



Board Minutes

MEDCO BOARD MEETING
TIME:

TUESDAY 25 MAY 2021
10:00– 12:00

MEETING PLACE:

Microsoft Teams Meeting

ATTENDEES:

Martin Heskins (MH) – Executive Chair
Brian Simpson (BS) – Chartered Society of Physiotherapists
David Bott (DB) – Association of Personal Injury Lawyers
Jackie Proctor (JP) – Motor Insurers Bureau
Kate Fox (KF) – The Law Society
Nigel Teasdale (NT) – Forum of Insurance Lawyers
Simon Margolis (SM) – Association of Medical Reporting Organisation
Susan Brown (SB) – Motor Accident Solicitors Society
Surendra Kumar (SK) – British Medical Association
John Howells (JH) Non-Executive Director

OBSERVERS ATTENDING THE BOARD

Adam Ballard (AB) – ABI Representative.
Leigh Evans (LE) – Head of Operations MedCo
Mark Waughman (MW) – Data Services Officer

SECRETARIAT – MINUTE TAKER:

Jean Gillett - MIB

APOLOGIES:

Ben Fletcher (BF) – CC0 MIB
Scott Tubbritt (ST) – Ministry of Justice
Nadine Silverton (NS) – Data Services Officer

1.0 WELCOME

MH welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1.1 Declarations of Interests/Gifts

No new declarations

1.2 Outstanding Actions

The Action list was updated

2. MoJ UPDATE

There was no update from the MOJ

3. REMOTE EXAMINATIONS

The Board reviewed the policy on remote examinations,

The Board was informed that the ABI are preparing a paper on remote examinations, as compensators would prefer face to face examinations. Although MedCo have not experienced any major issues with remote examinations regarding fraud etc. FOILs view remains that remote examinations should be replaced with face to face. AMRO view is that remote examinations will need to remain for some time.

DAC Beachcroft have produced a guidance document for claimants needing legal advice.

Decision/Action

The Board unanimously agreed that the current policy remains unchanged.

MH will issue a new comms statement regarding face to face examinations which will reiterate that the current guidance on remote examinations will remain in force until further notice.

4. MONTHLY UPDATES

4.1 Audit

In view of the current pandemic, all audit visits have been suspended from 23 March 2020 per MedCo website announcement. New MRO applications are being accepted again with associated audits being conducted remotely.

Audits of DMEs and MROs that apply to undertake work for Unrepresented Claimants have commenced, the AC are meeting every week, as of today the numbers of DMEs and MROs approved and in progress are as follows: -

	Approved	Rejected	In Progress	Outstanding	Total
T1	8	1	1	0	10
T2	5	2	7	2	13
DME	22	18	38	56	123
Total	35	18	43	57	146

It has come to the AC attention that Chartwell have labelled themselves “the leading medical agency” apparently to help unrepresented claimants.

The AC suggested to the Board that a policy outlawing this was necessary, the Board agreed.

Action

Instruct DAC Beachcroft to provide legal advice regarding strap lines and adding web addresses to their names.

4.2 Operations

The ME who has been conducting remote examinations from India, has agreed to mark himself as inactive until his return to the UK therefore avoiding a stage 2 escalation meeting.

4.3 EAPR

EAPR continue to work in monitoring prognosis but are adapting matters to respond to challenges presented by Covid-19 pandemic.

MedCo and OIC arranging data sharing.

4.4 IT

The MOJ announced that the Whiplash Reforms will go live on 31 May 2021.

Supporting Official Injury Claims with their performance testing in readiness for 31 May 2021.

4.5 Education and Training

The Committee continue to prepare for the whiplash reforms and are meeting every two weeks.

The new compulsory module was officially to be launched on the 4th May but was launched on the 1st May. The feedback on this module has been good.

The Committee continue to ensure the accreditation and CPD framework is maintained and to address any associated day to day issues.

4.6 Statistics

The report was noted as read.

4.7 Communication Report

The report was noted as read.

4.8 Risk Register

The following risks were reviewed

Transition Risks need to be addressed and added to the register.

The Funding model will be review in June,

GDPR - the focus now is whiplash but the data that has been stored for more than 6 years must be reviewed

Overseas remote examinations should also be added to the risk register.

IFB data sharing agreement needs to be formalised.

Resources on the Board – the appointment of a Financial NED

Action

Review Bond Solon Contract regarding data retention.

5. Management Accounts/End of Year Accounts.

The Audited Year end accounts have been included in this month pack for review before the June Board Meeting.

Next Board Meeting Tuesday 22 June 2021 10.00am