

Self-Insurance Colloquium 2025

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, November 13, 2025

8:30 AM - 1:15 PM

The Department of Labor & Industries and the Washington Self-Insurers Association are hosting a virtual webinar for self-insured employers, claims administrators, and healthcare and vocational services providers.

Registration link: [Zoom Webinar](#)

https://lni-wa-gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hdhpCBzLSD2TSpA2I5RbVQ#/registration

- Each person must register individually to attend.
- After registration, please **do not share your personal invitation link**.

[Agenda/Schedule](#) and [Summaries & Learning Outcomes](#) are enclosed below.

Topics Include:

- **Bending the Quality Curve: An Overview of Strategies L&I Uses to Ensure the Quality of Care in Workers' Compensation**
 - Provider Management
 - Provider Support & Outreach
 - Centers of Occupational Health and Education (COHE)
- **Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Guidance**
- **Lumbar Fusion / Spinal Surgery Update**
- **Structured Intensive Multidisciplinary (Pain) Program Update**
- **Stump the Docs - Panel Discussion and Q&A**
 - Occupational Disease and Causation
 - Chemically Related Illness

Continuing Education Credits:

The following professional development credentials will be requested:

- Certified Claims Administrator – 3 credits
 - This program will be submitted to the Self-Insurance Curriculum Advisory Committee for approval recommendation to provide 3 contact hours of continuing education credits in claims management -- to increase the participant's knowledge or skill regarding administration of workers' compensation claims under RCW Title 51.
- Certified Disability Management Specialist (CDMS) – 3 credits
 - This program will be submitted to The Commission for Case Manager Certification for approval to provide CDMS board certified Disability management specialists with 3 contact hour(s).
- Certificates will be emailed **after the Post Evaluation Survey has been completed and returned***.

Please note: To earn the CE Credits, you **must**:

- Attend all presentations in their entirety
- *Complete and return the Post Evaluation Survey by: **December 12, 2025**

For more information contact:

Department of Labor and Industries

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Self-Insurance Colloquium 2025

Department of Labor & Industries

Zoom Webinar

Thursday, November 13, 2025

The Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) Self Insured Colloquium is a collaboration of the self-insured workers' compensation community to promote worker wellness by encouraging health care best practices, health systems improvements and innovations, and high quality, evidence-based medical treatment. The self-insured community, through the Washington Self Insurance Association, collaborates with L&I to review updates on medical policy issues and occupational health best practices.

Time	Topic	Who
8:30 – 8:40 10 mins	Welcome and Orientation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety Tip Webinar Housekeeping Rules Description of the Day's Topics Continuing Education Information - Requirements 	Stephanie Scheurich , Self-Insurance Program Manager, L&I Victoria Rich , Administrative Assistant, L&I
8:40 – 10:10 90 mins	Bending the Quality Curve: An Overview of Strategies L&I Uses to Ensure the Quality of Care in Workers' Compensation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provider Management Provider Support & Outreach Centers of Occupational Health and Education (COHE) 	Karen Jost , Health Services Analysis Program Manager, L&I Teri Baughman , Occupational Nurse Consultant, L&I Tim Martinen , Provider Accounts and Credentialing Manager, L&I Morgan Wear , Medical Program Specialist, L&I Wyndi Herrera , Medical Program Specialist, L&I Espen Pyrtek , Medical Program Specialist, L&I Zack Mills , Medical Program Specialist, L&I
10:10 – 10:20	10 Minute Break	
10:20 – 11:05 45 mins	Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Guidance	Jennifer Jutte , Associate Medical Director for Psychology, L&I
11:05 – 11:35 30 mins	Lumbar Fusion / Spinal Surgery Update	Shauna Muendel , Utilization Review Program Manager, L&I Gary Franklin , Medical Director, L&I
11:35 – 11:45	10 Minute Break	
11:45 – 12:30 45 mins	Structured Intensive Multidisciplinary (Pain) Program Update	Jason Fodeman , Associate Medical Director, L&I Jaymie Mai , Pharmacy Director, L&I
12:30 – 12:50 20 mins	Stump the Docs - Panel Discussion and Q&A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occupational Disease, Causation, and Chemically Related Illness 	Gary Franklin , Medical Director, L&I Azadeh Farokhi , Associate Medical Director, L&I Deborah Havens , Associate Medical Director, L&I Stephanie Scheurich , Self-Insurance Program Manager, L&I
12:50 – 1:00 10 mins	Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing Education Information - Requirements Remarks and Takeaways 	Kris Tefft , Executive Director, Washington Self Insurers Association Stephanie Scheurich , Self-Insurance Program Manager, L&I
1:00 – 1:15 15 mins	Continuing Education Survey Guidance	James Simonowski , Senior Consultant Health Equity and Provider Education, L&I Suzyn Daniel , Clinical Health Policy Manager, L&I

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Presentation Summaries and Learning Outcomes

1. Bending the Quality Curve: An Overview of Strategies L&I Uses to Ensure the Quality of Care in Workers' Compensation

- Presentation
- **Summary:** This presentation will share strategies for ensuring the quality of healthcare provided to injured workers. It will include information about the management of L&I's medical provider network, processes used to conduct outreach and provide support to providers, and a quality improvement effort - the Centers of Occupational Health and Education (COHE).
- **Learning Outcomes:**
At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:
 - 1) Explain how providers are managed through the medical provider network.
 - 2) Describe the processes and impact of provider support and outreach.
 - 3) Understand the Centers of Occupational Health and Education (COHEs) and identify the benefits to self-insured employers.

2. Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Clinical Guidance

- Presentation
- **Summary:** The purpose of this presentation is to provide information about the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries Clinical Guidance for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).
- **Learning Outcomes:**
At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:
 - 1) Understand the background, goals, and purpose of the clinical guidance for PTSD.
 - 2) Describe a diagnostic benchmark to assist in limiting over- or under-diagnosing PTSD.
 - 3) Describe appropriate assessment and symptom monitoring measures within the L&I workers' compensation system.
 - 4) List evidence-based first line treatments.
 - 5) Describe an appropriate treatment course and outcomes.

3. Lumbar Fusion / Spinal Surgery Update

- Presentation
- **Summary:** The Lumbar Fusion / Spinal Surgery Update will include L&I's methodology for creating surgical guidelines and key components of lumbar fusion, lumbar decompression, and SI joint fusion recommendations. The topic incorporates broader health care perspectives and considerations pertaining to fitness for surgery and best practices.
- **Learning Outcomes:**
At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:
 - 1) Learners will understand the methods used by the Department to develop evidence-based spinal surgery guidelines
 - 2) Learners will understand the key recommendations in the most recent spinal surgery guidelines, including guidance on lumbar fusion, lumbar decompression, and SI joint fusion (non-covered)
 - 3) Learners will understand the importance of the broader health perspective of an injured worker including consideration of fitness for surgery (e.g., opioids, smoking).

4. Structured Intensive Multidisciplinary (Pain) Program Update

- Presentation
- **Summary:** The presentation will provide background on Structured Intensive Multidisciplinary Program (SIMP) and review the Department's efforts on SIMP: including the findings from the SIMP Evidence – Based report to better understand the current state of SIMP services in our system and identify potential gaps as well as the findings from key informant interviews, and the Request for Information (RFI). The RFI was done to learn more about other integrated and coordinated models for treating chronic pain outside our system, including those with differing levels of intensity.
- **Learning Outcomes:**
At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:
 - 1) Understand SIMP services and what SIMP programs can offer workers with chronic pain.
 - 2) Describe the Department's current efforts on SIMP.

5. Stump the Docs

- Panelist Discussion and Q&A
- Occupational Disease, Causation, and Chemically Related Illness
- **Summary:** This panel presentation and discussion provides an opportunity for deeper understanding through attendee questions of subject matter experts pertaining to the topics of Occupational Disease and Causation and Chemically Related Illnesses.
- **Learning Outcomes:**
At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:
 - 1) Gain a better understanding of occupational disease and how causations are related.
 - 2) Acquire a deeper understanding of chemically related illnesses.