



Industrial Insurance Medical Advisory Committee Meeting
Quarterly Meeting Minutes for [1/25/2024](#) | Prepared by: Victoria Rich, OMD Admin

IIMAC Members Present

Kirk Harmon (Vice-chair)

Jiho Bryson

Greg Carter

Laurie Gwerder

Monica Haines

Chris Howe

Louis Lim

Linda Seaman

Mike Codsí

Jean-Christophe (JC) Leveque

Patricia Waring

Stephen Thielke

IIMAC Members Not Present

Andrew Friedman (Chair)

L&I Staff Present & Presenters

Gary Franklin

Kim Wallace

Azadeh Farokhi

Bob Waring

Morgan Young

Jason Fodeman

Jennifer Jutte

Ji Young Nam

Lee Glass

Karen Jost

Suzyn Daniel

Zach Gray

Tasleem Padamsee

Brooke Allan- Davis

Krista Glenn

Shauna Muendel

Sarah Martin

Denise Santoyo

Tiffany Meeks

Victoria Rich

Welcome and Call to Order* (Kirk Harmon) 1:00pm

Hybrid Helpful Hints (Suzyn Daniel)

Introductions (Kirk Harmon and Suzyn Daniel)

New Associate Medical Director for Psychology - Jennifer Jutte

Agenda Review

Approve Minutes*From 10/26/2023 (Kirk Harmon):

* Minutes were approved unanimously with no changes.

Safety Tip (Kirk Harmon)

New Year's Resolutions: Building Good Mental Health Habits

Patient Centered Outcome Research Institute (Tasleem Padamsee)

Tasleem reviewed the aims of the Washington & Ohio Worker (WOW) study, which was a comparative effectiveness study of opioid review policies (ORPs) by workers' compensation (WC) agencies in OH and WA. The study utilized patient and provider interview data. Patient and pharmaceutical advocates had voiced concerns that opioid review programs could cause secondary problems, including potential unmanaged pain or reduced function, anger, or resistance to the regulations from patients and/or providers, and damage to relationships between patients and providers or to provider autonomy. The broad conclusions from the study were that none of these specific concerns came to pass, that ORPs and related regulations have been mostly beneficial in the eyes of both patients and providers, and that both patients and providers did have other broader complaints about delays and difficulties caused by general WC agency procedures.

Surgical Quality Care Program (Brooke Allan- Davis)

Brooke reviewed the timeline of the SQCP and best-practices such as appropriate opioid prescribing. The committee asked some questions including the necessary time frames for Activity Prescription Form (APF) submittal and the impetus for surgeons to improve quality of care, outside of financial incentives.

ACHIEv Summary (Kim Wallace)

Kim reviewed the topics discussed at ACHIEv meeting, including:

- L&I Insurance Services Operational Health Dashboard – items of special interest included that the long term disability rate has been increasing after a long period of decline; also, the rate of increase in medical costs has remained low (negative or under 4%)
- ACHIEv Charter – the committee approved an updated version of the charter; there was discussion about whether to implement a conflict of interest form similar to the one IIMAC uses
- Surgical Quality Care Program update

- Robust discussion of reducing delays in the claims process, including claim acceptance, accepting conditions, and treatment authorization

Return to Work Partnership Overview (Krista Glenn)

Kirsta reviewed the Return to Work Partnership program, including the definition of work disability, some causes, and the difference between work disability and medical disability. Duration of time off work is a leading cause of the development of work disability. Therefore, L&I intervenes early with vocational services focused on helping to reduce delays, creating a return to work plan, and addressing the concerns of the worker. The committee asked questions on what sort of services and support the workers get; Kirsta answered that services include working with the employer to find modified duties for the workers, identifying needed community services, and helping workers to resolve treatment delays. Other concerns expressed involved aging technology and language barriers for workers. Kirsta explained L&I is making efforts to upgrade older technology and additionally that there is a bill moving forward in the house which would pay for “basic skills” training such as English language learning, GED completion, and more.

Work Rehabilitation Update (Sarah Martin and Shauna Muendel)

Sarah and Shauna gave an update on the Work Rehabilitation program. The launch date is slated for 2/2/2024. The program will offer exercises, work simulation, and education with up to 40 visits. Shauna explained that work conditioning and work hardening will both go through Comagine, and the form has been designed in a questionnaire format which should reduce delays. Sarah explained care conferences will be held every two weeks which VRC’s and AP’s can attend, and there will be approved work rehabilitation clinics with standardized documentation. The committee members asked some questions about the program including requesting more details on the work hardening/work conditioning program, how billing will occur, and whether or not MMI status needs to be certain for participation.

Bylaws Revision Vote* (Kirk Harmon and Suzyn Daniel)

Suzyn reviewed the proposed changes: term limits, immunity clause and wording changes. All members received a copy of the by-laws digitally. and in-person participants have an additional hard copy.

*Motion to accept the by-law revision was made, carried, and passed unanimously.

IIMAC Membership: New Contract Discussion (Denise Santoyo and Suzyn Daniel)

Denise reviewed some particulars of the new contract. Highlights included OMD creating a new advisory committee contract template which has been approved by the AG. General terms and conditions were added; these are standard language items. Benefits include minimizing contract amendments, optimizing clarity, and reducing risk with more protection. Denise will send all members updates and is available for further questions.

ACHIEv IIMAC Member Nominations* (Kirk Harmon)

Nominations were made for Laurie Gwerder and Andrew Freidman.

*Motion to vote on the nominations was made, carried, and passed unanimously.

Updates: (Karen Jost, Morgan Young, Zach Gray)

- Legislative - Karen discussed the current pertinent leg bills being reviewed
- Epicondylitis Resource Finalization - Morgan announced that the epicondylitis resource has been completed, and CTS will go to public comment in February.
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder - Zach gave an update on the PTSD project and goals for the upcoming year.

Public Comment (Kirk Harmon)

None

Wrap-Up (Andrew Friedman)

- Agenda Ideas/Requests for April 2024: PTSD project update; discussing the need to create a potential subcommittee to examine data and treatment aspects. Other potential topics included increasing mental health access and an MLT update.
- Meeting debrief on location/lunch: The committee gave feedback on the new meeting location in Tukwila, WA. Comments included that the camera view was good, the audio was good if the microphones are held properly, and a reminder that all virtual attendees need to stay muted unless speaking to the committee. The idea of renaming “working lunch” to “reviewing prep material” was proposed.

*Meeting adjourned at 4:55pm