
Industrial Insurance Chiropractic Advisory Committee (IICAC)

Meeting Minutes for January 16, 2025

Virtual Meeting occurred via Zoom

Members Present

David Folweiler, DC | Chair
Kelly Golob, DC | Vice Chair
Wini Hamilton, DC
Michael Pettet, DC
Sandra Lester, DNP, DC
Robert Curtis, DC
Aaron Jorgensen, DC
Michael Covington, DC
Matthew Waldron, DC

L&I Staff

Morgan Young
Kim Wallace
Karen Jost
Jennine Griffo
Suzyn Daniel
Amy Updike
Jason McGrew
Zach Gray
Emily Stinson
Troy Parks
Janet Blume
Marc Hobbs
Cristy Miller
James Simonowski
Cortney Sorter
Shalene Petrich
Kari Braniff
Tiffany Meeks
Victoria Rich
Todd Bishopp

Virtual Meeting Tips (David Folweiler)

David Folweiler reviewed the settings for participants of the virtual meeting for optimal video and audio.

Welcome (David Folweiler)

Introductions

IICAC Chair David Folweiler called the meeting to order and led introductions.

Review & Approve Agenda

Committee members reviewed and approved the agenda for the January 16, 2025 IICAC quarterly meeting. Approved and motion carried.

Approve Meeting Minutes from 10/10/2024*

Committee members reviewed the final meeting minutes from the October 10, 2024 quarterly meeting. David Folweiler suggests that chiropractic not be capitalized. Changes approved and motion carried.

Safety Tip

Dr. Folweiler presented the safety tip on the hazards of prolonged sitting.

Practical Tips for Interpretive Services (Cristy Miller)

Cristy provided an overview of the new WordBridge Interpretation Services, highlighting the availability of in-person, virtual, and telephonic interpreters, including on-demand services for urgent needs. She also discussed the registration process for individuals interested in becoming interpreters in the WordBridge system and addressed questions about interpreter availability after registration.

ACHIEv Nomination (David Folweiler)

David led ACHIEv nominations by nominating himself and Kelly Golob to continue serving as ACHIEv representatives for IICAC. He also outlined the goals of ACHIEv for those interested in joining and shared the timeline for upcoming meetings. Other members expressed interest in attending the next ACHIEv meeting to help determine who will represent the group moving forward.

Vision and Planning (Morgan Young)

Morgan reviewed the current membership status and outlined future goals, including a preference for approved examiners, consultants, and efforts to ensure all members are experts in work comp best practices. The committee debated the pros and cons of the Readiness Assessment and discussed ways to create providers who are comfortable with the L&I system, proposing comprehensive training courses. The committee agreed that increasing the number of chiropractic consultants could improve access, but not necessarily quality. Morgan proposed that IICAC members lead regional educational opportunities by 2030, with the idea of providing customizable presentations for members who wish to educate in their regions.

Chiropractic ICD Coding (Shalene Petrich and Kari Braniff)

Shalene provided an overview of L&I ICD codes, explaining their function and how they are used. She described the review process for report of accident's and the support each coder provides to claim managers. Shalene differentiated between "M" codes (for diseases, no injury) and "S" codes (for injuries). She also presented a list of suggested codes, including those for subluxation, and addressed members' questions about proper coding for specific conditions and the implications for claims adjudication.

Local code 205XA discussion (Marc Hobbs and Morgan Young)

Marc provided an overview of the agency's current coding rates, which are determined by the complexity of care. He introduced changes to the policy, including a new rule allowing providers to bill for established patients on the same day, with a target effective date of July 1, 2025. He clarified the appropriate billing for different levels of care and outlined expectations and clarifications for chiropractic care visits. Marc also reviewed billing for E/M services, which must include a 25 modifier. The meeting discussed defining "early in treatment" and distinguishing between comorbidities and body regions treated in evaluating complexity. Lastly, committee members recommended revisiting the "time spent" column, as it seemed to reflect longer patient visit durations than providers typically spend.

Updates

Legislative –Karen Jost

Karen provided an update on new legislation and rulemaking changes for the year. Key updates included: removal of the PA payment differential under WAC 296-20-12501; changes enabling

psychologists to serve as Attending Providers (AP) for mental health-only claims; and an update on the IME co-recording rules. Additionally, a 3rd party recording pilot for IMEs is set to launch on March 1, 2025.

ACHIEv – Kelly Golob

Kelly provided a summary of the latest ACHIEv meeting, highlighting a presentation on Interpretive Services by Cristy Miller. The committee, led by David Folweiler, focused on strategic goals aimed at delivering optimal care for injured workers and supporting their quick return to work. The meeting also welcomed new member Lloyd Brooks to the ACHIEv committee.

Agency Update – Kim Wallace

Kim provided an agency update, noting that Joel Sacks has been re-appointed by Governor Ferguson as director of L&I. This is welcome news in that it provides significant continuity and support for the work of OMD and IICAC. Additionally, a state-wide spending freeze has been implemented, which will lead to more "virtual" meetings in the near future. Other impacts are likely but unknown at this time.

PEO – Kelly Golob: The PEO subcommittee is working on a document aimed at helping Occupational Medicine groups integrate chiropractors into their workflow. Additionally, the subcommittee plans to review and potentially support the update to the attending providers' handbook.

PPQ – Michael Covington: The PPQ is finalizing the foot/ankle resource, with the goal of completing it within the next 90 days.

HTCC – Morgan Young: The HTCC is reviewing several topics for the next six months of 2025.

Public Comment (David Folweiler)

There was no public comment.

Meeting Wrap-Up (David Folweiler)

Kelly requested that a future agenda topic focus on how Occupational diseases are adjudicated. Morgan will collaborate with the claims department to help develop this topic. The next IICAC meeting is scheduled for April 2025.