



## OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH **BEST PRACTICES**

— *Working together to keep people working* —

# Health Policy News for Self-Insured Employers July, 2017

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### **Work that is Underway**

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:

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

#### **Treatment of chronic migraine and chronic tension-type headache**

The HTCC reviewed six modalities for treatment of chronic migraine and chronic tension-type headache, including OnabotulinumtoxinA, acupuncture, trigger point injections, transcranial magnetic stimulation and manipulation. Based on the available evidence, the HTCC voted to cover OnabotulinumtoxinA only for treatment of chronic migraine with conditions. Treatment of chronic migraine or chronic tension-type headache with the other five modalities is not a covered benefit. The coverage decision will be finalized in July.

#### **Varicose veins**

The HTCC reviewed the evidence of four selected treatments for varicose veins: endovenous laser ablation, radiofrequency ablation, sclerotherapy and phlebectomy, in comparison to vein stripping and ligation. The HTCC voted to cover all four selected procedures for treating varicose veins with conditions. The coverage decision will be finalized in July.

#### **Acupuncture**

L&I will soon begin an acupuncture pilot program, aimed at integrating acupuncture treatment for low back pain, as well as acupuncture providers, into the workers' compensation system. This program, lasting up to two years, will provide a structured environment for care delivery and capture of data that will inform future L&I payment and coverage methodology. While the pilot program is underway, Labor & Industries (L&I) will pay participating providers to deliver acupuncture services to injured workers with a diagnosis of low back pain. Further information will be available soon, but initial coverage will be:

- A maximum of 10 acupuncture treatments, for low back pain only, per injured worker's claim (Other items/treatments are not covered for payment, and therefore will not be reimbursed). Acupuncture will require AP referral.

- In addition, an Oswestry Disability Index (ODI) assessment and 2-item Graded Chronic Pain Scale (GCPS) form must be completed and sent to the department, in electronic format, at the following times:
  - At the first acupuncture treatment
  - At the fifth (or midway, whichever comes first) acupuncture treatment
  - At the completion of acupuncture treatment
- Providers must also submit a final report, including the reason for discharge from acupuncture (e.g. maximum number of treatments used, treatment no longer medically necessary (goals achieved), patient discontinued)

### **Foot and Ankle Surgical Guideline**

An extensive update to the foot and ankle surgical guideline was recently placed for public comment June 8<sup>th</sup> thru the 29<sup>th</sup>, on the Labor and Industries website. Public comments will be recorded and presented along with the guideline draft before the IIMAC on July 27<sup>th</sup> for an acceptance vote. The anticipated effective date is October 1<sup>st</sup>. The guideline will significantly add to the number of foot and ankle procedures requiring utilization review.

### **Neurogenic Thoracic Outlet Syndrome Guideline**

Office of the Medical Director is planning to put into WAC, certain parts of the Neurogenic Thoracic Outlet Syndrome Guideline, most of which includes the case definition for accurate diagnosis. The case definition has not changed for years and putting diagnostic and treatment criteria for neurogenic thoracic outlet surgery in rule will lead to more timely decisions regarding surgery, reduced time loss duration, better clinical outcomes for workers and fewer BIIA appeals.

### **SIMP Review and Study**

A subcommittee of IIMAC members will be meeting in August to begin discussions on multidisciplinary pain programs. The groups focus will be to evaluate and suggest any needed improvement on how the currently utilized L&I chronic pain model, (SIMP), fits into the overarching Healthy Worker 2020 strategic plan. Additional providers and stakeholders will be brought into discussions as they progress.