



Meeting Summary
January 23, 2004

Members present: Pam DeVisser, Marsha Sorum, Tamara Arthur, Frank Prideaux, Tom Williams.

Members absent: Rebecca Brown, Charles Carter, Timothy Keenen, Walter LaChapelle, William Smith, Franklin Wong, Gary Rischitelli (consulting member).

Others present: Joe Eusterman (Objective Findings Subcommittee), Nancy Bieber and Barbara Smith (WCD), Andrea Easton (OMA).

Procedures for Review: Those present agreed that they have already determined ACT for the knee is not experimental or unproven. The question before the committee now is whether they want to consider whether other uses of the treatment should be classified as experimental or unproven, and thus non-compensable, or whether they want to develop non-binding guidelines in order to assist Oregon medical providers, workers and insurers in making decisions about when and if to use this treatment. In the absence of a quorum, further discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

Nurse Practitioner Issues: Barb Smith provided a draft of the Nurse Practitioner Guide. WCD asked committee opinion on whether a decision that there is no impairment is, in effect, a rating of impairment. Since nurse practitioners are not authorized to make findings of impairment, if even a determination that there is no impairment is a finding of impairment, the nurse practitioner would be required to send all workers with disabling claims to a doctor for a closing examination. It was the opinion of most members present that no impairment equals zero impairment, which is a finding of impairment.

Disability Standards : Members were asked to review the most recent IAIABC (International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions) Rating Standards and provide any questions, comments or concerns to Nancy so that she could forward these to the IAIABC.

Division 09 and 10 rules: Members briefly discussed rule changes, particularly the changes regarding pharmaceuticals. Members agreed WCD should provide some definition or guideline for what constitutes a “clinical justification.”

Future Planning: In the absence of a quorum, rather than plan the next meeting or schedule for the year, the members asked Nancy to poll all the members to pick a date for the next meeting and determine what days/weeks work best or cause the greatest problems for members. Nancy will also poll the members for preference regarding meeting in Portland versus Salem.