

IME Business & Labor Advisory Team Virtual Meeting

December 5, 2023



Announcements & Introductions – Troy Parks

Zoom Meeting Reminders:

- Mute when not speaking to limit background noise
- Raise hand or use chat feature
- Opt out of video if having connection issues
- Meeting Minutes will be posted on L&I Webpage

Introduction: New Member

- Welcome Gennia Wellington, King Co. – Business Rep
 - Replacing Lisa Vivian

12/5/23 Business & Labor IME Meeting Agenda

Time	Topic	Presenters
9:30AM	Introductions, Announcements, Review of Previous Agenda Minutes, Safety Message	Troy Parks Melissa Dunbar
9:45AM	Program Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examiner Stats: Exit and Retention Surveys, • Complaints YTD • Examiner Pool Update • Quality Reviews • MEH updates 	Troy Parks Tanya Weber Kristen Baldwin-Boe
10:00AM	IME Data Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose/How to Access/Data Comparisons Made 	Nancy Adams
10:15AM	SHB 1068 IME Recording Implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of implementation • Rulemaking update • Outstanding issues/questions 	Jen Lybbert LaNae Lien Kristen Baldwin-Boe
10:45AM	Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SF disputes • Scheduling trends • SI Protest Data 	Nancy Adams Shannon Rushing/Gary Kolanja LeNae Lien
11:05-11:30AM	Q&A-Open discussion Round Robin	All

Safety Tip: 5 Essential Winter Driving Tips – Melissa Dunbar

- **Be prepared**
 - Check windshield wipers and tires
 - Bring a fully charged cell phone
 - Have blankets, ice scraper, flares, sand or salt, and a small shovel
- **Be alert**
 - Check the road and weather conditions for the route you're traveling
 - Ice can't always be seen on the road, be careful on bridges and in shaded areas
- **Drive Slowly**
 - Avoid passing snow removal trucks on the right
 - Use hazard lights if driving below the posted speed limit
- **Keep back**
 - Allow at least 3 times more space than usual
- **Avoid Skids**
 - Lightly touch brakes to avoid skidding
 - If you begin to skid ease off the brakes and turn in the direction of the skid

IME Program Updates

Troy Parks

Quarterly IME Examiner Updates

The screenshot shows a navigation menu on the left with options like 'Drugs and Prescriptions', 'By Specialty', and 'Helping Workers Get Back to Work'. The main content area is titled 'Independent Medical Exams and Impairment Rating Information'. A horizontal menu contains links: 'BECOMING AN IME PROVIDER', 'MEDICAL EXAMINERS' HANDBOOK & IMPAIRMENT RATING INFO', 'GENERAL INFORMATION FOR APPROVED IME PROVIDERS' (highlighted), 'ADDITIONAL RESOURCES', and 'MEETINGS'. Below this, the 'Find a Medical Examiner' section provides instructions on how to search for approved IME examiners. The 'New and Removed Examiners List' section lists the '3rd Quarter 2023 (July 1 - September 30)'.

<https://www.lni.wa.gov/patient-care/treating-patients/independent-medical-exams-ime-and-impairment-rating-information/#general-information-for-approved-ime-providers>

Quarterly IME Examiner Additions and Removals 07/01/23 – 09/30/23

These lists are effective **09/30/23**. For the **most current** list of approved IME examiners, please see [Find a Medical Examiner \(wa.gov\)](https://www.lni.wa.gov/patient-care/treating-patients/independent-medical-exams-ime-and-impairment-rating-information/#general-information-for-approved-ime-providers)

New IME examiners **added** to the approved list:

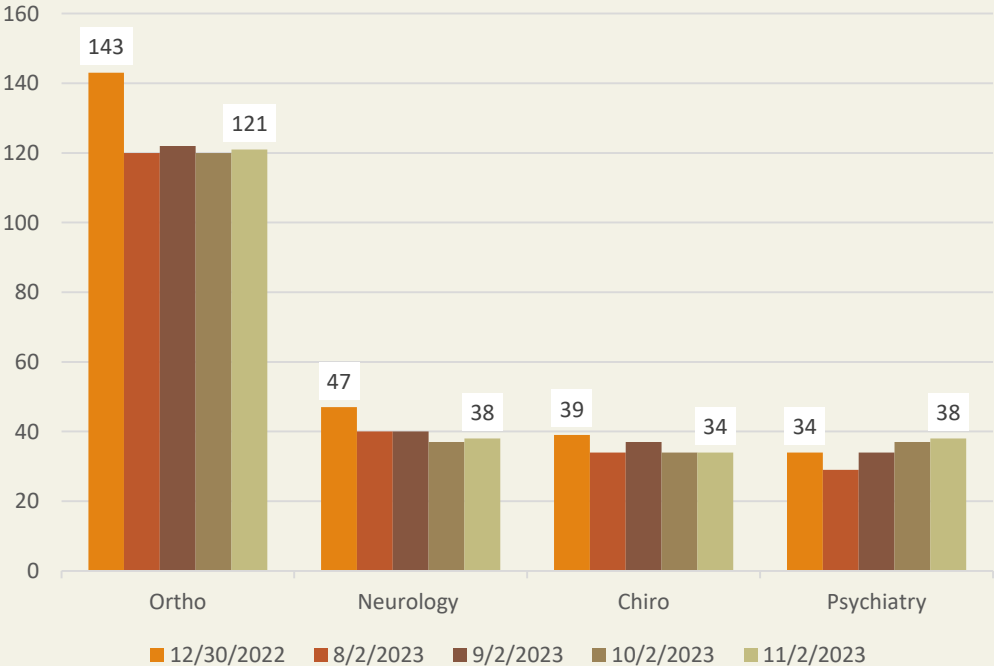
Examiner Name	Specialty	Effective Date
Borisovskaya, Anna MD	Psych	07/10/23
Callen, Elizabeth MD	Psych	07/10/23
Cawley, Christina MD	Ortho	09/28/23
Cui, Jimmy MD	PM&R	07/27/23
Duvelius, Paul MD	Ortho	07/06/23
Ghavam, Cyrus	Ortho	08/09/23
Gorrepati, Ranama	Neuro Surg	08/17/23
Gray, Richard	Ortho	08/23/23
Helfing, Saul	Psych	08/16/23
LeFever, Devon MD	Neuro Surg	07/27/23
Mehra, Abhishek	Psych	08/21/23
Milner, Judith	Psych	08/22/23
Noor, Shawn	Psych	08/10/23
Raelian, Olga	Psych	08/23/23
Schwei, Mark	Psych	08/24/23
Sohi, Sukhpriet	Psych	08/22/23
Van Bergeyk, Anthony	Ortho	08/09/23
Wong, Howard MD	Psych	07/27/23

IME Examiners **removed** from the approved list:

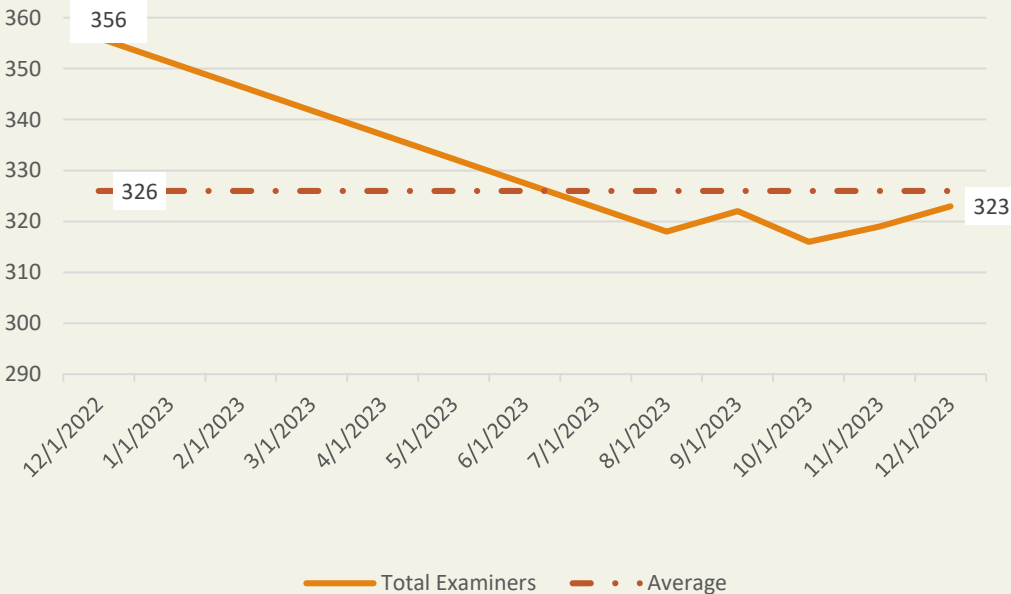
Examiner	Specialty	Effective Date
Bentley, Roger	Ortho	9/25/2023
Bergman, Gary	Ortho	8/14/2023
Blauvelt, Roger	Ortho	9/1/2023
Boswell, James	Occ Med	7/26/2023
Bridgforth, Andrew	Ortho	9/11/2023
Cochran, Grant	Ortho	7/5/2023
Condefer, Kelly	Neuro	9/25/2023
Dagher, Edward	PM&R	7/5/2023
Erickson, Jay	Neuro	9/25/2023
Espinosa, Randall	Ortho	9/11/2023
Ferguson, Nicholas	Dentist	7/5/2023
Ho, Kwo Wei	Neuro	9/1/2023
Lebegue, Breck	Psych	8/1/2023
Lee, Chihua	Ortho	9/1/2023
MacQueen, Benjamin	Ortho	9/11/2023
Min, Kyong	Ortho	9/1/2023
Monsivais, Jose	Hand Surg	9/1/2023
Nappo, Kyle	Ortho	8/1/2023
Olbrich, Gary	Internal Med	7/5/2023
Schilt, Stephen	Psych	9/1/2023
Scully, Ryan	Ortho	9/29/2023
Seibert, Nicholas	Ortho	7/5/2023
Tronvig, William	Podiatry	7/10/2023
Witt, Jennifer	Neuro	9/11/2023

IME Examiner Pool

TOP SPECIALTIES

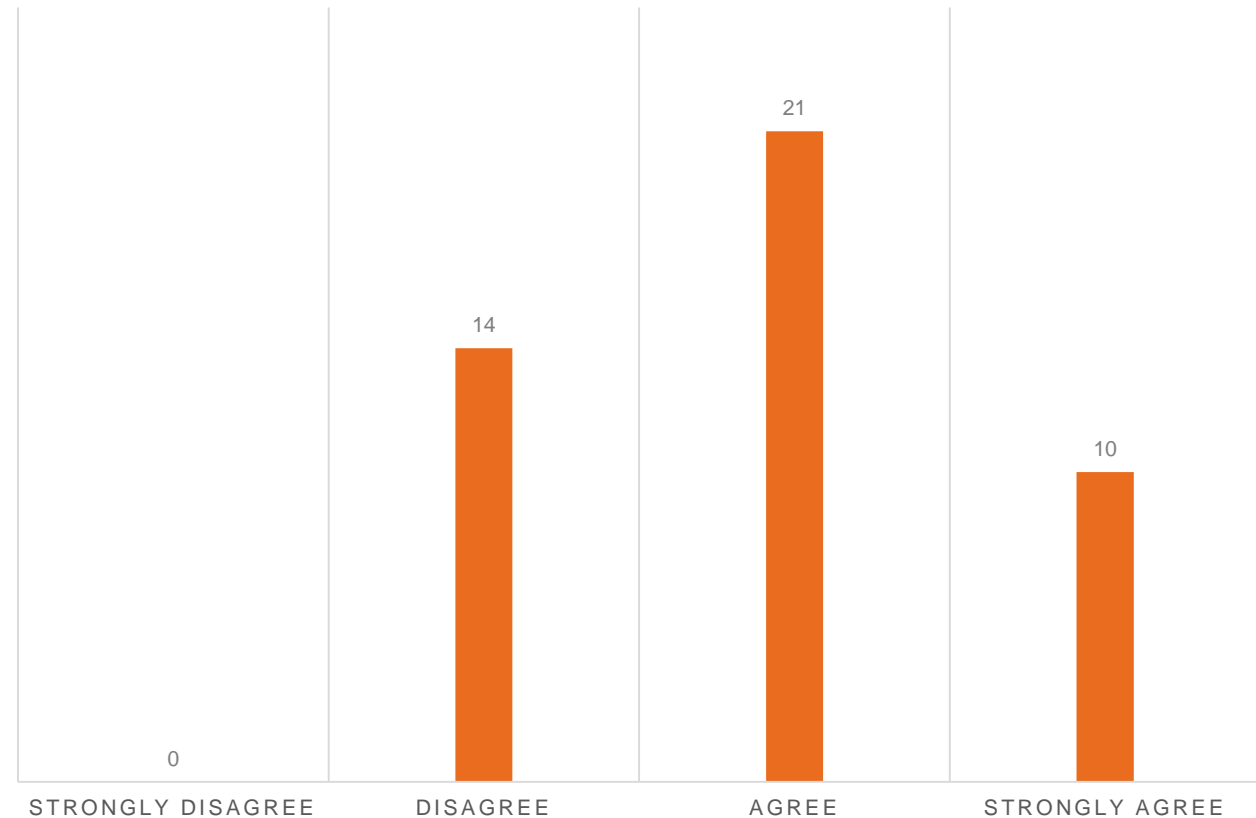


TREND ALL EXAMINERS



IME Examiner Exit Survey (YTD-Nov 23)

- 5 responses
- 69% responses to 9 questions on Likert scale were affirmative
- Reason for leaving:
 - having to maintain board certification (2);
 - recording law (2);
 - firms poorly staffed and Insufficient pay (1).
- No difference between SF/SI
- Interpreter accessibility identified as concern



IME Examiner Retention Survey (YTD-Nov 2023): 7 Responses (Scale 1-10; Average 6.6)

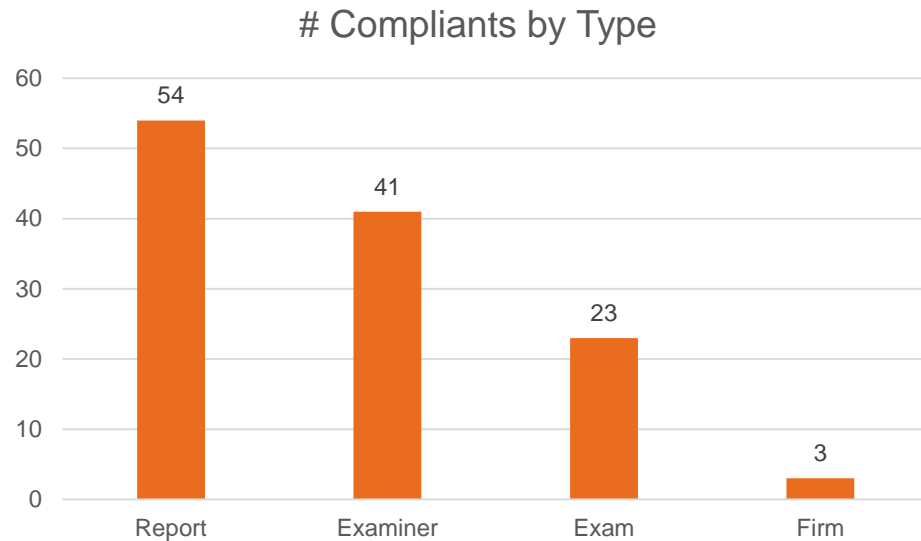
1. On a scale of 1-10, with 10 representing the most satisfied, how satisfied are you conducting IMEs for L&I?

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Responses
Satisfaction												
Count	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	0	1	0	7
Row %	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	14.3%	42.9%	28.6%	0.0%	14.3%	0.0%	
Totals												
Total Responses												7

Ways to improve Score?

- Better adjudication of worker conditions
- Accept examiner MMI determinations
- L&I efficiencies: Faster turnaround on assignment letters and getting records, removal of unnecessary documents sent to review, better pay/aligning with other payers

2023 IME Complaints YTD-November



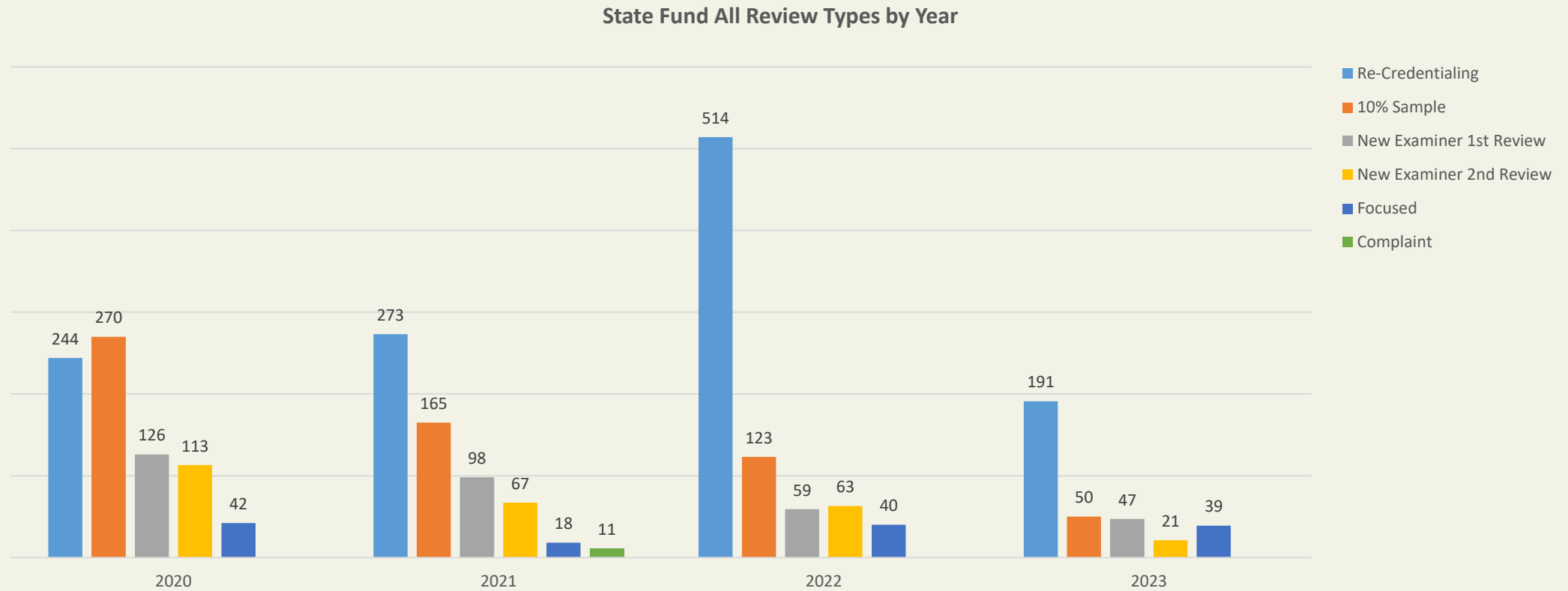
- 121 Complaints
- Top Specialties:
 - Orthopedic Surgeon (62)
 - Neurology (26)
 - Psychiatry (15)
 - Occ Med (10)

IME Quality Review Trends

Tanya Weber, BSN RN

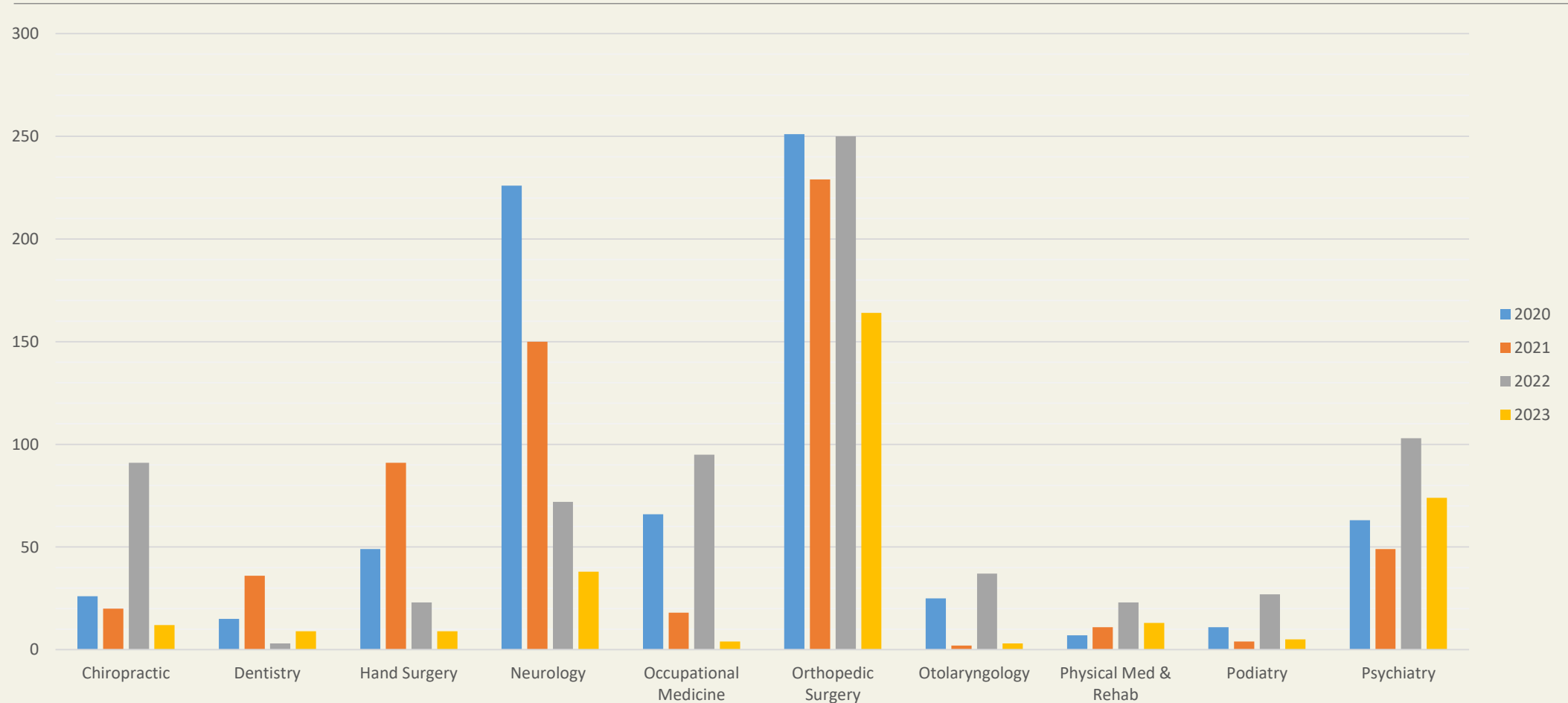
IME Occupational Nurse Consultant

IME Quality Review Type by Year*



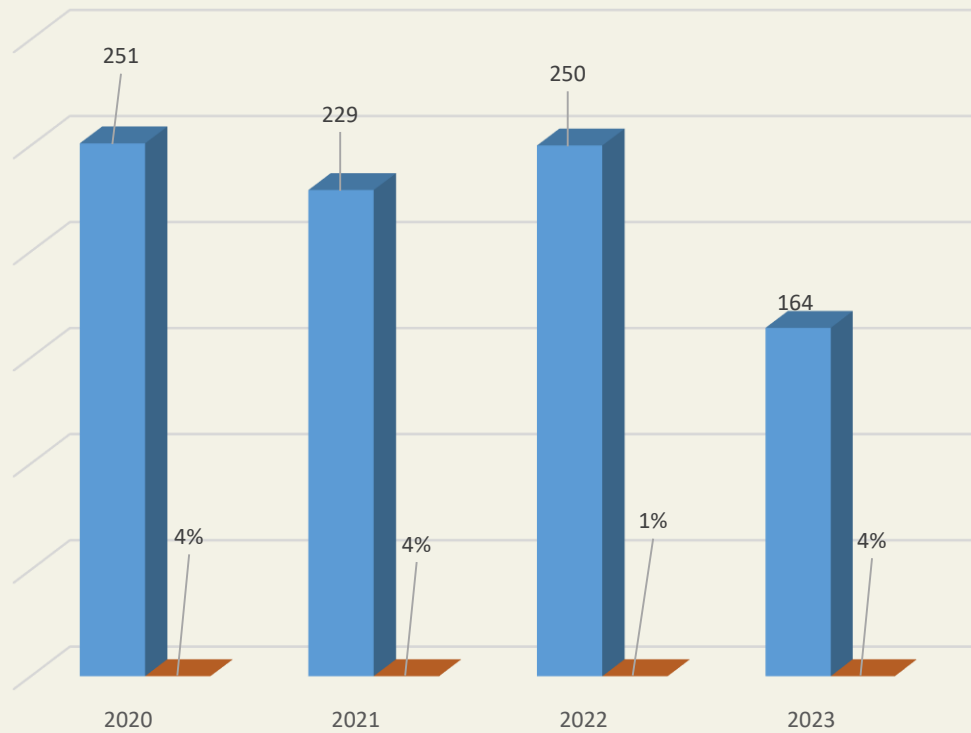
*excludes telehealth IME reviews

Top 10 Specialties of IMEs reviewed*

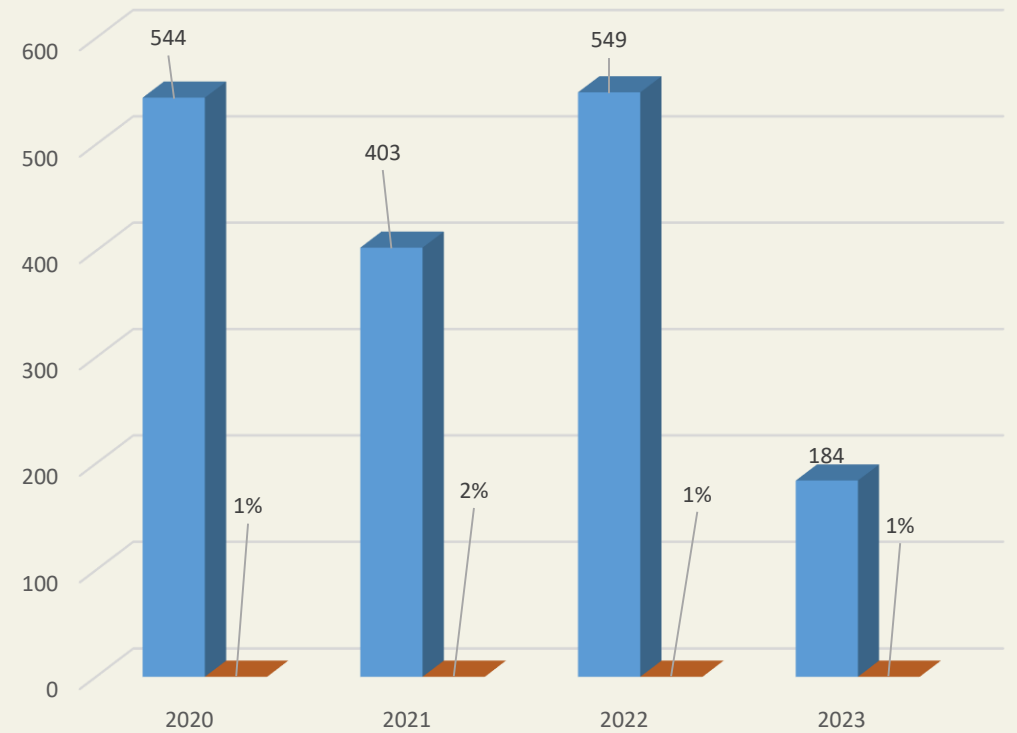


Ortho vs All Other Specialties

Ortho Non Billable Addendum Requests

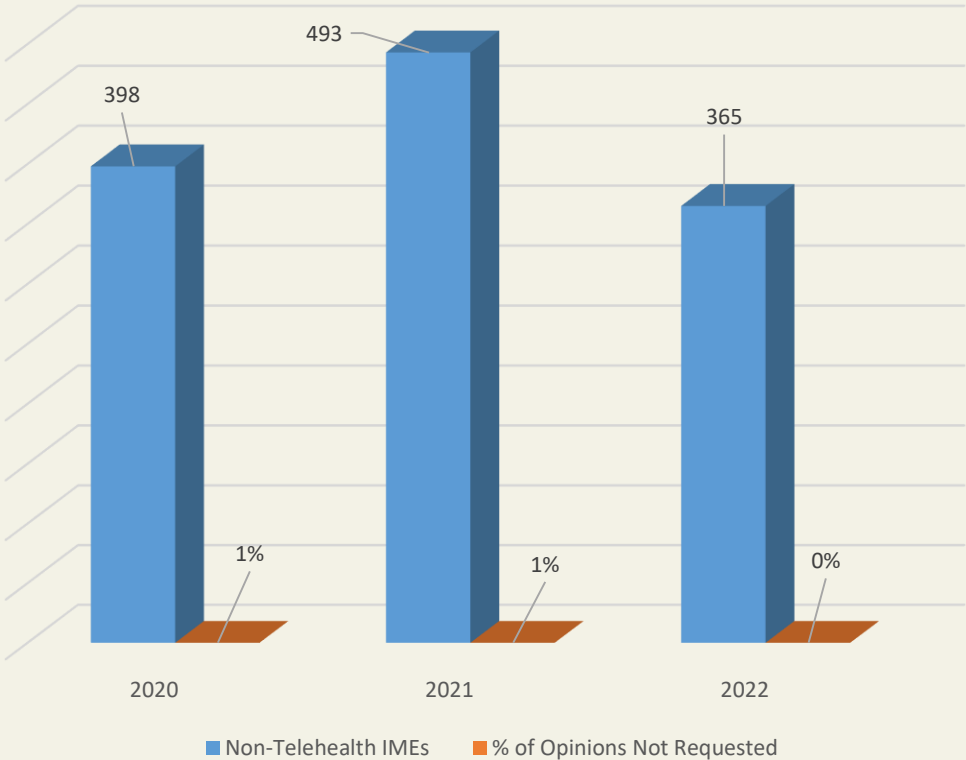


All Other Specialties Non Billable Addendum Requests

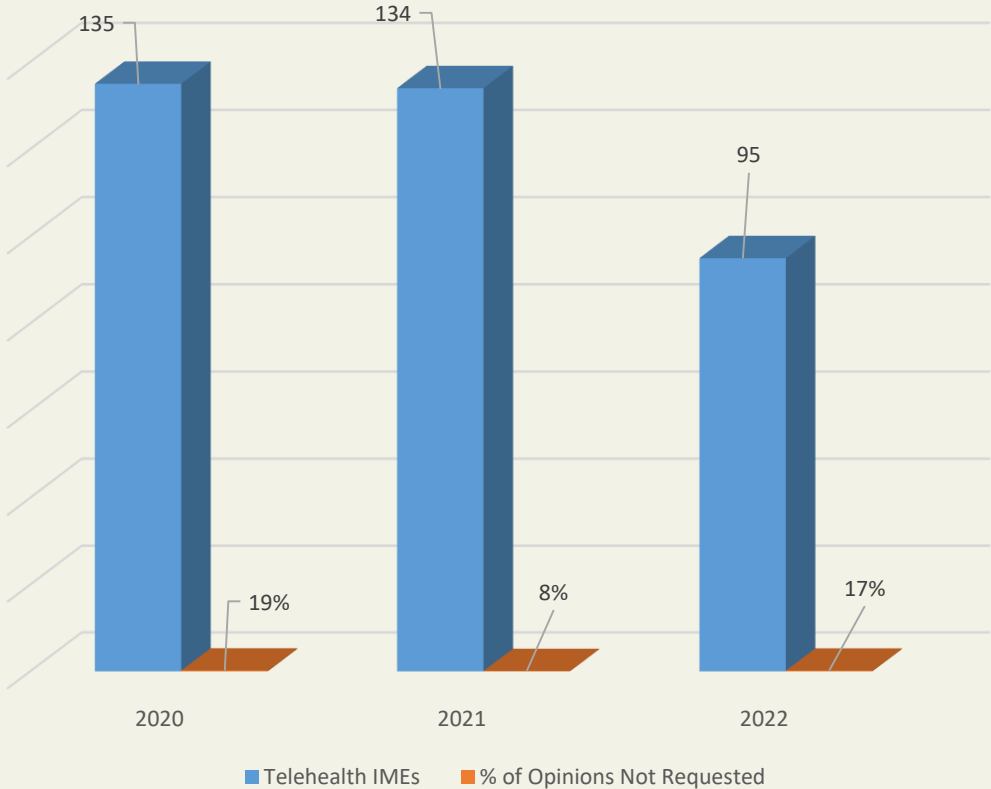


Telehealth vs Non-Telehealth

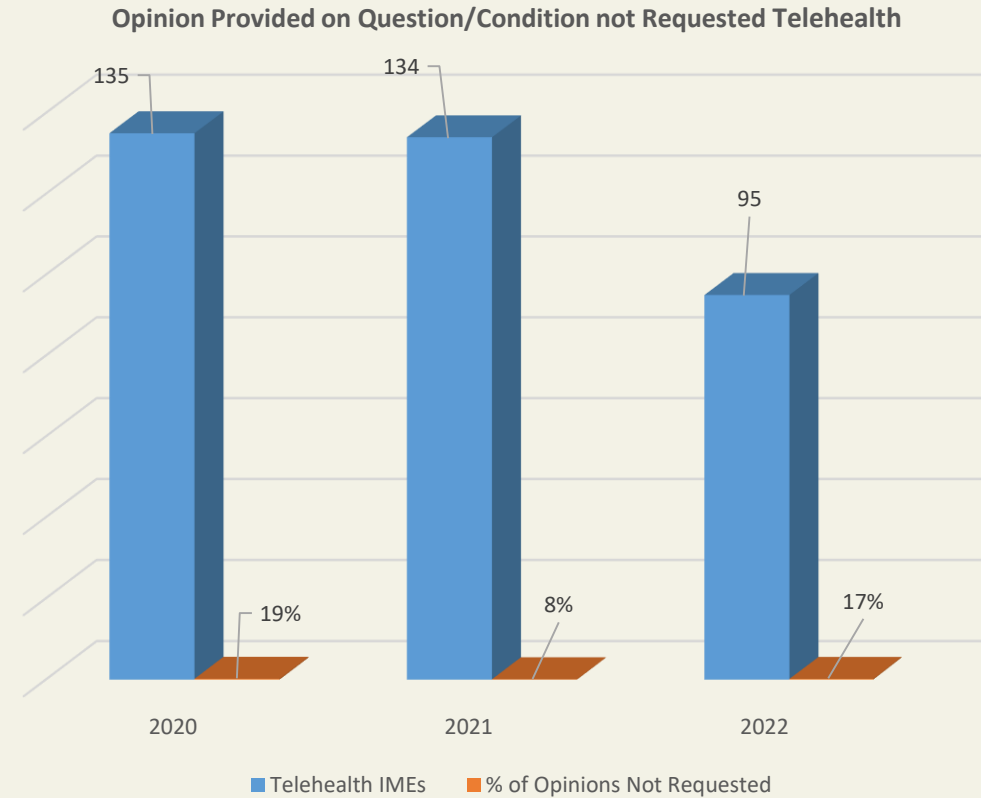
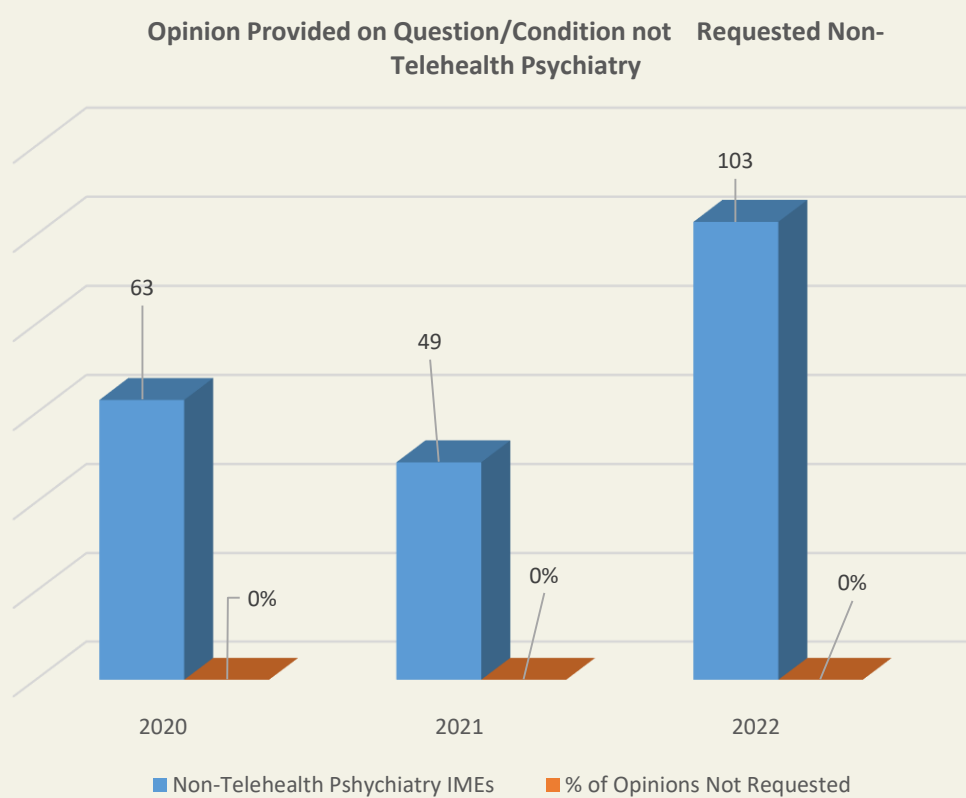
Opinion Provided on Question/Condition not Requested
Non-Telehealth



Opinion Provided on Question/Condition not Requested
Telehealth



Telehealth Psych vs Non-Telehealth Psych



Your Input is Valuable & Vital

IME trends – are there specific areas you'd like to know more about?

Please email ideas to Tanya.Weber@Ini.wa.gov.

Medical Examiners' Handbook Updates- Kristen Baldwin-Boe

MEH updated July 1, 2023

- July 2023 updates found inside the cover of the new MEH.
- Added new RCW / Legislation
- Updated WACs being repealed
- Clarifications / Edits
- Sent handout before meeting

2024 Update – work begins in January

- Send any suggestions to Kristen, Troy, or Melissa

Questions?



IME Data Report

Nancy Adams

How to Access the New IME Report

- Go to lni.wa.gov/
- Scroll to the bottom
- Select “About L&I”
- Select the “Public Data” tab
- Open the report titled “Independent Medical Examination (IME) Report”

Purpose of the Report

- Make data available to interested parties
- Monitor emerging trends
- Aid discussions about IMEs
- Make use of a new data source: Self-Insurance Medical Bills (employer reported)
- Differentiate data from the State Fund and Self-Insurance

Data Comparisons Made

- Number of IMEs per claim
- Percent of claims with IMEs
- Days to first IME
- Days between IMEs
- Number of IMEs by date of service
- Top purposes for IMEs (State Fund only)

Questions?

IMEReporting@Lni.wa.gov

SHB 1068:

IME Recording Bill Implementation Update

Jen Lybbert

SHB 1068-IME Recording Bill Implementation

Activities completed since September

- “Facts about IME Recordings” published to our L&I external website for use
 - [English](#) (F245-491-000)
 - [Español \(Spanish\)](#) (F245-491-999)
- Rulemaking stakeholder meeting
 - Held Friday, October 27th
- Process testing for department to receive and distribute requested recordings from workers or representatives
- Drafted updates for FAQ document
 - Based on stakeholder feedback
 - Expected publication date TBD



What's Next

- Rulemaking
 - **New projected filing dates:**
 - CR-102 January 2, 2024
 - Public Hearing February 6, 2024
- Updates to IME Referral Letters
 - Based on feedback – Updating on who the worker needs to send notification of intent to record
- Publication of updated FAQs

Questions?



Claims Department Updates – Nancy Adams

- IME Protest Data
- SHB 1068 – Impacts to Claims

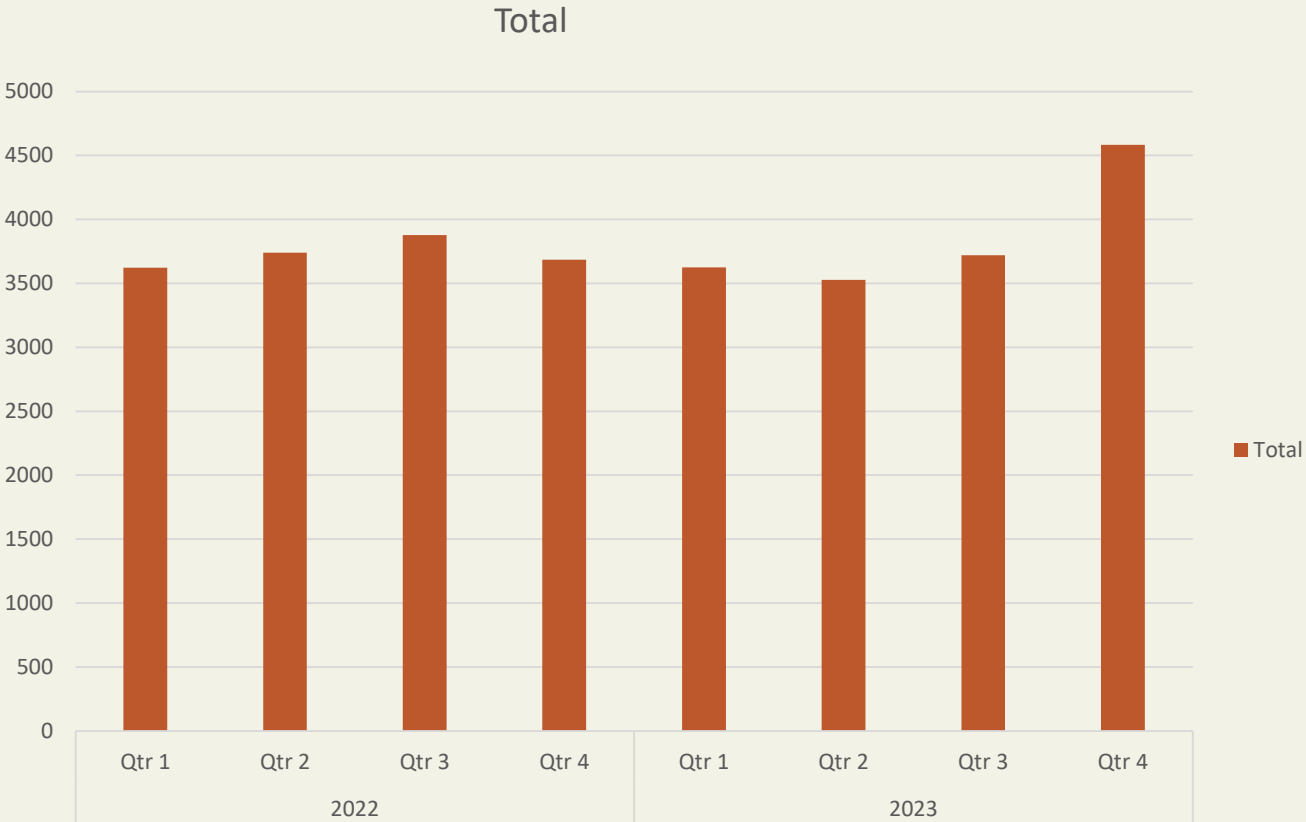
Questions?



IME Scheduling Trends

Shannon Rushing

Referral Trends



Fiscal Year Referral Totals	
2022	
14924	
Qtr 1	3623
Qtr2	3739
Qtr 3	3878
Qtr 4	3684
2023	
15455	
Qtr 1	3626
Qtr2	3527
Qtr 3	3719
Qtr 4	4583
2024	
3433	

Completed Work Items				
2023				2024
Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
1386	1048	1048	1193	797
1038	109	888	393	
1131	988	941	928	871
1158	994	1006	1068	710
1108	1004	978	1011	935
866	458	377	165	14
1070	1067	1144	1183	252
				75
				178
7757	5668	6382	5941	3832

Qtr 2 only includes Oct/Nov. December figures not available until the end of the month. The first graph is scheduler work items and the second graph breaks down by work item type.

	Total	Travel	Translation	Manual	Reschedule	Review of Support
JULY	1767	87	231	1129	142	47
AUG	2176	85	363	1324	241	42
SEPT	1998	85	314	1341	209	49
	5941	257	908	3794	592	138
OCT	2184	99	285	1375	264	54
NOV	1648	94	249	1208	170	34
DEC						
JAN						
FEB						
MARCH						
APR						
MAY						
JUN						

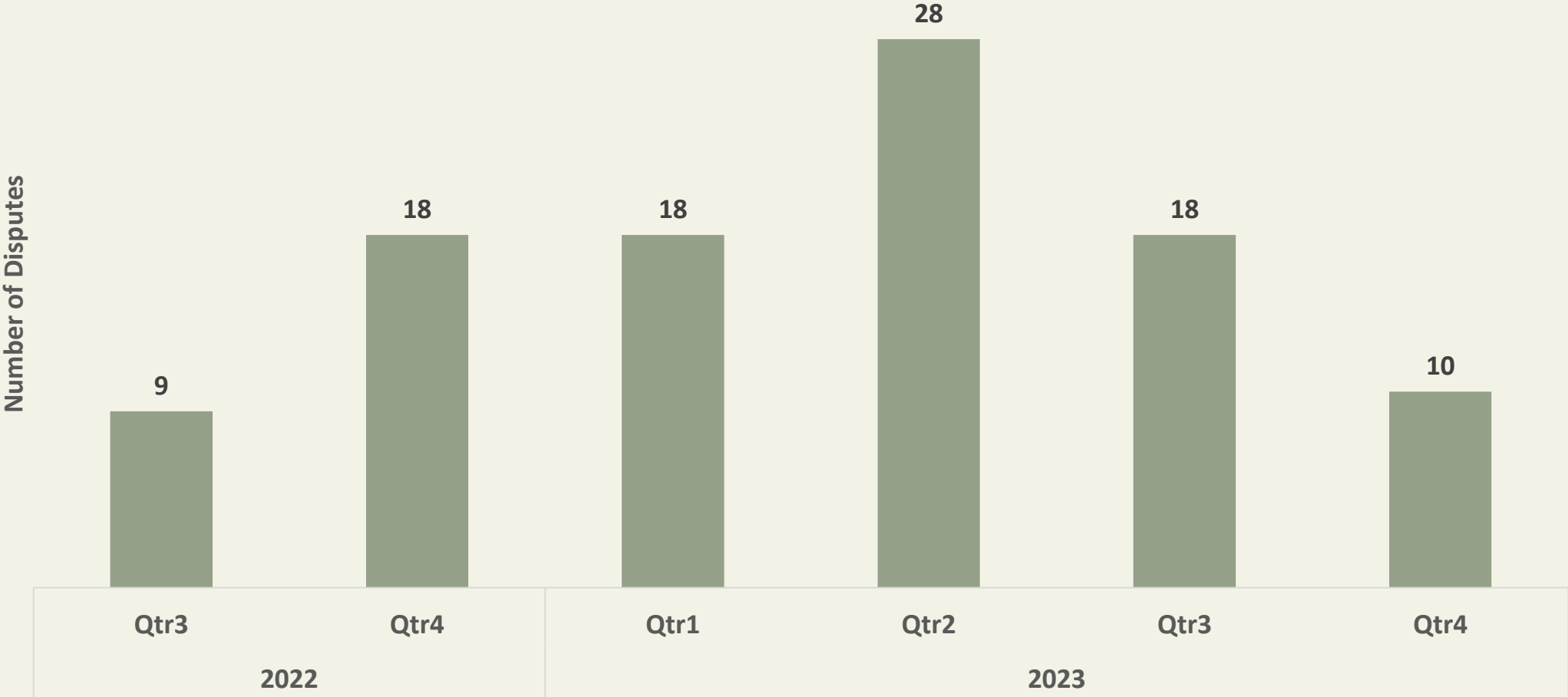
Questions?



Self-Insurance – LaNae Lien

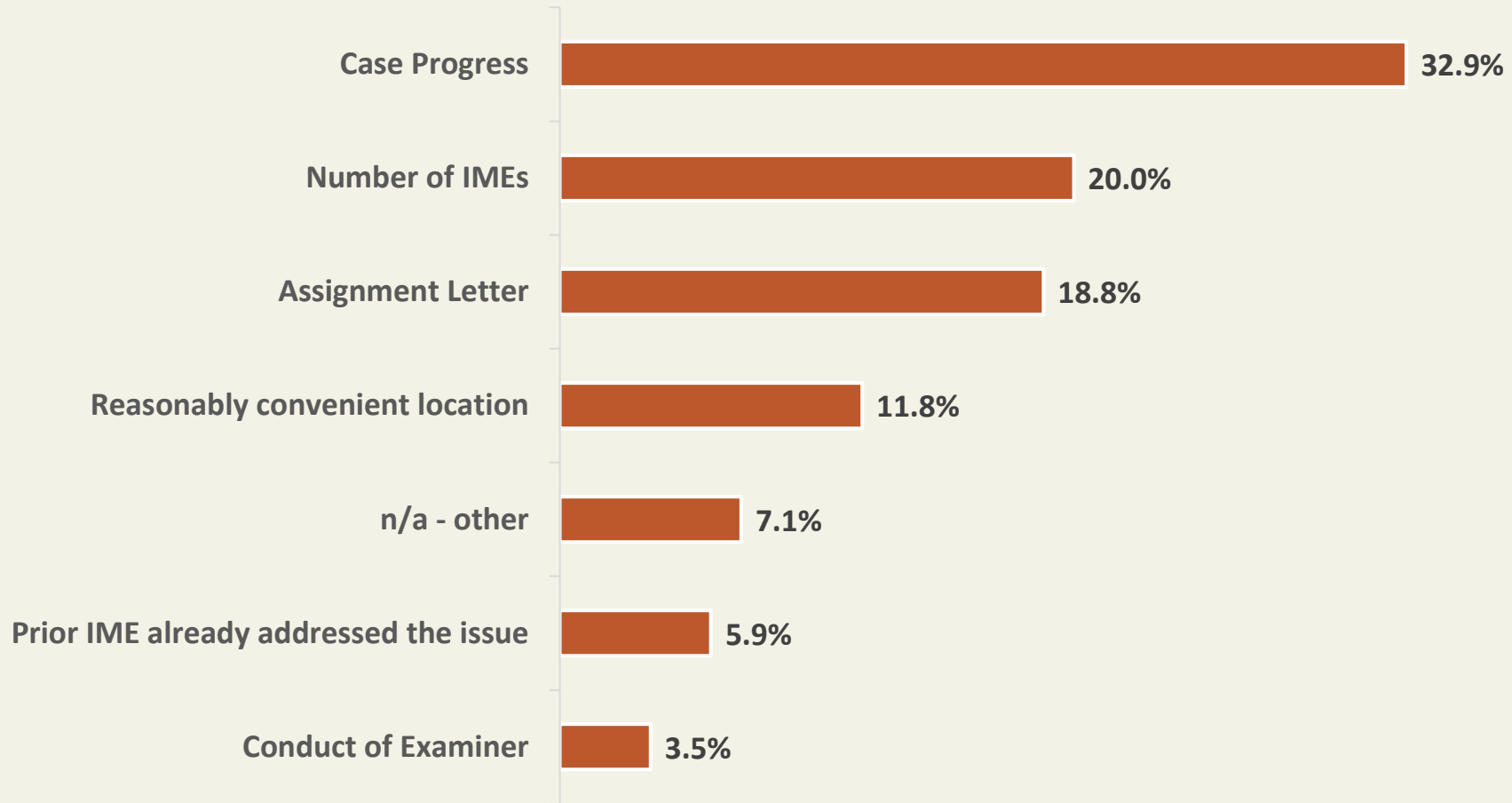
IME Dispute Data

SI IME Disputes Received August 2022 to Present



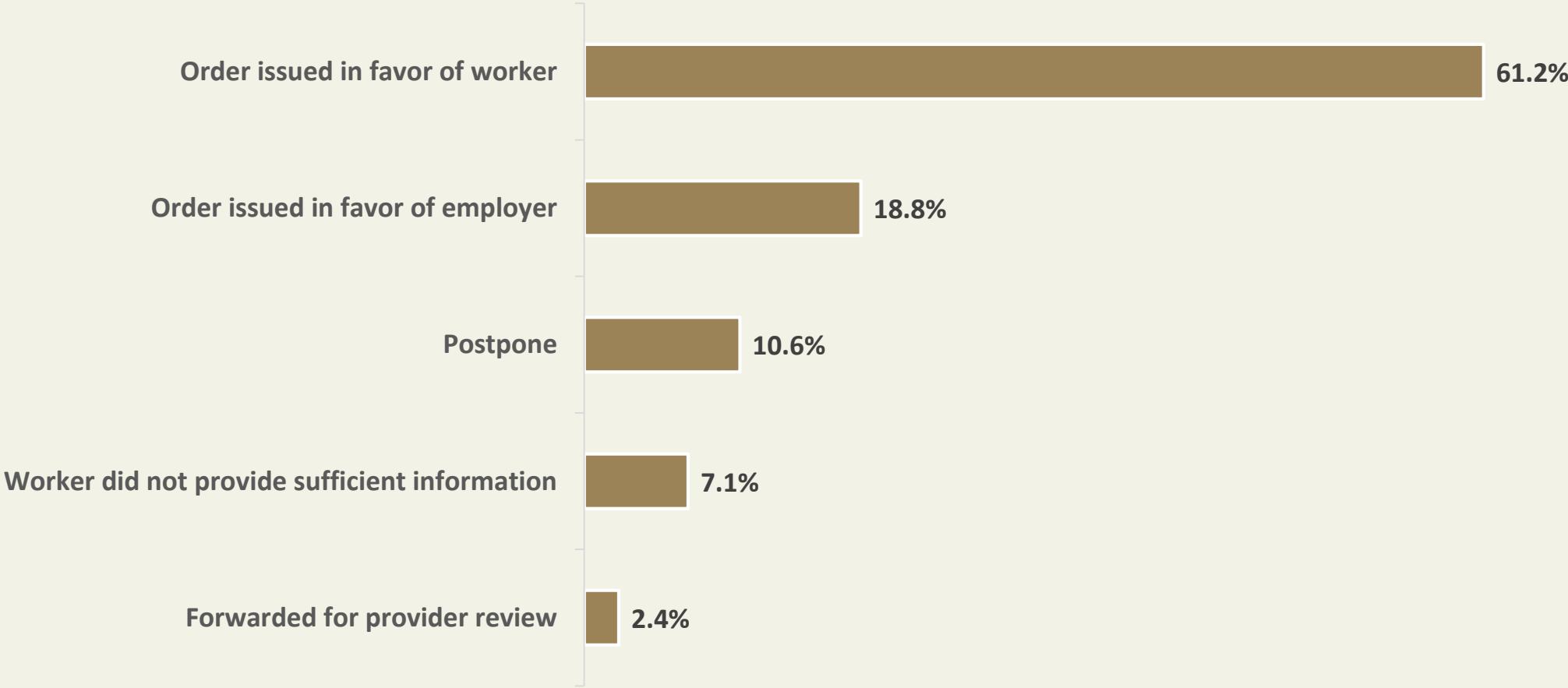
Data updated through 11/28/23

SI IME Dispute Complaint Reasons August 2022 to Present



Data updated through 11/28/23

**SI IME Dispute Outcomes
August 2022 to Present**



Data updated through 11/28/23

Questions?



Open Discussion

- Questions & Comments
- Future Topic Suggestions
- Public Comments
- Next Meeting
 - ***April 2, 2024***