

# Medical Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes September 10, 2010

### Opening:

Dr. Keenen called to order at 9 am on September 10, 2010 a meeting of the Medical Advisory Committee and the Workers' Compensation Division at Clackamas Community College.

### Present:

Ronald Bowman, MD (Chair); Timothy Keenen, MD (Vice-Chair); John Braddock, MD; Franklin Wong, MD; Hans Carlson, MD; Brad Lorber, MD; Constantine Gean, MD; Joey Blubaugh (Employer Representative); Marilyn Terhaar (Worker Representative); Tom Williams, PT; Frank Prideaux, DC; Joey Blubaugh (Employer Representative); Kevin Willingham (WCD); Jacqueline Sewart (WCD).

**Absent:** Gary Rischitelli, MD; Juerg Kunz (WCD).

### A. Welcome and Introductions – Dr. Keenen

Dr. Keenen welcomed attendees.

### B. Review and approve the MAC Meeting minutes of Friday, July 16, 2010 – Medical Advisory Committee

The committee unanimously approved the Friday, July 16, 2010 meeting minutes.

### C. Review of Medical Opioid Flow Chart – Dr. Gean

The Opioid Subcommittee presented a summary flowchart of opioid use recommendations for primary care physicians when treating patients.

Items discussed were,

- Adding an educational piece to the flowchart, e.g. an introductory section, linking sections etc. Currently the flowchart describes only guidelines and recommended resources and tools.
- Working with the Oregon Medical Association to develop a statewide online training. Discuss with the Oregon Medical Association the possibility of making the training accredited. (The division restated the Oregon Pain Commission's willingness to incorporate the training into their existing schedule of trainings.)
- Sharing the Opioid Subcommittee's progress with the Management Labor Advisory Committee.
- Contacting Dr. Roger Chou (a past Medical Advisory Committee Meeting guest) for his suggestions on ensuring the success of the training.

- Incorporating a training piece aimed directly at educating the patient. (Perhaps the patient suffering with chronic pain more than the patient suffering with acute pain.)

#### **D. Plasma Rich Plate Injection / Prolotherapy – Dr. Braddock**

Dr. Braddock asked the question if plasma rich plate injection has evolved to the point where the treatment is beneficial to the patient and that consequently it should be classed as a compensable form prolotherapy.

Items discussed were,

- Can a patient's own platelets be considered a non-irritant when they are the patient's own body substance? Or does the goal of prolotherapy make the patient's own platelets an irritant regardless of their origin?
- Carrying out a literature research before a definition of plasma rich plate injection is finalized to avoid similar services that are currently compensable becoming non-compensable.

A subcommittee was formed comprised of Dr. Bowman, Dr. Braddock, and Dr. Lorber to look at the available research and data. The division will provide assistance.

#### **E. Formation of Lumbar Fusion Subcommittee – Kevin Willingham**

A Lumbar Fusion Subcommittee was formed comprised of Dr. Keenen, Dr. Carlson, and Dr. Gean. The division will provide assistance.

The subcommittee and the division will,

- Look at identifying patients who are most likely to have positive outcomes from lumbar fusion surgery.
- Identify alternative treatments for workers who are unsuitable candidates for lumbar fusion surgeries to help them become medically and financially sufficient quicker.
- Look at reducing costs for employers.
- Determine if there are relative and absolute contra-indicators.

The division will,

- Develop a list of questions to help define the scope and and the focus of the Lumbar Fusion review.
- Provide an updated matrix of lumbar fusion studies for the subcommittee.

The committee also recommended looking at,

- Functional recovery as an alternative to lumbar fusion surgery.

- How quickly workers returned to work, and to what kind of work, after lumbar fusion surgery.
- The mental healthiness of the worker.
- Encouraging the employer to be an engaged and committed participant in the worker's post-surgery psychological recovery through providing timely information to the employer.

#### **F. New Technology – Jacqueline Sewart**

The committee decided to,

- Move Surface EMG to the *Inactive List*.
- Move Platelet Rich Plasma Injection to the same line as Prolotherapy on the *Active List*.
- Add Stem Cell Technologies to the *For Potential Future Consideration List*.

Other items discussed were,

- There are no current inquiries about a particular technology that is showing a trend. (The division said they will contact the committee if a trend develops.)
- The division said they are unable to currently track artificial disc data due to limited staff resources.

#### **G. Hassle Factor Discussion – Kevin Willingham**

The division presented an overview of the administrative burdens and hassle factors associated with medical care in the workers' compensation system that they are addressing in the upcoming revision of the Division 009 Rules.

The division informed the committee that the next Hassle Factors External Advisory Committee Meeting will be held on Monday, September 27, 2010, at the Labor & Industries Building, Salem, Oregon, from 8:30 am to 11:30 am. At the meeting, the division will be presenting the final rules issue and will submit draft rule language for review, discussion, and feedback from the External Advisory Committee on already presented rules issues.

The division said they will provide a recap of the September External Advisory Committee Meeting at the Medical Advisory Committee Meeting being held on Friday, November 19, 2010.

#### **H. Overview of Medical Costs – Kevin Willingham**

The division presented a general overview of medical costs and time loss costs to the committee. The division said they are analyzing trend lines for the data. Additionally, the division said that, while results are consistent, they are investigating minor anomalies that occurred during the transition from using B220 data to using EDI data through the period

2007 to 2009. The division said they will email a detailed explanation of the medical cost data to the committee.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 10:46 am by Dr. Bowman. The next Medical Advisory Committee Meeting will be at 9 am on November 19, 2010 at Clackamas Community College.