

Industrial Insurance Medical Advisory Committee Meeting (IIMAC)

Meeting Minutes for May 8, 2025

Virtual Meeting occurred via Zoom

IIMAC Members Present

Andrew Friedman, MD | Chair
Kirk Harmon, MD | Vice-chair
Laurie Gwerder, ARNP
Jiho Bryson, MD
Louis Lim, MD
Chris Howe, MD
Greg Carter, MD
Linda Seaman, MD
Dawn Ehde, PhD
Patricia Waring, MD
Monica Haines, DO
Mike Codsí, MD

IIMAC Members Not Present

Stephen Thielke, MD
Jean-Christophe Leveque, MD

L&I Staff & Presenters

Gary Franklin	Lee Glass	Paulina Luke
Suzyn Daniel	Azadeh Farokhi	Kim Mayhew
Kim Wallace	Bob Waring	Elizabeth Ottmar
Charla Treise	Jennifer Jutte	Suzie Wilson
Angelique Guppy	Zach Gray	Tammy Havner
Diana Drylie	Jami Lifka	Tiffany Meeks
Jason McGrew	James Simonowski	Victoria Rich
Shawn Apperson	Emily Stinson	Todd Bishopp
Jaymie Mai	Megan Lemon	Ilana Lehmann
Jason Fodeman	Danny Aguilera	Tina Vorse
Morgan Young	Jessica Sullivan	

Welcome & Virtual Meeting Tips (Andrew Friedman & Suzyn Daniel)

Introductions

IIMAC Chair, Andrew Friedman, called the meeting to order.

Review Agenda

Committee members reviewed the May 8, 2025 IIMAC agenda.

Approve Meeting Minutes from January 23, 2025*

Committee members reviewed and approved the January 23, 2025 IIMAC meeting minutes. Monica commented that her notes indicate that an additional update was provided by Karen Jost that does appear to be in the minutes. The committee agreed to hold on approving the minutes until a review happens. It was found that the House Bill 1520 was mentioned in the January meeting, the missing note on the bill mentioned will be added. Motion to accept the meeting minutes with the addition was approved and carried.

Safety Tip

Andrew presented a safety tip on driving in work zones.

ACHIEv Summary (Laurie Gwerder & Kim Wallace)

Laurie and Kim summarized the May 8, 2025 ACHIEv meeting, which included a review of COHE scorecard data, a presentation by Deb Fulton-Kehoe from the University of Washington on time-loss curves, and a presentation by Ilana Lehmann on the "On the Job Recovery" project.

Case Management Telephone Call Policy Project (Tina Vorse)

Tina presented the current policy and outlined upcoming changes set to take effect in July, driven by factors like the pandemic and updated AMA guidelines. The revisions aim to ensure fair compensation and provide clearer guidance. Key changes include a unified, untimed code for all providers to personally participate in clinically-focused calls. Voicemails will no longer be covered, and audio-only services will remain limited. Case management calls will stay mostly unchanged. Committee members inquired about code use and reimbursement. The updated policy and fee will be published in June, with implementation on July 1. Documentation requirements will remain the same, and finalized guidance will be shared with all committee members.

Biopsychosocial Aspects of Persistent Pain (Gary Franklin, Dawn Ehde & Jennifer Jutte)

The discussion focused on strategies to prevent persistent (chronic) pain and reduce time lost from work due to injury. Gary highlighted how healthcare delivery and prevention efforts relate to the time-loss curve, which tracks how long individuals are out of work or activity due to health issues. Dawn introduced the biopsychosocial model of pain, emphasizing the importance of collaborative care in managing chronic pain and explored whether it can be prevented after an injury. Jennifer emphasized the value of early communication and screening as key factors in minimizing the risk of persistent pain.

Structured Intensive Multidisciplinary (Pain) Program Update (Jason Fodeman & Jaymie Mai)

Jason and Jaymie provided an update on the Structured Intensive Multidisciplinary Program (SIMP) for chronic pain. They reviewed background and the SIMP evidence-based report. They provided information on responses to the key informant interviews and Request for Information (RFI). The RFI was conducted to supplement prior efforts to learn more about other integrated and coordinated models for treating chronic pain outside of our system, including those with differing levels of intensity. They also shared feedback from L&I's meeting with the Pain Interest Consortium, a group of SIMP providers. The Committee members raised questions about current challenges, but supported the development of an additional modified model of SIMP that could be deployed earlier in the claim with more flexibility.

Health Technology Clinical Committee Decision- Knee Guideline Update (Zach Gray)

Zach provided an update on the Health Technology Clinical Committee (HTCC) decision regarding treatments for chondral defects of the knee, and their impact on L&I's knee surgery treatment guideline. He explained the background of the decision, including coverage limitations and reimbursement rules. The group was informed that the adopted language will be incorporated into the L&I guideline to ensure compliance with the HTCC requirements.

Psychologists as Attending Providers (Jennifer Jutte)

Jennifer discussed House Bill 1197, which allows psychologists to serve as the Attending Provider (AP) for claims solely for mental health. These are claims for which no physical conditions have been contended or accepted. According to WAC 296-20-01010, all providers who can be attending providers are required to join the Medical Provider Network (MPN). Jennifer outlined that psychologists must join the medical provider network in order to provide ongoing treatment (beyond initial visits), to be eligible for payments and authorizations, and to opt to serve in the attending provider role.

On the Job Recovery Agreement (Ilana Lehmann)

Ilana introduced a video on the advantages of on the job recovery (aka modified duty), as well as challenges faced by attending providers. She shared details about the proposed recovery agreement form, including examples of job modifications and pain management plan. Ilana asked for committee feedback on the form and outlined the completion process, which involves the VRC initiating the form, collaboration with the employer, and final input from the attending provider to ensure medical appropriateness. The VRC training will be held August 6, with a tentative goal of launching the template and toolkit July 1.

L& I's AI Policy: Potential Impacts on Work (Zach Gray)

Zach discussed L&I's policy on Generative AI, such as ChatGPT and Gemini, which are tools that create content based on a user's input of prompts. He outlined potential risks, including content quality and bias. He emphasized that any use of Generative AI by L&I or those working with L&I must be disclosed, vetted for accuracy, and requires prior approval by L&I for its usage.

Updates

Legislative (Kim Wallace)

Kim presented update on current legislative and rulemaking efforts. House Bill 1281 made technical corrections to Title 51, changing Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) to Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). House Bill 1432 updates the mental health parity law.

Agency Update (Kim Wallace)

Kim shared an agency update, including the agency's hopes to implement hybrid meetings in the new fiscal year. Until then, all meetings will continue to be held virtually until further notice.

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) (Jennifer Jutte)

Jennifer provided an update on two components of the PTSD Project. The first involved legislative funding to establish a contract with a third party vendor (MasDyne Research, LLC) to assess current workers' compensation benefits, policies and coverage related to PTSD across jurisdictions. This review contributed to a legislative report that is currently being reviewed and finalized. The second component involved data collection to support reporting efforts, with a goal to complete this in July. In addition, Jennifer provided an updated on the PTSD Clinical

Guideline development that was initiated in August 2024 and is anticipated to be completed by Fall, 2025.

Reminder (Suzyn Daniel)

Suzyn reminded the committee that the conflict of interest forms are due prior to July 24, 2025 to Tiffany Meeks.

Public Comment (Andrew Friedman)

Anu Kalpathi commented, “I would like a focus to look at the readiness to return to work as an outcome moving forward. “

Wrap-Up (Andrew Friedman)

- Next meeting is July 24, 2025.
- Agenda Ideas