



## OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH **BEST PRACTICES**

— Working together to keep people working —

# Health Policy News for Self-Insured Employers January, 2018

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## Completed Work

Be sure to check out the web page, [ProviderNews.Lni.wa.gov](http://ProviderNews.Lni.wa.gov) for postings about new health care policies and guidelines. The latest ones are:

### **Spinal Injections Coverage Decision**

This coverage decision has been re-issued in order to consolidate multiple spinal injections in one place and adding illustrations and a table for easier interpretation. There are no actual changes to the coverage of spinal injections.

### **Conservative Care Practice Resource for Knee Conditions**

The Industrial Insurance Chiropractic Advisory Committee (IICAC) approved a new practice resource that should be published next month. It provides evidence based recommendations for treating knee injuries, short of surgery. It will be posted as soon as it's ready for the web.

## Work that is Underway

### **Acupuncture**

The acupuncture pilot is running smoothly. Working on evaluation criteria. Won't be able to share data until after the pilot ends and data is analyzed. Details can be found at [www.lni.wa.gov/acupuncturepilot](http://www.lni.wa.gov/acupuncturepilot).

### **SIMP Working Group**

The IIMAC SIMP (Structured Intensive Multidisciplinary Program for pain) workgroup and L&I staff met a second time in November. Members were very engaged in discussing benefits and limits of SIMP structure, requirements, and process. Less intensive models of care were also discussed, as well as CARF accreditation benefits and costs. Staff are exploring potential options for program improvements and eventual integration with collaborative care model. No decisions were made.

### **Non-surgical Use of Peri-neural Blocks**

We are continuing to review the use of peri-neural blocks for non-anesthesia purposes, i.e. for pain management. The goal is to provide clear evidence based guidance for when they are safe and effective. Our data suggests there's a wide variation in their use.

**Genicular Nerve Block and Ablation**

This is actually part of the peri-neural block policy work, but in this case we are also seeing requests to destroy (ablation or neurolysis) the genicular nerve if the block stops the pain. The same questions of safety and effectiveness apply.

**Superior Capsular Reconstruction (SCR) of the Shoulder with Allograft**

We are considering issuing an addendum to the shoulder surgery guideline, stating that, in rare circumstances, it may be done as a salvage procedure when a shoulder arthroplasty is not appropriate. Outcome depends on their review, edits, and final decision. Update is on agenda for the January 25<sup>th</sup> IIMAC meeting.

**Pituitary Hormone Replacement Therapy and Mild Traumatic Brain Injury**

An early look at the medical literature appears to support that mild traumatic brain injury (TBI) can adversely affect the production of pituitary hormones. The medical directors are meeting to discuss the input received from Harborview physicians.

**Skin Replacement Products**

Medicare has a “pass-through” policy allowing higher reimbursement during a product’s first few years on the market, then they are bundled with the surgical procedure. The L&I fee schedule team is reviewing our cost and utilization to determine whether a new payment policy is needed.

**Low Level Laser (Cold Laser) Treatments**

We reviewed the literature for this treatment that had been published since the last technology assessment was done in 2004, and did not find sufficient evidence to change our non-coverage decision. A final decision will be made after presenting it to our policy team the end of January.

## Health Technology Decisions from the [WA Health Technology Clinical Committee](#)

Topics scheduled for review in 2018 are: Gene expression profile testing of cancer tissue, Genomic micro-array and whole exome sequencing, and a re-review of continuous glucose monitoring.

### HTCC Coverage Determinations and L&I Implementation in 2017

Update on HTCC determinations –  
IIMAC Presentation

Topic	Decision	HTCC final decision date	L&I effective date
Negative pressure wound therapy	Covered with Conditions	1/20/2017	10/1/2017
Fecal microbiota transplantation	Covered with Conditions	1/20/2017	4/1/2017
Artificial discs - cervical	Covered with Conditions	3/17/2017	6/1/2017
Artificial discs - lumbar	Not Covered	3/17/2017	6/1/2017
Pharmacogenomic testing	Not Covered	3/17/2017	7/1/2017
Extracorporeal shockwave therapy	Not Covered	5/19/2017	8/1/2017
Varicose veins	Covered with Conditions	7/14/2017	12/1/2017
Chronic migraine and chronic tension-type headache	Covered with Conditions	7/14/2017	12/1/2017

### HTCC Topics Scheduled for 2018

Topic	Review Time
<b>Continuous glucose monitoring – re-review</b>	1/19/2018
<b>Genomic micro-array and whole exome sequencing</b>	1/19/2018
<b>Gene expression profiling testing of cancer tissue</b>	3/16/2018
<b>Surgery for symptomatic lumbar radiculopathy</b>	5/19/2018