation that needs to be had. 18 definitely appreciate this conversation. Ι 19 understand the confusion. I understand 20 what action we need to take and to get some 21 clarity. So I will -- I will take this 22 back to my medical team, to my policy, have 23 a discussion. And what I'm hearing from 24 this -- from the TAC is that we already

have the medical-necessity criteria.

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Ιf

1	the intent of the Department is to only
2	apply medical-necessity criteria to contact
3	lenses, we already have that in place. If
4	the intent is to allow contacts in lieu of,
5	we need to do some communication and some
6	outreach to our provider community and our
7	members, and our managed care
8	organizations.
9	DR. UPCHURCH: Agreed.
10	MS. LEE: Thank you-all so much. This has
11	been a great conversation and glad that I
12	could join today, and hope to be able to
13	join as many of these as I can in the
14	future of the TAC meetings because always
15	good information and good conversation.
16	DR. MUNSON: Great.
17	MS. BEVINGTON: In the meantime, you know,
18	are we sticking to the medically
19	necessary
20	MS. LEE: Well, and it sounds like to me
21	that there's providers that are sticking to
22	the medical-necessity criteria and
23	providers that are not. So I think in the
24	meantime I would stick to the medical
25	well, because everything in Medicaid has to

1	be medically necessary, so I would I
2	would recommend sticking to the
3	medical-necessity criteria that's outlined
4	in the regulation.
5	MS. BEVINGTON: Okay. Thank you.
6	MR. IRBY: And, Commissioner Lee, this is
7	Greg from UHC. And for our organization, I
8	think the regulations are pretty clear that
9	contact lenses must be medically necessary.
10	The regs specifically say in 631, it says
11	that these are not covered unless they meet
12	the 632 guidelines, which require the
13	medical necessity. So I'm not sure how all
14	the MCOs are handling this, but we are
15	handling it in alignment with the current
16	regs. So if that question were posed to us
17	as an MCO, the answer is yes, we have to
18	have medical necessity. It is not a
19	in-lieu-of benefit.
20	MS. LEE: Thank you, Greg.
21	DR. MUNSON: Do any of the other members of
22	the TAC committee have any other comments
23	on the contact lens issue?
24	DR. COMPTON: Other than just we are here
25	to help, so just, you know, please run it

1 by us and we will maybe save everybody a 2. lot of heartache. 3 DR. MUNSON: Okay. So next question was 4 the discussion on balance billing with 5 the -- anything that people get, and this is both children and adults. 6 Is that 7 something that is going to be allowed? Ι 8 mean, I've had this question even this 9 week. And so that would be something that 10 if we could get some clarity on whether or 11 not that would be allowed, that would be 12 great. 13 MS. LEE: The federal rules do not allow balance billing of Medicaid members, so... 14 DR. MUNSON: And so this is kind of where 15 16 this is hard for us to thread the needle. 17 So previously some of the MCOs have been 18 generous enough to offer a value-added 19 benefit of glasses, and in that value-added 20 benefit if the patient chose to get 21 something different, they were allowed to 22 have an upgrade. And so if this benefit 23 now flips to a benefit for all that is 24 coming from DMS, they will not be allowed 25 to do any of that balance billing from this

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point further?

MS. LEE: That is correct, because it was not a covered benefit before, patients would have had -- and in the event that the Medicaid MCOs did not offer that benefit, the patients would have had to pay for that service themselves. Now that it is a covered service in the Medicaid program, it has to be -- we have to have -- the rules have to apply equally to everyone, and there would be no balance billing in the program.

DR. MUNSON: Okay. And then the last question refers to the contact lens fitting fee, which is code 92310.

In our last meeting DMS said that there would not be a limit on the use of that code. So some of the MCOs are not covering the contact lens fitting and others have confirmed that they will only pay for one fitting during the year. So if DMS has not put a limit on the vision Medicaid fee schedule, can the MCOs set their own limits and not follow the fee schedule limits?

MS. LEE: If the Medicaid fee schedule does

1	have a limit, the MCOs have to adhere to
2	that limit. They can exceed that limit,
3	but they could not reduce that limit.
4	DR. MUNSON: So if it does not have a limit
5	
	on it, they cannot reduce that; is that
6	what you're saying?
7	MS. LEE: If it does not have a limit, if
8	we have no limits in place, then there's no
9	limit, and I would I would look to see
10	if it's something that you know, how
11	many how many contact lens fittings a
12	year would be appropriate. Is it something
13	that the Department should consider a limit
14	on, is what I would ask the TAC.
15	DR. MUNSON: So that really depends on what
16	you're fitting. I mean, that and I'll
17	let Dr. Upchurch speak to it, too, because
18	specialty fittings are a different animal
19	altogether.
20	DR. UPCHURCH: Well, in my office basic
21	contact lens fitting, I cover it with just
22	the one visit. That would not be a
23	problem, but that's at a minimal charge.
24	Then when you go up to lenses such as toric
25	lenses, astigmatism lenses, you go up to

1 gas permeable lenses, you go up to bifocal 2. contact lenses, typically those are going 3 to require several visits, and our charge 4 goes up to the private pay patient 5 accordingly. And so one charge of 92310 6 per year would not even come close on a gas 7 permeable bitoric contact lens, or, you 8 know, a gas perm bifocal lens. We would --9 we would essentially lose our shirts on 10 that. 11 MS. LEE: I think that there was a 12 conversation prior to this that talked 13 about the type of lenses that Medicaid would cover and there was a -- there was 14 15 some concern about the gas permeable. 16 example, there was some talk of concerns 17 about the different types of lenses, and a 18 recommendation was made that we only -- I 19 think that the regulation right now -- I 20 know the regulation says that we cover 21 daily lenses rather than the gas permeable 22 and the different types, the hard lenses. 23 DR. UPCHURCH: Well --24 DR. MUNSON: If you don't mind here --25 Dr. Upchurch, I'm going to jump in here

real quick.

2.

So, Commissioner Lee, this is really -- you're really hitting the nail on the head, and I think it may be a good idea to review the December meeting, the emergency meeting that the TAC called, because you will hear a lot of this conversation and understand where some of the miscommunication or just misunderstandings are coming from.

So when you go back to talking about a medically-necessary contact lens, and I'll use keratoconus for example, probably the number one reason we would use a gas permeable lens. That is not something that can be corrected. It's a disease of the front part of the eye. You cannot correct it very well with glasses. You can only get the best visual acuity with a gas permeable contact lens. That is a medically-necessary specific reason that DMS would cover contact lenses.

When we were told initially, when this was brought to us, it was contacts for everybody, kids, adults, everybody. There

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1 was medically-necessary not in the discussion at all, and that was where our 2. 3 frustration came in, because it was approved 4 for one unit. When we initially had our 5 discussion, one unit meant one soft contact 6 lens per eye per year. Again, I've been in 7 practice 22 years. I have not dealt with these lenses since I was a minor working in 8 9 my doctor's office in high school. That is 10 how antiquated that technology is. So we 11 tried to bring this to DMS, and that was 12 something that we tried to have that 13 conversation that those lenses are not 14 standard of care. Those lenses are going to 15 end up in worse health for the front part of 16 the eyes for the patients, and honestly 17 ultimately more cost to DMS for visits to 18 our office. So that discussion is all on, 19 as Dr. Compton refers to them, luxury 20 lenses, the I-want-contact-lenses, not 21 I-need-contact-lenses. 22 So the materials that we're using when 23 we talk about an I-need-contact-lenses are 24 completely different, they are much more 2.5 complex, they require a lot more chair time,

a lot more visits, and that's where the multiple use of that fitting fee code that Dr. Upchurch was explaining comes into play. And so there may be a daily lens that is necessary for someone in some — in some respects, but more than likely there are very specialty lenses that we're talking about for someone that is having — that actually has a disease of the eye. Somebody who is just incredibly nearsighted that literally can't see past, you know, two inches in front of their eyes and they have contact lenses, then, yes, daily lenses would appropriate for them to maintain the health of their eyes.

So this is a very nuanced conversation and this is just pointing to the reason why we as an Optometric TAC, since we are the doctors, this is our wheelhouse, we can provide all these answers, where folks at DMS, it's just that's not their thing. They didn't go to school for it. So it's very hard to work through these nuances if it's not something that you are incredibly familiar with.

So I didn't mean to jump right in there, Dr. Upchurch, but I feel like this really points to why this has been such a conundrum for all of us.

DR. UPCHURCH: You're good.

MS. LEE: I appreciate that. Dr. Munson, I appreciate that. I will go back and review those December emergency meeting minutes, and I think we've got -- the regulations were refiled on April the 12th. They will be up for review, reg review, on May the 9th. That's next Tuesday at 1:00. So we will talking about the regulations with reg review.

And, again, I think this is some good conversation. I think our intent -- of course, we do want to focus on services that are going to help our Medicaid members improve their vision, improve their sight.

I think that is a first step. I think we have some more conversations to go and some more tweaks to make before we get it just right. But I do think it's vitally important for our Medicaid members, our adults, to receive glasses or contact lenses

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in order to correct their vision so that they can, number one, be able to function in society, but, you know, help them get back into the workforce so that they can see as they go forward.

I think that we have -- you know, from some of the stats that I've been looking at maybe -- you know, preliminary maybe over 50,000 individuals who have received glasses. Not the contact lenses. Glasses. I've seen very view contact lenses. I think that's a large number and I think helping these individuals be able to see and regain some freedom in their life is very important.

I so appreciate this TAC, and I do look forward to conversations on how we can clear up some of this confusion and do what's right by our Medicaid members and our providers. So I think, you know,

Dr. Munson, your conversation that you just -- very on spot and appreciate your candor. You are correct that the individuals here at Medicaid, we don't have the expertise that you have, and we will be

1	looking to you, to this TAC, to help us as
2	we move forward.
3	DR. MUNSON: So we have 50,000 covered
4	lives that received glasses since January
5	with this expanded benefits?
6	MS. LEE: For adults. If the if the
7	information that I am looking at, if I am
8	interpreting it correctly, that's about
9	57 I can't 50 I can give you the
10	specific code. Let's see, the code that
11	I'm looking at, it's V2100 to V2399. Those
12	are glasses, 58,000 individuals.
13	DR. MUNSON: And that's just in the adult
14	component of it?
15	MS. LEE: Just the adult since January.
16	DR. MUNSON: And that includes all the
17	codes within that or that's individual
18	lives?
19	MS. LEE: That's 58 individual lives.
20	62,173 services delivered to those 58,000.
21	And a little over \$1.5 million.
22	DR. MUNSON: Wow.
23	MS. LEE: So, you know, we do know that
24	there was a pent-up demand. And one of the
25	things that I talk about when I talk about

25

our Medicaid members, I talk about, you know, the federal poverty level. We always throw out that federal poverty level number, and, you know, it's at 138 percent of the federal poverty level and below, and what does that really mean. You know, for a family of four, some of the information that I've looked at if you look at that 138, it's right around \$40,000 a year, and the average cost to live in Kentucky is over 42,000. So individuals -- the bulk of these individuals that we are serving, Medicaid members, you know, they're working to put food on the table. And that 42,000 that I talked -- 40,000 is pre-tax. before taxes are even taken out of their income.

So having glasses is a luxury for some of them and it shouldn't be a luxury. It should be a benefit. They should be able to see and to read and to drive. So I think that 58,000 number is very telling about the pent-up demand that was out there, the individuals that did not have corrective glasses that needed them. So, again, I

1	think that it's something that's totally
2	different. And we haven't covered glasses
3	before, but I think it's something that is
4	so necessary.
5	DR. COMPTON: Commissioner, it's
6	Dr. Compton. On the 58,000, or whatever
7	number you just quoted, you say it's V2100
8	through V
9	MS. LEE: 2399. It says lenses is what
10	I've got the description
11	DR. COMPTON: Most of the times there's two
12	V codes filed per pair of glasses.
13	MS. LEE: So even if you halved it, it
14	would be about it would still be about
15	30,000 individuals. Now, there's another
16	V2020
17	DR. COMPTON: That's frames.
18	MS. LEE: that's 57,495 people.
19	DR. COMPTON: Then that would be accurate
20	because that's only billed once. I just
21	didn't want the wrong number getting out
22	there.
23	MS. LEE: Yeah. 57 V2020 is 57,495.
24	So, and I think that that's very telling
25	on, you know, the pent-up demand that was

1	out there for individuals who needed to be
2	able to see.
3	DR. COMPTON: It's a great, great benefit.
4	We just need to get everything get us
5	all on the same page.
6	MS. LEE: And I think we are getting
7	there, you know
8	DR. COMPTON: Today's made a big a lot
9	of headway.
10	MS. LEE: I think we are getting there. I
11	think that, you know, it's really
12	important, and I always say that the
13	Medicaid program was created for the
14	member, but we can't take care of our
15	members if we don't take care of our
16	providers because you-all are the ones
17	seeing these individuals, you know, so very
18	vital to getting them the services they
19	need. But I was really I was a big wow
20	when I saw that number of glasses, of 57,
21	just since January, so
22	DR. MUNSON: Absolutely. And that is I
23	mean, I will say for the MCOs that did
24	cover that as a value-added benefit, it
25	is I mean, at that point was wonderful

because for several years as a practitioner I just had to say, oh, you turned 21, you know, sorry, you don't get anything anymore, or have the conversation with the 20-year-old to be like, you know, we got to get this done before you turn 21. So the MCOs that offered that as a value-added benefit kind of cracked things open. But this benefit is fantastic. It is definitely something that I think can change the lives of the people in the Commonwealth.

I did get one question for you in the chat and I'm just going to read it from here. It's LeeAnn Ellis with March Vision, and it's, "Question for DMS to take back please: If there is no elective contact lens benefit, then why does the current revised 4/12/23 Kentucky Medicaid fee schedule indicate that codes V2500, et cetera show as available with 8 units? It specifically states, 'Adults and children may select eyeglasses or contact lenses per year but not both.'"

MS. LEE: And I think this goes back to the

conversation we had about the medical necessity that's in the regulation that's not on the fee schedule to cross-reference, so that's a very good question and something that we are going to take back and discuss.

DR. MUNSON: Okay. Excellent.

Now, does anyone on the TAC have any other questions about the 2023 New Medicaid vision material benefits?

DR. UPCHURCH: I just have a comment,
Karoline. I just want to say to Director
Lee how much I appreciate you, and you
probably don't remember me, but we worked
together so many years ago that you
probably don't even want me to mention it,
but I appreciate you and your team and you
listening to us and hearing us out on this,
because we on the front line, and the MCOs
right behind us, have sort of been in a
real predicament since this all came along.
So I just want you to know we don't mean to
cause you-all any problems, but we really
appreciate what you are trying to do for
the people of Kentucky, and I think we are

1 on the right track here. 2. I appreciate that, Dr. Church. MS. LEE: 3 And I do remember you and I think -- I 4 can't even remember how long ago it was. 5 DR. UPCHURCH: You don't want me to say. It was a while. 6 MS. LEE: 7 DR. UPCHURCH: Yeah. 8 MS. LEE: But I have over, you know, 20 9 years' experience in the Medicaid program, 10 and Medicaid is a huge, huge program and you know, our resources are -- you know, 11 12 just like many of you, our resources are 13 stretched to the limit. And sometimes when 14 we go down these paths of making changes to 15 the program, it's very difficult because 16 it's not just the Department and the TAC, 17 it's CMS has to be involved, you know, 18 other -- it's just, you know, our system 19 changes, different things. 20 And we do agree with you, 21 Dr. Upchurch, that we are going down the 22 right path. We've got a few bumps in the 23 road, but I think that we are going to get 24 those straightened out and do what's best

for our members and our providers as far as

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the vision services goes, and this has been a really good conversation today, I believe. DR. UPCHURCH: Thank you. That's all I wanted to say, Karoline.

DR. MUNSON: Okay. Thanks, Dr. Upchurch.

Okay. Well, if we don't have any other questions on that part, then we will go ahead and move on. I believe

Ms. Dudinskie already answered our question under New Business about our optometrists about updating their license.

And then the other general discussion, a couple of things -- I know that Avesis had some questions. Again, getting told to lead the meeting two hours before it starts, I don't have those. But I do have one to lead up to that that kind of does tie in,

Commissioner Lee, with what you said about the contact lens fee, the 92310, if there's no limit on the fee schedule, then there's no limit of those codes. Our regular just 99 codes, so 99211, 99212, 99213, those do not have limits on the fee schedule, so are those also something that would not be limited from the coverage from the MCO

1 perspective? 2. MS. LEE: Would you say those codes again, 3 please? I'm sorry. 4 DR. MUNSON: So they do have -- excuse me. 5 They do have limits of two, which is 99211, 99212 and 99213. And so they have a limit 6 7 of two -- excuse me, I'm saying this 8 backwards. So what we are asking, and I 9 don't -- I don't know the correct direction 10 for this to go or how this request to come 11 through, but that's something -- like I 12 have a guy that comes in and gets a foreign 13 body in his eye. A 99213 would be very --14 very correct to use for follow-ups. Well, 15 if they don't follow my directions, they 16 don't get their eyedrops, and I have to see 17 them two or three times, I actually can 18 only see him twice under that code, and 19 that's -- you can ask the other doctors on 20 this panel -- that's an incredibly commonly 21 used code. It is not a long amount of 22 It's not a terribly high time. 23 reimbursement. And so that is something 24 that if we can talk about that limitation 25 being lifted, because, to be honest, 99211

1	isn't or 212 aren't even codes that
2	would be billed. I mean, they are 99211
3	doesn't even require a doctor's presence, I
4	don't think. And so that is something that
5	from a care perspective does kind of bind
6	us to be able to take care of patients
7	appropriately with longer-term issues.
8	MS. LEE: I would think that that sounds
9	like a great recommendation to look at
10	lifting those codes, and if you made that
11	recommendation maybe inserting what you
12	think may be appropriate. I think that
13	that is a good that would be a good
14	recommendation for the TAC to make, is for
15	us to talk about that limitation being
16	lifted.
17	DR. MUNSON: And that doesn't that code
18	does not affect just us. That's a
19	that's a, you know, provider-wide code, so
20	it's not optometry specific. So I'm
21	actually kind of surprised that we would be
22	the first ones recommending that to the
23	MAC, but I feel that there would be
24	providers across the board that would
25	definitely be supportive of that change.

1	MS. LEE: And that would be one where we
2	would have to go back and we could look at
3	how many times that code has been billed
4	and more than once. I'm not sure the
5	only thing that we would have to go by
6	would be under the EPSDT, if it was ever
7	medically necessary, if it was ever under
8	the EPSDT benefit, if it was lifted. But
9	if you make that recommendation, I would
10	suggest you also include maybe some sort of
11	a recommended limit that you think would be
12	reasonable.
13	DR. MUNSON: Okay.
14	MS. LEE: That would help us determine
15	cost the cost of making that change.
16	DR. MUNSON: Okay.
17	MS. BEVINGTON: This is Dinah Bevington.
18	After we had the special meeting in
19	December we were asked to submit our
20	recommendations to the Department, which we
21	did December 29, 2022, and I'll send you a
22	copy of this correspondence that we
23	specifically requested that the limitation
24	be removed on those codes at that time. So
25	I'll send that to you so you've got a copy.

1	MS. LEE: And did that go to the MAC, too?
2	That went to the MAC and then
3	MS. BEVINGTON: Yes, it also went to the
4	MAC as well.
5	MS. LEE: Okay. So we have it. I can look
6	it up, Dinah. There's no sense in sending
7	it to me. I can get it. And I'm assuming
8	that we responded to that?
9	MS. BEVINGTON: No, there was no response
10	to that specific that recommendation, it
11	looks like.
12	MS. LEE: Okay. I'll go back and take
13	that but if you have made that
14	recommendation, then I'll look I'll go
15	back and look at that and we'll take that
16	into consideration.
17	MS. BEVINGTON: Wonderful.
18	MS. LEE: Sorry for that oversight.
19	MS. BEVINGTON: That's all right. Thank
20	you very much.
21	DR. UPCHURCH: Most of your MCOs are paying
22	that code more than once because they
23	realize I've got one lady that has
24	recurrent iritis and I may see her ten or
25	12 times in a year. So most of the MCOs

1	are paying it more than once, but it's sort
2	of got their hands tied, too.
3	MS. LEE: And that is a good thing about
4	the MCOs, you know. They do have more
5	flexibility to provide some of those
6	services and exceed some of those
7	limitations. But that's good to know, too,
8	Dr. Upchurch. That gives us a little bit
9	more information that we can look in the
10	system about how many times that code has
11	been billed and paid with those limitations
12	lifted.
13	DR. MUNSON: Okay. Thank you for that.
14	And I apologize for presenting that kind of
15	backwards, but I appreciate you looking
16	into that for us.
17	And then I'm going to let Nicole from
18	Avesis I'm going to put you on the hot
19	seat. Avesis had some questions as well.
20	MS. ALLEN: Hello, Dr. Munson.
21	Actually, we presented we did
22	discuss the main one that we had questions
23	with, so thank you so much. We do
24	appreciate you bringing that forward.
25	DR. MUNSON: Oh, you're so welcome. Well,

1	excellent. That is fantastic.
2	Okay. So is there any other general
3	discussion from any members of the TAC
4	committee today?
5	DR. COMPTON: Is this part of New Business?
6	May I chime in?
7	DR. MUNSON: Yeah, we are ready for New
8	Business.
9	DR. COMPTON: Okay. Earlier this week or
10	late last week, I don't know, a colleague
11	of mine called called billing and coding
12	employee to let us know that the I can't
13	think of the code right now off the top of
14	my head.
15	MS. LEE: 66030?
16	DR. COMPTON: Yes, yes. And, Commissioner
17	Lee, I thank you ahead of time for helping
18	us. That that had been termed, I guess is
19	a word from I don't know if it's
20	Medicaid didn't pay anybody that, or just a
21	term for that's fixed. But my bigger
22	question is, is how does DMS decide what
23	codes they will pay, what codes they will
24	stop paying? Is there a process? Is it
25	just to kind of avoid this issue again, or

1 at least have a heads up.

MS. LEE: We do have a process for the bulk of our procedure codes. It's typically based on Medicare. There are some things that Medicare does not cover, but typically our codes are -- we base our fee schedules on Medicare, and our rates are developed on a Kentucky-specific Medicare fee schedule.

With this particular code, Dr. Compton, what happened is the Department received some communication from an association, and this is not uncommon. receive these sorts of communications all the time. And we received a communication that said that this code that we were probably -- that we could be operating outside of, or be in violation of KRS 320.210 specifically Section 2(b)3, which relates to -- which relates to procedures that were excluded from the scope of practice of optometry. And the third one is a nonlaser surgery, and it goes on to -- it says requiring full thickness incision or excision. So we interpreted that. What we did is when we received that communication,

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we went to the KRS and our interpretation was, well, this code was not allowable. But we have since had some communications, and specifically we had some conversations with Dinah, and she had pointed out that that was not a correct interpretation, that the Board of Optometric Associations actually -- in 2020 the Board of Examiners included that code in the list of services, so we have since reversed that code. We have put it back on the fee schedule. We will be reprocessing any claims that have come in.

So typically if it is -- you know, if it's a change in scope or something like that, we would definitely, you know, want to reach out before we made a change. But this, actually our interpretation led us to believe that we were in violation of the KRS, which was something that we would want to change, you know, a lot sooner. And we did do some research before we discontinued this code on the fee schedule. We did do some research and it showed that in the last two years there were less than \$400 in claims that were paid for that code. So

1	that, again, led to our interpretation as
2	this may not be, you know, a valid code for
3	the optometric fee schedule.
4	DR. COMPTON: Thank you for the
5	explanation. You have been a big help.
6	Probably the lower utilizations we are
7	dealing in our office, most of them are
8	Medicare, have commercial insurance. There
9	are very few Medicaids. It's generally an
10	older population that needs these
11	injections, so that may explain part of the
12	utilization. But you have been a huge help
13	on this entire meeting today and I really
14	appreciate it, so thank you.
15	DR. MUNSON: I definitely second that,
16	Dr. Compton.
17	So does anybody else have any general
18	discussion for today on the TAC committee?
19	Okay. So seeing none, Dr. Compton is
20	our MAC meeting representative. And so the
21	next MAC meeting is on May 25th, and he will
22	be in attendance for that.
23	I don't believe today that we have any
24	recommendations for him to take to that. If
25	anyone does, speak now or forever hold your

1	peace. And if not, we will be having our
2	next meeting on August 3rd at 1:00 p.m. I'm
3	not sure if that will be Zoom or in person.
4	That is above my pay grade. But that is
5	something that we will discuss coming closer
6	to that.
7	And so if there is no other
8	discussion, then I will entertain a motion
9	to adjourn.
10	DR. UPCHURCH: I'll make a motion.
11	DR. COMPTON: I'll second. I'm good at
12	that today.
13	DR. MUNSON: All right. Thank you-all so
14	much for being here. And, Commissioner
15	Lee, I really appreciate you being on the
16	call with us today. You have been
17	incredibly helpful and we appreciated your
18	support of all the patients in the
19	Commonwealth of Kentucky.
20	MS. LEE: Thank you. And I appreciate
21	everything you-all are doing for the
22	Medicaid population.
23	DR. MUNSON: Thank you so much. Everyone
24	have a great day.
25	* * * * *

1	THEREUPON, the Optometric TAC Meeting was
2	concluded.
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2	STATE OF KENTUCKY)
3	COUNTY OF FAYETTE)
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5	I, JOLINDA S. TODD, Registered
6	Professional Reporter and Notary Public in and for
7	the State of Kentucky at Large, certify that this
8	transcript is a true and accurate record of the
9	Optometric Technical Advisory Committee meeting.
10	
11	My commission expires: August 24, 2023.
12	
13	IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
14	my hand and seal of office on this the 30th day of
15	July 2023.
16	
17	
18	JOLINDA S. TODD, RPR, CCR(KY) NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE AT LARGE
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