

Division of Workers' Compensation Medical Advisory Committee

May 8, 2014 – 1 PM

Attendees:

Jason Carter, Chief Pharmacist, Tennessee Department of Mental Health.

Jerry Barrix, Wade Electric Company, Jackson, TN.

Dr. Greg Kyser, Psychiatrist, Nashville.

Gaye Fortner, CEO Health 21 Business Coalition, Knoxville.

Dr. John Dreyzhner, Commissioner Department of Health.

Ginny Howard, Zurich North America.

Misty Williams, Travelers.

Dr. Keith Graves, Chiropractor.

Rob Behnke, Cracker Barrel.

Dr. David Tutor, East TN Urgent Care

Dr. Randall Holcomb, Memphis.

Josh Baker, Division of Workers' Compensation Legislative Liaison.

Kelly Burns, WC Specialist.

Suzy Douglas, Nurse Coordinator, U/R.

Margaret Collier, Case Management

Robert Snyder, Medical Director, Division of Workers' Compensation

Abbie Hudgens, Administrator, Division of Workers' Compensation

1. Abbie Hudgens, Administrator of Workers' Comp Division, welcomed new members and visitors to the first meeting of the Medical Advisory Committee. She gave background information on the reasons a Medical Advisory Committee was included in the 2013 Workers' Compensation Reform Act. Those reasons included: to improve the quality of medical care provided to injured workers, to ensure more timely care, to reduce the "hassle factor" the administrative requirements for workers' compensation causes medical providers; and to reduce the overall cost of medical care in workers' compensation claims.

Ms. Hudgens gave the members a preview of the topics that would be addressed in the first meeting. She then introduced Dr. Snyder and asked that everyone in attendance or on the phone introduce themselves.

2. Josh Baker, Administrative Attorney for the Division, provided general comments about the history and authority of the Medical Advisory Committee (MAC). Baker explained that the MAC is an advisory committee that serves at the pleasure, and for the sole purpose, of advising the Administrator in making policy decisions related to medical treatment in workers' compensation cases. Baker explained that all committee members are appointed for a term of four years and further explained that committee members will not be compensated for their service but will be reimbursed for money spent (such as mileage which is currently reimbursed at \$0.47 per mile traveled) in completing their duties. Baker explained that the presence of 1/3 of the members constitutes a quorum, and that members who participate by phone or video conferencing will be counted as physically present. Baker also explained that the MAC has the authority to select leaders and appoint subcommittees but is required to consult with the Administrator in making these decisions.

Finally, Baker explained that the MAC members are considered state employees and informed the parties of responsibilities associated with being a state employee.

3. The committee held a discussion on the optimal meeting times and frequency. The committee was told that the division would send out an email requesting the best times for members. Dr. Snyder mentioned that surgeons needed a good bit of lead time for appointments, probably eight weeks.
4. Robert Snyder made a presentation on medical treatment guidelines which included an introduction to the topic. The Division's intention is to start with the DOH Pain Management Guideline with comments about the differences and an introduction to the Appendix as a draft. A summary of each section and its implications were presented and discussed. A number of references to established medical treatment guidelines were mentioned; links to these websites will be sent to committee members. There was much discussion on the problems associated with opioid use among workers' compensation patients, including the provision in the state workers' compensation law that if an employer is a participant in the division's drug free workplace program and an injured worker has a positive drug screen, there is a presumption that the accident is not compensable under workers' compensation.

Members of the committee who were not state employees were given travel reimbursement forms and a no conflict of interest statement.

The meeting was adjourned at 3 PM.

Revised and approved August 14, 2014.