

Industrial Insurance Medical Advisory Committee Meeting

Quarterly Meeting Minutes for [4/25/2024](#) | Prepared by: Victoria Rich, OMD Admin

IIMAC Members Present

Andrew Friedman (Chair)
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

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
Brooke Allan- Davis
Krista Glenn
Shauna Muendel
Sarah Martin
Denise Santoyo
Tiffany Meeks
Victoria Rich

Welcome and Call to Order* (Andrew Friedman) 1:05pm

Hybrid Helpful Hints (Suzyn Daniel)

Introductions (Andrew Friedman and Suzyn Daniel)

Agenda Review

Approve Minutes*From 1/25/2024 (Andrew Friedman):

* Minutes were approved unanimously with no changes.

Safety Tip (Andrew Friedman)

Andrew presented a safety tip on hiking including planning your hike, staying hydrated and wearing appropriate clothing.

Annual COI Requirement Reminder (Suzyn Daniel)

Suzyn reminded everyone that a new COI will need to be signed and submitted to Tiffany Meeks.

ACHIEv Summary (Kim Wallace)

Kim reviewed the topics discussed at ACHIEv meeting, including:

- The vote to approve the new charter
- Conversation regarding using a COI for ACHIEv, the committee liked the idea of having the form, now L&I will create a draft COI form that is designed for ACHIEv.
- Legislative updates, the Naturopathic payment policy update, update on rulemaking re: HB 1197, Utilization review program overview. Emily Stinson did an overview of the provider network and its functionality.

Linkage between IIMAC and ACHEiv (Andrew Friedman and Kirk Harmon)

Andrew discussed the similarities and links between ACHIEv and IIMAC.

Rulemaking for HB 1197: Psychologists as Attending Providers (Laws of 2023) (Jami Lifka)

Jami reviewed the background of the bill, including the purpose, what type of claim would apply (cannot include a physical condition) and that this bill will become effective retroactively on July 1, 2025. Certain WAC's will need to be altered in order to implement HB 1197; Psychologists will be added as attending

providers and it will be clarified that physician assistants can also be attending providers. Also, “attending doctor” and “doctor” will be replaced with “attending provider” and “provider”. Jami is seeking feedback and reviewed the rulemaking timeline.

Replacement for Bob Lang (Gary Franklin and Andrew Friedman)

The committee discusses adding a new member to the committee to replace Bob Lang. Potential specialists that may be of interest are a psychologist, a chronic pain expert, a hand-wrist surgeon or someone from a federally qualified healthcare center such as Seamar. It was also proposed that the new member be found further out geographically than Western Washington, perhaps from the Tri-cities, Yakima or Spokane regions.

2024 Worker Memorial Day (Gary Franklin)

Gary spoke about the tragic loss of life from worker fatalities this year and lets attendees know that we will be watching ten minutes of the worker memorial live stream from L&I.

Live stream began at 2:08pm

The committee discussed moving the April meeting next year so that the worker memorial can be attended in person.

PTSD Subcommittee Discussion and Planning (Andrew Friedman, Kirk Harmon, Stephen Thielke, Gary Franklin, Zach Gray, Jennifer Jutte)

Zach reviewed the current guideline process which included selecting a topic and why a PTSD guideline is needed. Appropriate treatment is needed for the guideline however duration and type of treatment will still need to be decided upon. Any other areas of concern towards the guideline?

The committee discussed permanent impairment, the issue of younger workers not returning to work and the excellent data about this population that can be obtained from the VA. The idea of a PTSD subcommittee was discussed and the committee also discussed the evidence that supports return-to-work as a positive treatment for people with PTSD. Due to the complexity of PTSD and the varied symptoms and outcomes, it was proposed that the subcommittee implement actions one at a time and then rate success and change tactics as opposed to implementing an entire fully formed treatment guideline at once. The committee members agreed that they would like to tentatively set the first subcommittee meeting to happen in June 2024.

Updates: (Karen Jost, Jennifer Jutte, Zach Gray)

- Legislative - Karen discussed the bills that passed this year, the ones that did not and additional substitute bills

- Post-traumatic stress disorder coverage for direct-care registered nurses - “Direct care” not actually defined, the definition of presumptive is discussed
- Medical Consultant RFQQ - Zach gave an update on the process of solicitation, all contracts will need to be resubmitted and Zach provided the email to send questions to.

Utilization Review Overview (Shauna Muendel)

Shauna went over a utilization review program overview, and when Comagine reviews are required such as for inpatient hospitalizations, outpatient surgical procedures and more. Shauna discussed the UR timeliness definitions, went over the review process, MD to MD discussions of denial or partial approval (including the phone number), re-reviews, peer matched reviews and quality assurance at L&I. UR is working towards improving delay related inquiries by having inquiries sent to a single UR inquiries mailbox, tracking completion, having a tracking mechanism with Comagine and hiring a new UR ONC staff member to begin May 1.

Public Comment (Andrew Friedman)

None

Wrap-Up (Andrew Friedman)

- Agenda Ideas/Requests for July 2024: Possible update on COVID cases.
- October Retreat Topics: Some review of evidence based medicine practice, the larger structure of LNI as a whole.

Feedback on the room: In person people had a good experience, Bob Waring comments that virtually it’s hard to hear people when they are facing each other but otherwise the volume level is fine.

Wrap up: Reminder to please complete COI forms and return them to Tiffany Meeks.

*Meeting adjourned at [5:01pm](#)