

MedCo Public Board Minutes

**MEDCO BOARD MEETING
TIME:**

**TUESDAY 30 MARCH 2020
11:00 – 12:40**

MEETING PLACE:

Teams Meeting

ATTENDEES:

Martin Heskins (MH) – Executive Chair
David Bott (DB) – Association of Personal Injury Lawyers
Jackie Proctor (JP) – Motor Insurers Bureau
Kate Fox (KF) – The Law Society
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
Nigel Teasdale (NT) – Forum of Insurance Lawyers
Brian Simpson (BS) Chartered Society of Physiotherapists

OBSERVERS ATTENDING THE BOARD:

Leigh Evans (LE) – Head of Operations MedCo
Nadine Silverton (NS) – Data Services Officer
Mark Waughman (MW) – Data Services Officer
Scott Tubbritt (ST) – Ministry of Justice
Jo Folan (JF) – Legal

SECRETARIAT – MINUTE TAKER:

Jean Gillett - MIB

APOLOGIES:

Richard Hutchinson (RH) - Ministry of Justice
Ben Fletcher (BF) – CCO MIB

MedCo Public Board Minutes

1.0 Welcome

1.1 Declarations of Interests/Gifts

No declarations

1.2 Announcements

None

1.3 Minutes from 10 March 2020 Meeting.

Minutes were approved

1.5 Public Minutes from 10 March Meeting

Minutes were approved

2. MoJ Update

In terms of MoJ business – An assessment of priorities is ongoing and current policy programmes across the Department could be suspended, and this includes consideration of the whiplash reforms. MoJ staff are being re-deployed to other areas in support of Covid-19 priorities but ST will remain the main point of contact for MedCo to ensure continuity. MoJ is working with the CPRC to assess and make changes to the Civil Procedure Rules to support the civil courts system during the current situation. area number of issues are being considered, including looking at time limits, and changes are being made through the issuing of practice directions.

MoJ have noted that the Covid-19 restrictions have had an impact on traffic volume and that accident rates have reduced dramatically.

The analysis of the Qualifying Criteria survey has been completed and advice to Ministers will be prepared. The DME survey is still ongoing and will close on Wednesday 2 April. There has been a good response from DMEs so far and views have been largely positive. Analysis of the responses will start once the survey closes, and we are currently, still on track for August for the introduction of Reforms.

3. Annual Fees – 6 April 2020

Payment is deferred for 3 months. or people who have a payment due in April. It was agreed that no MRO would pay until 6 July 2020. MedCo will issue further statements about Annual Fees.

Reminders for payment will be sent out before the 6 July

A refund will be available to anyone who has already paid but they will have to apply for it, it will not be automatically processed.

4. Coronavirus Issues

4.1 Remote Examinations update

There have been a few tweaks to the original statement, and it will be updated weekly. We are receiving complaints and comments all the time, and therefore it will probably need to be reviewed and updated as necessary.

Insurers have always had the ability to reject a bad report and this is not going to change. The video is fine, and the quality of the report is still paramount, consent should be documented for remote video examination.

4.2 Postcode abuse

The overall majority have not changed or increased their registered postcodes

4.3 Search/Selections statistics

Search and Selections ,the general pattern from the 9th March is on downward spiral.

Meeting Ended 12:40