



Public Board Minutes

**MEDCO BOARD MEETING
TIME:**

**TUESDAY 20 JULY 2021
10:00– 12:00**

MEETING PLACE:

Microsoft Teams Meeting

DIRECTORS:

Martin Heskins (MH) – Executive Chair
Brian Simpson (BS) – Chartered Society of Physiotherapists
Jackie Proctor (JP) – Motor Insurers Bureau
John Howells (JH) – N.E.D
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
Ian Mackie (IM) 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
Nadine Silverton (NS) – Data Services Officer
Scott Tubbritt (ST) – Ministry of Justice

SECRETARIAT – MINUTE TAKER:

Jean Gillett - MIB

APOLOGIES:

Ben Fletcher (BF) – CC0 MIB
David Bott (DB) – Association of Personal Injury Lawyers
Surendra Kumar (SK) – British Medical Association

1. WELCOME

MH welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1.1 Declarations of Interests/Gifts

No new declarations

2. MOJ UPDATE

The new OIC system launched on 31 May and is generally working well for users.

3. REMOTE EXAMINATIONS

The Board discussed the current examination guidelines and unanimously agreed that the existing policy as published is to remain with the additional stipulation that MEs must have their camera turned on during the consultation.

4. MONTHLY UPDATES

4.1 Audit

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

Audits of DMEs and MROs that have applied to undertake work for Unrepresented Claimants have commenced from week commencing 22 March 2021.

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

4.2 Operations

The Operations Committee meet regularly to review all feedback, queries and complaints from users of MedCo.

The issues reviewed during this period were wide ranging and the Committee are currently looking at queries regarding experts who have not been paid by the MRO in accordance with agreed terms and conditions, requests from experts for a refund of the annual fee as they have decided to retire, concerns from experts who feel they are being pressured to conduct remote examinations where a face to face examination has been advised, queries relating to P35 questions and instances of undeclared regulator action.

The Committee continue to work closely with regulators and provides assistance with their investigations where required.

4.3 EAPR

EAPR continue to monitor experts and their data and apply sanctions, where appropriate. The EAPR are also looking at corroborating with other data sources to enrich their current data.

4.4 IT

Final developments for the MOJ Whiplash Reforms successfully went live on 31 May 2021 and MedCo continue to offer support to OIC.

4.5 Education and Training

The Committee are still focusing on evaluating all aspects of the first complete cycle of CPD to assess the effectiveness of the programme and if any aspects need to be adjusted for future CPD periods and reviewing the initial accreditation training.

The Committee continue to meet on a regular basis 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 Communications Report

The report was noted as read.

Next Board Meeting Tuesday 7 September 2021