
Industrial Insurance Chiropractic Advisory Committee (IICAC)

Meeting Minutes for April 15, 2021

Meeting occurred via Zoom

Members Present

Michael Dowling, DC (Vice-chair)
David Folweiler, DC
Ron Wilcox, DC (Chair)
Robert Baker, DC
Kelly Golob, DC
Wini Hamilton, DC
Aaron Jorgensen, DC
Michael Covington, DC
Michael Pettet, DC

Members of the Public

Josh Cobbley
Teri Jo Lientz

L&I Staff

Cortney Melton, Provider Education Coordinator
Morgan Young, DC, Associate Medical Director for
Chiropractic
Kelly Miller, Administrative Assistant II
Lyn McClendon, ONC Supervisor
Kim Wallace, Medical Administrator
Suzyn Daniel, Clinical Health Policy Manager
Vickie Kennedy, Associate Director of Insurance
Services
Marc Hobbes, Medical Program Specialist II
Morgan Wear, Medical Program Specialist III
Zach Gray, Epidemiologist

Start time: 8:30 AM

Welcome and Minutes Review

IICAC Chair Ron Wilcox called the meeting to order.

Committee members reviewed final meeting minutes from the January 21, 2021 meeting and voted to approve them with one date change.

The committee welcomed two new members, Michael Covington, DC and Michael Pettet, DC.

COVID-19 Update – Vickie Kennedy

Vickie Kennedy shared that as of that morning, the department had received 7467 COVID-19 claims, 5000 of which were state fund claims and 2500 of which were self-insured claims. Of the COVID claims to date, 759 were rejected and over 6000 were allowed, 5700 of which had already been closed. Vickie also shared that out of the 25 fatality COVID claims received, four

were still pending and the rest had been allowed. 66% of the COVID claims were for healthcare workers.

Legislative Update – Vickie Kennedy

Vickie Kennedy informed the committee that the bill providing presumptive coverage for COVID passed the House and the Senate and would become effective immediately once signed by the governor. The bill covers all frontline workers and defines “frontline workers” very expansively. The bill also waives the standard three-day waiting period for time loss benefits.

Vickie also informed the committee of a bill that would allow L&I to give grants to small employers to buy necessary PPE for their employees. The goal of this bill would be to help small businesses stay open by helping to relieve the cost burden of proper COVID safety equipment.

Catastrophic Care Pilot – Kim Wallace

Kim Wallace shared the history, goals, and progress of the Catastrophic Care Pilot with the committee. The pilot ran from 2016 to 2021. 2020 saw many key accomplishments, including the extension of nurse case management services to all catastrophically injured workers. Next steps will include continuing to contract for NCM services and solicit new firms, apply the findings of the recent UW evaluation, and continuing to develop catastrophic care best practices.

Evaluation and Management Policy Updates – Marc Hobbs and Morgan Young, DC

Marc Hobbs and Morgan Young shared updates on MARFS 2021 and changes related to E&M payment codes. They reported that COVID had pushed back many policy updates and that time was needed to review and analyze the impact of the updates on the medical-legal system. The fees will increase for many E&M services effective July 1, 2021.

Discussion on COHE Education – Morgan Wear

Morgan Wear led the committee in a discussion of the current state of COHE education and how to improve it in the future. Before joining a COHE, providers are supposed to go through an orientation that educates them on the program’s basics. However, the levels of education vary throughout the COHEs. The committee shared their educational experiences in COHE and brainstormed ideas of how to expand and improve educational access to COHE members and potential COHE members.

Work Rehabilitation Guideline – Morgan Young, DC

Morgan Young shared the current timeline for the completion of the Work Rehabilitation Guideline. In July, the full draft will be open for public comment. In October, the recommendations received during public comment will be incorporated and the final draft will go out for approval. He then shared a portion of the guideline with the committee.

Consultant Seminar – Cortney Melton

Cortney Melton updated the committee on the progress toward an online persistent version of the consultant seminar. Currently scheduled to be filmed in September and posted online before consultant renewal is required in late November. The in-person seminar is scheduled for October 9th at the WSCA conference in Bellevue.

PPQ Update – Robert Baker, DC

Robert Baker informed the committee that PPQ hopes to start updating the shoulder guideline later this year.

PEO Subcommittee Update – Kelly Golob, DC

Kelly Golob informed the committee that PEO's current priority is putting together a one-page document outlining its function. They hope this document will be helpful for orienting new members and for helping to prioritize different projects and tasks. Other upcoming tasks include updating the documentation resource and creating a quality metric for the consultant IME program. Kelly also announced that he presented the Quick Reference Card to IIMAC in January and that it was well received.

Lumbar Spine Surgical Guideline Subcommittee Update – David Folweiler, DC

Dr. Folweiler informed the committee that the subcommittee's final meeting will be in March of 2021 and that the guideline is nearing completion. He also informed the committee that the guideline will recommend other surgeries before recommending spinal fusions.

Bree Collaborative and HTCC Update – Morgan Young, DC

Dr. Young reminded the committee that he is taking part in the Bree Collaborative telehealth workgroup. He also announced that Clint Daniels is the newest chiropractic member of HTCC.

Interpreter Services Update – Morgan Young, DC

Dr. Young reminded the committee that providers need to sign up with the new L&I interpreter scheduling system.

ACHIEv Update – Ron Wilcox, DC

Ron Wilcox reported that the January ACHIEv meeting included presentations on the Insurance Services Dashboard, ProviderOne, and the updated ACHIEv charter.

Lumbar Spine Surgical Guideline Update – David Folweiler, DC, and Zach Gray

Zach and Dr. Folweiler informed the committee that the Lumbar Spine Surgical Guideline would be presented to IIMAC at their April 2021 meeting and that IIMAC would vote on it in July 2021, following a two-month public comment period. They then reviewed the purpose and scope of the guideline and shared excerpts from it.

UW Evaluation: Initial Attending Provider Type – Morgan Young, DC

Anne Arewasikporn presented to the committee on the work done regarding initial attending provider type and its influence on time-loss and long-term disability. UW has done re-analysis of the D-RISC data to match patient demographics and show that workers presenting to medical and chiropractic providers are similar in aspects of injury type, severity, and disability. Further work will be done through the summer to analyze downstream costs based on initial provider type.

End time: 12 PM