

**Workers' Compensation Insurers' Task Force**  
**May 21, 2008**  
**minutes**

**Members present:**

Rob Rangel; Broadspire  
Dave Oertli; Sedgwick  
Lori Norman for Meg Kasting; SFM  
Bob Johnson; Insurance Federation  
Laurie Simonsen; Travelers  
Robert Farber; BRAC  
Karen Clayton Ebert; MCIT  
Gary Westman, MN Dept of Administration  
Ryan Shaughnessy for Jodie Connor; Wausau  
Nancy Ross; City of Minneapolis  
Mary Abraham; Westfield  
Jeff Moulton for Cindy Van Eyll; General Casualty

**Members excused:**

Bruce Baker; Liberty Mutual  
Claire McCoy; GAB Robins

**Members absent:**

Dennis Ballinger; Western National  
Charles Bierman; Mayo  
Ken Gildow; RTW

**Staff members present:**

Penny Grev  
Ralph Hapness  
Julie Klejewski  
Phil Moosbrugger  
Patricia Todd  
Lisa Wichterman  
Jana Williams

**Visitors present:**

Matthew Lemke, Winthrop & Weinstine  
Dave Haugen, MN Dept of Health  
Shelagh Kalland, MN AUC

The meeting was called to order at 9:09 a.m. by chair person Gary Westman. Members and visitors introduced themselves.

#### **4) Updates**

##### ***Workers' Compensation Advisory Council bill***

Assistant Commissioner Patricia Todd reported there was a workers' compensation bill that passed this year, HF3566. A short summary of some significant items included were:

- updating the RVUs in a cost-neutral manner, which will result in updating the fee schedule;
- options to do electronic transfer and submittal of data; and
- implementing the worker identification (WID) number to use that number as well as the Social Security number to track a specific claim.

Rob Rangel asked if the bullet points listed in the March 19, 2008, minutes were what passed. Todd reported yes, except in reference to the first bullet, there were some issues in regard to the personal care assistance, so there is a delay in the implementation of that specific section until another change is made in a different portion of the statute.

There was a question about when the changes become effective. Normally all the changes are effective Oct. 1, 2008.

### *Workers' compensation work groups*

Todd reported that as a result of some of the items discussed during the development of legislation, the commissioner has established three work groups:

- 1) provider billing/auditing, with a repricing industry subgroup;
- 2) vocational rehabilitation; and
- 3) employer choice – health care benefits.

Anything is up for discussion and all recommendations will go to the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council, which will make the final recommendation about what will be done and changed. There are members from WCAC on each work group. For more detailed information about the work groups, visit [www.doli.state.mn.us/wcac\\_workgroups.html](http://www.doli.state.mn.us/wcac_workgroups.html).

### **5) New business**

#### *Overview of the electronic billing process*

Gary Westman introduced Shelagh Kalland, representing the Administrative Uniformity Committee (AUC), and Dave Haugen, from the Minnesota Department of Health, who gave a PowerPoint presentation overview of the electronic billing process. This presentation is available online at [www.doli.state.mn.us/wcitr.html](http://www.doli.state.mn.us/wcitr.html).

### **6) Future agenda items**

There was discussion about what topics the task force would like to bring forth at future meetings. The intent of the WCITF was to come together, in this specific industry, to have a forum to talk about challenges and concerns the industry is facing. The task force is not for policy development or policy discussion, but rather an informative group to find out what is happening and what can be done to resolve any challenges. Suggested topics:

- medical cost drivers;
- treatment parameters;
- updates on fee schedule; and
- Medicare set-aside (MSA).

### **7) Paper reports**

Westman pointed out the case law summary in members' packets.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Julie Klejewski*

Executive Secretary