



**FINAL MEETING MINUTES  
January 18, 2008**

- Members Present:** Ronald Bowman, M.D., Chair; Timothy Keenen, M.D., Vice-Chair; Pam DeVisser, F.N.P.; Franklin Wong, M.D.; Frank Prideaux, D.C. and John Braddock, M.D.
- Members Absent:** Hans Carlson, M.D.; Gary Rischitelli, M.D.; Brad Lorber, M.D.; Tom Williams, P.T. and Maria Carraher, Injured Worker Rep. and Joey Blubaugh, Mngt. Rep.
- WCD Staff Present:** Debra Buchanan; Nathan Johnson (IMD) and Denise Hunt

**Welcome New Member(s):**

New committee member Dr. John Braddock, Director, Cascade Occupational Medicine was introduced and welcomed by the committee. Joey Blubaugh is also new, but couldn't make this meeting. Also noted that Holly Mercer has moved to a new position outside of WCD, and Holly wanted to convey that she enjoyed working with MAC and wishes the committee well in their future endeavors. In addition, Debra noted that she will be absent from MAC for awhile as she is going to another agency on a job rotation. She also has thoroughly enjoyed working with MAC, and is very excited about the important decisions and products coming from MAC.

**Approval of Prior Meeting Notes:**

The prior meeting minutes, dated November 16, 2007, were reviewed by the committee members. A motion was made by Dr. Bowman and seconded by Dr. Keenen to approve the minutes as written.

**Approval of Lumbar Artificial Disc Recommendation: *Debra Buchanan***

Committee reviewed the study recommendations for the Lumbar Artificial Disc Replacement final draft dated January 4, 2008. A revision in the memo was discussed regarding the division doing a follow up study. A slight change to the prior recommendation was made due to analysis by the division on the cost of the follow up study. The new recommendation is to have WCD do the study or to utilize and review studies being done by others. A discussion by the committee on cost factors took place. Dr. Bowman then made a motion to approve the final draft, the motion was seconded, and all members present voted for the motion. All other members (from 2007) have had opportunity to comment on this recommendation as it was sent out via email and FAX by the division at least a week prior to this meeting. All other members (from 2007) had previously voted to approve the prior draft recommendations, as noted by Debra. Debra has not received any comments that are not in favor of the recommendation. The committee was fine with sending this recommendation to John Shilts. Debra will take it to John in the near future for his decision and possible rule making.

**Cervical Artificial Disc Research Criteria/Studies: *Dr. Keenen***

Dr. Keenan gave a review on cervical fusion arthrodesis using several spinal disc device models as visual aids. The first device, *Prestige*, was an example of a cervical "metal-on-metal" FDA approved device which was approved about 4-5 months ago. The *Prestige* is a device that can only be used at one level. The second device, *Pro Disc C*, is "metal-on-polymer". The *Pro Disc C* can be used for multiple levels. The third device, *Charite*, is a device that is unconstrained "metal-on-polymer". These devices were examined by the committee members. Then the committee went into a question and answer period. The committee was given the current full packet and spreadsheet of articles and studies related to this issue for review. WCD will again ask the public for input to be considered by the committee. The committee voted to keep the same sub-committee as

**Cervical Artificial Disc Research Criteria/Studies Continued:** *Dr. Keenen*

on the Lumbar ADR. Dr. Keenen volunteered to contact the other two sub-committee members and schedule a meeting with them prior to the next full committee meeting. He is hoping they will have a recommendation, since the process will be similar to the Lumbar ADR process. There was also group discussion on the interest in comparisons of the costs of surgical low back WC claims versus non-surgical low back claims.

**Preferred Provider Organizaion (PPO) Issues – Impact of PPO’s on Providers:**

The committee discussed PPO issues and the impact PPO’s have on providers. Topics include: benefits and challenges, reimbursements, fee schedule conversion factors and the interplay with Managed Care Organizations. Debra updated the committee on WCD’s dispute rules and explained that the division administers the law and that there is no provision for a PPO discount in Oregon Workers’ Compensation law. If a dispute comes in to the division we cannot allow/apply a PPO discount. However, Debra noted that contract law is outside of WC law, and that providers should consider this prior to bringing a dispute to the director. Other provisions of law, i.e., civil law, would apply to the contracts and WCD cannot comment on what the PPO companies may or may not decide to do in that regard. The committee entered into a discussion about their billings, reimbursements and the various PPO discounts. A provider noted that some contracts were signed as far back as 15 years ago. Some committee members noted that they will be looking into this issue.

**Goals for Next Meeting:**

For the next meeting in March, concerning Cervical ADR, Dr. Keenen stated the most ambitious plan to accomplish would be: 1) that all the articles have been gathered and the sub-committee has met to review the articles. Then the sub-committee members could present the findings/recommendation at the next full meeting. Less ambitious would be: 2) to have reviewed all the articles and go from there.

**Future Topic Items:**

In addition, Dr. Keenen noted that issues on the horizon that should be addressed are new Disc Replacement procedures and Post Dynamic Stabilization – which allows for movement.

Debra noted that the division may want MAC to look at the ICD-9 codes that are used quite frequently for low back injuries and address issues surrounding that.

Meeting began at 9:05 a.m. and adjourned at approximately 10:55 a.m.

Next Meeting:

March 21, 2008, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m., Clackamas Community College Training Center, Wilsonville.

Recorder: Denise Hunt