



Meeting Summary  
March 19, 2004

Members present: Pam DeVisser, Tamara Arthur, Frank Prideaux, Tom Williams, Franklin Wong, Charles Carter and Maria Carraher.

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

Others present: Nancy Bieber and Debra Buchanan, WCD; Linda Olsen, SAIF.

**Procedures for Review:**

**ACTION:** In order to complete review of the ACT, members will contact experts and ask them to help the Committee with this review. Dr. Wong will contact Rich Edelson, and Dr. Arthur will contact Dr. Keenen and an orthopedist in Bend who is known to use the procedure.

Dr. Rischitelli is asked to provide any additional information regarding compounded topical prescriptions for the next meeting.

**DECISION:** The committee will review the article from Spine Journal on IDET (distributed to members prior to the March meeting) at the next meeting.

**Pharmacy Advisory Council:** WCD staff presented a recommendation to the committee that was made in response to recent rule changes affecting prescription practices. The rules now require a "clinical justification" in order for four drugs to be compensable. The recommendation was for WCD to convene a Pharmacy Advisory Council whose purpose would be to provide evidence based educational materials to physicians in order to help them sort options prior to prescribing drugs within certain groups of drugs. This approach is somewhat similar to the approach taken by the Oregon Health Plan and groups such as Kaiser Permanente. The concept is based on the premise that many doctors get much of their information about various drugs from the pharmaceutical representatives, and would appreciate information from other sources.

**ACTION:** Members thought that the council and the MAC should overlap, but not be the same committee. We should partner with OMA and others. As a start, Dr. Wong will contact David Murphy to assess his interest in joining such a council. Dr. Arthur will contact Dr. Rischitelli, Dr. David Silver, chair of the Workers' Compensation Committee of the Oregon Medical Association, and also will contact a group that meets in Eugene to advise Oregon practitioners on issues of pain management. Nancy will determine what resources WCD currently has in terms of mailing lists of medical providers, etc.

**Nurse Practitioner Issues:** Nancy informed the committee that there has been a change of perspective regarding the requirement that nurse practitioners refer all disabled patients for a closing examination. Unless the worker or insurer requests such an examination, if the nurse practitioner does not believe there is any permanent impairment, WCD will not enforce the requirement that the examination be obtained. If there is general agreement there is no impairment, this adds no value to the system. However, if the issue comes before WCD during the reconsideration of a claim closure, WCD will require the examination. When the rules are revised, this rule will likely be modified.

**Division 09 and 10 rules:** Debbie briefly discussed final rule changes.

**Future Planning:**

**DECISION:** Future meetings will be held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every other month, with the next meeting scheduled on May 21<sup>st</sup>. For the remainder of 2004, all meetings will be held in Salem at the Labor and Industries Building.