

**MEDCO BOARD MEETING
TIME:**

**TUESDAY 10 MARCH 2020
11:20 – 16:08**

MEETING PLACE:

**Suite 218
New London House
London Street
London
EC3R 7AD**

ATTENDEES:

Martin Heskins (MH) – Executive Chair
David Bott (DB) – Association of Personal Injury Lawyers- Dialled In
Jackie Proctor (JP) – Motor Insurers Bureau
Nigel Teasdale (NT) – Forum of Insurance Lawyers – Dialled in
Simon Margolis (SM) – Association of Medical Reporting Organisation
Susan Brown (SB) – Motor Accident Solicitors Society
Stuart Fielding (SF) – Association of British Insurers
Surendra Kumar (SK) – British Medical Association

OBSERVERS ATTENDING THE BOARD:

Ben Fletcher (BF) – CCO MIB Dialled in
Leigh Evans (LE) – Head of Operations MedCo – Dialled In
Nadine Silverton (NS) – Data Services Officer – Dialled In
Scott Tubbritt (ST) – Ministry of Justice left at 1pm

SECRETARIAT – MINUTE TAKER:

Jean Gillet (JG) – Secretariat – Dialled In

APOLOGIES:

Richard Hutchinson (RH) - Ministry of Justice
Kate Fox (KF) – The Law Society

1.0 WELCOME

1.1 Declarations of Interests/Gifts

There is no change to the existing register of Interests that is held by MedCo.

1.2 Announcements

None

1.3 Minutes from February 2020 Meeting.

Minutes were approved

1.4 Public Minutes from February 2020 Meeting

Minutes were approved

2. MoJ Update

The Board was advised that the new implementation date of the reforms will be August 2020.

MedCo was thanked for their help sending out Stakeholder alerts, the Stakeholder survey on QC will close on Wednesday 11th March 2020.

The notification of the revised offer of presenting 2 Tier 1s and 5 Tier 2 has been sent out as a stakeholder alert.

The cabinet reshuffle has made some changes to the MOJ some new ministers and a business join up with the Home Office, the net result is Lord Keene is still the lead. Shadowing Lord Keene in the Commons is Alex Chalk, whose background is Criminal Law Barrister

3. DMEs RULES

The MOJ will be issuing a survey which will be sent out at the end of this week to a limited stakeholder audience.

4. CHARGING POLICY

The MedCo Board wish to revisit the charging model with a view to implementing a model that is fairer and spreads the cost of funding MedCo across all members of the service to spread the operational costs and reflect the level of search selections and reports provided by organisations, including Indirect Medical Experts (IMEs) while retaining access to justice.

5. OIC /MedCo Contract

The Board unanimously agreed to sign the OIC/MedCo Contract

6. MONTHLY UPDATES

6.1 Audit

The audit team are continuing to undertake audits requested by new and existing Users as well as fact finding visits of various Administration Agencies. The audit committee are reviewing these reports and communicating decisions in relation to these.

The Committee continue to monitor use of the system, taking appropriate actions where misuse is identified.

The Committee are currently planning the next cycle of audits and have recently published updated versions of the Guidance on the MoJ Qualifying Criteria, Audit Guide and technical Data Aid.

The Committee are continuing to work with the MedCo Board to prepare for changes needed for the PI reforms that take effect in August 2020.

6.2 Operations

The Committee meet regularly to review operational issues and feedback from all user types on a variety of day to day operational issues. The Committee are currently looking at issues relating to second searches, lack of response from experts and AUTs and queries from experts and MROs regarding amendments to reports.

6.3 EAPR Committee

ME Audits are now taking place and MAB referrals continue.

6.4 IT Committee

This paper provides the MedCo Board with a summary of the MedCo service from an IT perspective. Work relating to Whiplash and the Project Status Report are included.

6.5 Education and Training Committee

The Committee continue to prepare for the 2020/2021 CPD programme including training modules to support the reforms. Monitoring of experts through the current CPD continues with action plans being considered to ensure all experts complete on time. Plans are in place to review the 2019/2020 CPD programme.

6.6 Statistics

The report was noted as read.

6.7 Communication Report

The report was noted as read.

6.8 Management Accounts

The report was noted as read.

7. MedCo Reforms and Events

There will be no face to face training information events taking place until further notice. MedCo will continue to prepare more information on the reforms and continue to look at other ways of disseminating information to the registered users.