



January Public Board Minutes

**MEDCO BOARD MEETING
TIME:**

**WEDNESDAY 17 JANUARY 2024
10:00 – 12.30**

MEETING PLACE:

Microsoft Teams

DIRECTORS:

Martin Heskins (MH)	- Executive Chair
Susan Brown (SB)	- Motor Accident Solicitors Society
Brett Dixon (BD)	- Association of Personal Injury Lawyers
David Bott (DB)	- Non-Executive Director
Kate Fox (KF)	- The Law Society
John Howells	- Non-Executive Director
Surendra Kumar (SK)	- British Medical Association
Ian Mackie (IM)	- Non-Executive Director
Simon Margolis	- Association of Medical Reporting Organisation
Joanne May (JM)	- Gibraltar Insurance Association
Jackie Proctor (JP)	- Association of British Insurers
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 (joined from 11.30 to 12:00)
Jo Folan (JF)	- DAC Beachcroft (left at 11:00)

SECRETARIAT:

Jean Abbit (JA)	- MedCo
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APOLOGIES:

Mark Waughman (MW)	- MedCo
Toks Aluko (TA)	- Chartered Society of Physiotherapist

1. WELCOME

1.1 Declarations of interest/gifts etc.

No declarations.

1.2 Announcements

None

1.3 MedCo Board Minutes from 12 December 2023

Approved

1.4 MedCo Public Board Minutes from 12 December 2023

Approved

1.5 Actions and Decision List

Updated

1.6 Board Dates

Included for information.

It was noted that 4 June and 8 October are face to face meetings in Milton Keynes

2. UPDATES

2.1. MoJ Update

Advice for Ministers is being prepared on the Tarriff review and this stage should be completed by the end of May. A call for evidence will take place but it is likely to be a shorter than normal 12-week period.

The Discount Rate call for evidence, which will support the work of the Expert Panel, will close on the 9 April, as and when responses are received pop up meetings will be arranged.

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is actively reviewing the consultation responses. However, due to resource constraints, there will be a delay in publishing a response.

2.2 Head of Operation Update

A meeting was held with the MoJ to discuss the Consultation response and Whiplash Tariff. The Discount Rate call for evidence was issued on the 16 January 2024

3. MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS

The Report was noted as read.

4. CHARGING POLICY

The Board Pack contained both the draft budget and charging policy.

During the meeting, the Board deliberated on maintaining fees at the 2023 rate. This decision would lead to a deficit. To address this, the Board explored the option of a 5% fee increase to raise income and maintain the agreed cash reserve.

Additionally, the Board considered the possibility of reducing the current budget. The prospect of charging AUT was also discussed but dismissed, as it was determined that the associated costs would outweigh the revenue collected

The proposal was put to the Board that renewal fees would be increased by 5% for all users, meaning that there would only be a 40% abatement for Tier 1 and Tier 2 MRO renewals.

The Board also considered the DME case data upload charge and agreed to increase the charge for uploads in excess of 300 by £5, meaning the new charge per upload would be £25.

The fees for New Tier 1 MROs will remain at £150,000.
The fees for Tier 1 MRO renewals will be £90,000.

The fees for New Tier 2 MROs will remain at £20,000.
The fees for Tier 2 MRO renewals will be £12,000.

The fees for DME renewal will be £525 and for IMEs will be £210.

Decision

The majority decision of the Board was to introduce the aforementioned fee increases.

5. COMMITTEE UPDATES

5.1. Audit

The planned January Audit Meeting has been cancelled, and Grant Thornton is proceeding with the audit plan formulated in the latter part of 2023.

5.2 Operations

The Board was updated that the committee continue to engage in reviewing and investigating a range of issues on a variety of topics.

The committee is actively monitoring cases of missed injuries and requests to include them at a later date. These are frequently brought to attention through notifications of second searches; litigant in person complaints relating to customer service/lack of response and some quality issues around lack of attention to detail by experts referring to females as male and references to accounts given by babies.

There have been some complaints from compensators around the identification process (ID). As a response, the committee is reviewing the position and considering potentially issuing some guidance.

5.3 EAPR

The Quality Assessment program is ongoing, with several reviews currently in progress. These reviews are showing regular and increasing diagnoses of additional injuries which has raised some concern.

The MAB met in January to discuss a high volume DME.

Work in relation to case data uploads, reports completed in a day and practising addresses continues as part of the monitoring process.

5.4 Education and Training Committee

The Board were updated that the technical specifications had been received from Bond Solon and passed to CGI to review. This will help us understand the specifics of the IT side of the Bond Solon Accreditation and CPD IT system.

The existing accreditation and CPD content will be refreshed in 2024 and to assess the scale of the task a 'test' module is being reviewed to determine cost and the time frame needed to update all modules.

The first draft of the latest new training module based on common findings from MAB reviews, is currently being reviewed by the Committee. The Committee will also be looking at the outcomes of the roundtable events to establish if this highlights any further opportunities to improve training.

5.5 IT

The Board received an update on the progress of the IT Tech refresh project. The coding stage has been successfully concluded, and testing is scheduled to commence week starting January 22.

5.6 Statistics

The Board were notified that a Tier 2 MRO, was not renewing its registration with MedCo, however MedCo have received a new application for a Tier 2 MRO.

6. February Roundtable Events

The roundtable events are scheduled for 6 & 7 February and will feature dedicated sessions for Medical Experts, Tier 1 & Tier 2 MROs, AUTs, and Insurers.

Attendees have been encouraged to submit a feedback and questions in advance. This approach is designed to collect their perspectives and facilitate engaging discussions during the sessions.

7. A.O.B

No AOB