



Therapy Stakeholder Group

Meeting Minutes

May 23th, 2016, 12:30–3:30 pm
L&I Tukwila Office
12806 Gateway Dr S Tukwila, WA 98168

External Members - Attendees

Josh Cobbley – WOTA, Northwest Return to Work

Cheryl French Nevin – PTWA, Olympic Sports and Spine Rehabilitation

Theodore Becker, Everett Pacific Industrial Rehab

Christina Casady, Capen and Associates

Barbara Harrington, Peoples Injury Network Northwest

Jonathan Harrison, NW Work Options

Terry Moon, Pacific Rehabilitation

James Strandy, Summit Rehabilitation

Lynda White, MVP Physical Therapy

L&I Attendees

Karen Ahrens – project lead, Lauren Royer – project administrative support, Ryan Guppy – executive sponsor, Sarah Martin – project manager/chair Sarah.Martin@lni.wa.gov/360-902-4480

Vision for PCE Improvement Project

Improve the quality and timeliness of the referral, exam and reporting processes. This will be accomplished through development of standards and guidelines designed to improve consistency and enhance communication between the worker, therapist, attending provider, vocational provider and claim manager.

Updates

- L&I's IVR system will start including number of paid OT/PT visits by July.
- Feedback from APs/VRCs:
 - o One member noted that physicians have commented that they like the new form and it's easier to use.
 - o Another member noted it is easier for the FCE therapists to work with as well.
 - o In addition, VRC's like that it matches up with the APF.
 - o Members noted that overall they are getting 5 or less JAs to review but a few members are still getting a larger number. Additional education may be needed to the vocational community about the reason for the 5 JA guideline.

Payment

- Current proposal is still under consideration.
 - o Proposal includes the consideration of a new local code. It would be an add-on code for supplemental services pre-approved by the claim manager and for special circumstances.
- Question: How to bill for an incomplete FCE where the worker never returns to finish the testing? The group consensus was to bill L&I with a pro-rated charge based on % of time spent.

UE Considerations Resource Document

- Discussed the draft document and made revisions based on group consensus. Overall, the group does want to include the sample protocol.
- Members recommended that the comprehensive evaluation elements document (which this will become a part of) includes references. Will need members to share what references they would want included.

Safety Parameters

- There appears to be a significant difference in safety parameter ranges used by clinics. ASCM relative ranges are significantly higher than what many clinics are using. Sarah is going to consult with office of the medical director program since the group does not have a consensus. Jim will send Sarah some research his clinic did regarding blood pressure.

Work Physiology Protocol Document

- Reviewed current document version and updated wording for better clarity and understanding.
- Members who will try this new protocol over the next month: Jim, Christina, Barbara, and Terry. Josh was a maybe with one of his staff. Lynda was going to test it with work conditioning clients.
 - o Participating members will fax Sarah a copy of their completed forms.

Miscellaneous/Roundtable

- Maximum testing: Members discussed the pros and cons of testing based on the job demands versus testing for maximum safe tolerances. Group consensus was to use safe maximum but it still requires clinical judgement to ensure individual is safe and to avoid injury. There may also be special requests on a case by case basis to keep testing limited to the job demand level.
- Functional Pain Scales – Member wanted a copy of the feedback by Dr Mootz. Sarah will send this out.
- Crime Victims FCE – L&I sent claim information via CD ROM but FCE clinic no longer has computers to play CD ROMs.
- Concerns with No Shows continue. No shows will be monitored as part of our data collection.
- Training Modules:
 - o Additional Topic ideas
 - Functional Pain Scales
 - Consistency of Effort
 - Work Physiology
 - o FCE clinical training would likely need to be a joint venture with L&I and another association. (PWC, WOTA, PTWA)
 - o Ryan noted that maybe there are some resources we could pursue thru the international workers comp association (IAIABC) he and other L&I staff are members of.
- Outcomes: Members would be interested in seeing the outcomes/utilization results due to the changes that were implemented with this project. Ryan brought forward idea for 6 month check in to continue to monitor progress of everything. Members indicated they would be willing to participate in a future meeting.

Last Meeting July 25th, 2016

- Potluck – come early, bring something to share
- Vibration – list evaluation methods
- Work Physiology trial report out