



Meeting Summary
July 27, 2001

Members present: T. Arthur, D.O., J. Eusterman, M.D., T. Keenen, M.D., F. Prideaux, D.C., R. Sanne, D. Silver, M.D., F. Wong, M.D.

WCD staff present: Nancy Bieber

Others present: Jim Anderson, OMA; Carla McCanna, WCD; Sandra Savage, WCD and Gunther.

Absent: Janis Checchia, C. Olson, M. Sorum, T. Williams

1. IDET Recommendation: The members reviewed and discussed the testimony presented to WCD during the public hearing process for the Division 9 rules.

ACTION: The members voted unanimously to retain their original proposal to the Director to exclude the IDET procedure from reimbursement under the Oregon workers' compensation system because it is unproven, with the amendment that the committee and the director commit to reconsider this issue in six months. In six months, the committee will review the current literature and any new study results. If the review reveals that the efficacy of the procedure is demonstrated through scientific study, the committee would make a new recommendation to the Director to reverse the rule.

2. Definitions of Statutory Terms - *Experimental, Unproven, Unscientific, and Outmoded.*

ACTION: The members agreed to consider the following definitions:

Scientific method: Formulation and testing of hypotheses, controlled observations or experiments, analysis and interpretation of data, and oral and written presentation of all of these components to scientific colleagues for discussion and further conclusions, and accepted for publication in peer reviewed journals.

Experimental: A treatment to which the scientific method is being applied but has not been completed.

Unproven: A treatment to which the scientific method has not been applied or the completed scientific method has not shown efficacy.

Unscientific: A treatment to which the scientific method has not been applied.

Outmoded: A treatment outside the current standard of practice of medical care.

The members will consider these definitions and adopt or amend them at the August meeting.

3. Division Reports:

Senate Bill 485 was passed with amendments. Sections 13, 14, and 15 were distributed for review.

Senate Bill 2519 creates the "Leadership Commission on Health Care Costs." DCBS has been tentatively asked to merge the current WCD medical fee study with a broader study anticipated as part of this bill.

Nancy reported on the results of the arbiter selection pilot project and announced that WCD will implement a new process that will allow workers and insurers to participate in the selection of a medical arbiter during reconsideration of claim closures. A customer satisfaction survey of those who participated in the pilot indicated strong support from insurers and workers alike for the opportunity to eliminate one name from a list of possible arbiters for each case.