



January Public Board Minutes

**MEDCO BOARD MEETING
TIME:**

**WEDNESDAY 18 JANUARY 2023
13:00 – 16.30**

MEETING PLACE:

**Mallory Court Country House Hotel
& Microsoft Teams**

DIRECTORS:

Martin Heskins (MH)	– Executive Chair
Brett Dixon (BD)	– Association of Personal Injury Lawyers
David Bott (DB)	– Non-Executive Director
Jackie Proctor (JP)	– Association of British Insurers
Joanne May (JM)	– Gibraltar Insurance Association
John Howells (JH)	– Non-Executive Director
Kate Fox (KF)	– The Law Society
Susan Brown (SB)	– Motor Accident Solicitors Society
Ian Mackie (IM)	– Non-Executive Director (via Teams)
Surendra Kumar (SK)	– British Medical Association
Brian Simpson (BS)	– Chartered Society of Physiotherapists
Simon Margolis (SM)	– Association of Medical Reporting Organisations
Nigel Teasdale (NT)	– Forum of Insurance Lawyers

OBSERVERS ATTENDING THE BOARD:

Leigh Evans (LE)	– Head of Operations MedCo
Nadine Silverton (NS)	– MedCo
Scott Tubbritt (ST)	– Ministry of Justice (via Teams until 2pm)

SECRETARIAT:

Jean Abbit	– MedCo
------------	---------

APOLOGIES:

Mark Waughman (MW)	– MedCo
--------------------	---------

WELCOME

MH welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1.1 MedCo December Board Minutes 2022

Approved

1.4 MedCo December Board Minutes 2022

Approved

2. UPDATES

2.1 Chair and Head of Operations Update

OIC are creating a help hub (which will act like FAQs) for unrepresented claimants, to assist and help navigate the journey and reduce the need for telephone support.

2.2 MoJ Update

The discount rate call for evidence has been published. This is not a consultation and there will be no decisions made on the back of the evidence received. The call for evidence is seeking stakeholder views on this issue only. All responses received will be presented to the new independent Expert Panel when it is constituted next year.

The MIB published the latest OIC full data report on 11 January, this will continue to be published on a quarterly basis with additional monthly statistics also being issued by MIB.

The next MoJ OIC Advisory group meeting on Friday 20 January 2023.

The judgement in the Rabot v Hassam mixed injury appeal will be handed down on Friday 20/1/2023 at 10:00.

3. RISK

The Risk Committee met on 16th November 2022 and, following a thorough review, considered that the Register was up-to-date and being actioned accordingly. The next meeting will be held 21 February 2023.

4. MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS

The full set of results for the year 2022 were presented to the Board.

5. 2023 BUDGET

The Budget was approved unanimously by the Board.

6. 2023 CHARGING POLICY

The Board considered the paper presented.

The Board agreed that an increase in abatement this year would be more beneficial than waiting until 2024 to pass on any surplus as has happened in previous years.

After discussing it was agreed that an abatement of 45% to MROs fees this year.

The abated fee would be

Tier 1 MROs £82,500

Tier 2 MROs £11,00

Decision

The Board unanimously agreed to increase the abatement for MRO renewal fees from 35% to 45% for 2023.

Having reviewed the costs incurred in the day to day administration, support and training of medical experts the Board decided there will be no reduction in the annual or case date upload charges for DMEs/IMEs.

Audit Fees

At the previous Board meeting the Chair talked the Board through new proposed charges for Audits in relation new MRO applications, change of control and opting in to unrepresented work. The amended charges were proposed to consider the costs as detailed by Grant Thornton.

The Board debated the proposed fees and agreed the following.

New MRO Audit application - £4,000

MRO Reclassification Audit T2 to T1 - £6,000

MRO Re-Audit following an audit failure and suspension - £2,500.

Change of Control/Acquisition - up to a maximum of £10,000

The Board also agreed with a £100 admin charge for reinstatement of any MedCo registered user post suspension depending on the circumstances in each individual case.

Decision

The Board unanimously agreed the above new audit charges.

7. REHABILITATION

The Board were updated by LE in the Head of Operations report.

8. MONTHLY UPDATE

8.1 Audit

The Audit Committee continues to monitor use of the system, taking appropriate actions where misuse is identified or suspected. The Committee meets regularly with MedCo's audit team, Grant Thornton, to discuss audits of users before decision are communicated to users.

In addition to the cyclical programme of MRO audits, the audit team is instructed by the Committee to undertake a range of audits involving all user types registered on MedCo. The audit plan for 2023 has been agreed.

8.2 Operations

The Operations Committee meet regularly to monitor and address all feedback, queries and complaints from all users of MedCo. Each case is considered on its own merit, and the Committee agree the appropriate action to resolve each issue.

Concerns in relation to causation and mechanism of injury are continuing to conclude and reduce, however, monitoring continues to ensure all experts are aware of the requirement and expectation.

During this reporting period the Committee have progressed work to address queries relating to amendments to reports, commenting on exceptional circumstances and tariff/non-tariff injuries.

MedCo continues to assist regulators and supports their investigations as required.

8.3 IT

The Board were advised there were no issues to note. The service continues to meet availability targets.

8.4 Education and Training

The Committee meet on a regular basis to ensure the accreditation and CPD framework is maintained and to address any associated day to day issues.

The survey to gather feedback from medical experts and medical reporting organisations on the CPD programme closed on 30 November 2022. The Committee will now analyse the results and use them to assist with its evaluation of the 2021/2022 CPD programme, to assess its effectiveness and to identify if any aspects need to be adjusted for future CPD periods.

8.5 EAPR

The EAPR Committee continues to monitor experts and case data uploaded, including data for cases arranged via Official Injury Claims. Feedback to experts is provided and where necessary, sanctions applied.

The Committee produced a communication to remind experts of the need to address causation in relation to injuries diagnosed, and recently updated the Examination Guidelines document to include guidance on Appropriate Examination Locations.

8.6 Statistics

The report was noted as read.

9. AOB



January Public Board Minutes

Martin Heskins on behalf of the Board thanked Brian for his excellent service and dedication to the Board and the committees he has served on and wished him well on his retirement.

MEETING ENDING AT 15.20