

**Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada (AWCBC)
National Work Injury Statistics Program (NWISP) Committee**

2016 MINUTES

DATE AND PLACE:

As part of the AWCBC All Committees Meeting, the NWISP Committee met on May 18, 2016 and May 19, 2016 at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Norm Samaroo (AB), Laura Lee MacEwen (PE), Sylvie Blouin (QC), Amanda Banewski (MB), Pieter Lambooy (AB), Mary Ottorino (ON), Diane Baker (NB), Eve Cyr (AB), Linda Kacur (ON), Michel Daigle (NB), Julius Veracion (ON), Ian Preston (AB), Joseph Wong (BC), Mike McCormick (YT), Cynthia MacKinnon (NS), Wes Armstrong (ON), Sebastien Letourneau (NWT/NU), Aviaja Kunuk (NWT/NU)

Guests: Cheryl Tucker (AWCBC), Michelle Beavington (AWCBC), Warren Preece (MB), Kim Walker (NWT/NU), Neo Sawh (ON), Salome Saldanha (ON)

OPENING REMARKS/INTRODUCTIONS:

Mary Ottorino and Pieter Lambooy gave the opening remarks. Diane Baker confirmed as Secretary for Meeting Minutes. Committee members introduced themselves. The agenda was revised to allow time for guests to join our meeting (names as noted above). Mary advised jurisdictions can request to make a presentation at the NWISP Meeting.

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS ACTION ITEMS

All 2015 action items were completed.

Ray Outair created a matrix to ensure there is consistency in recording fatalities involving interjurisdictional agreements. The AWCBC now has a note on their website indicating how jurisdictions record fatalities.

Norm Samaroo advised the Terms of Reference for the Data Submission and Analytics Committee was drafted in July 2015. In August 2015, participants were invited. Most jurisdictions expressed interest. In March 2016, AB, BC, ON and NWT had a teleconference. They are hoping for more participation next year.

Mary Ottorino advised the mapping document prepared by Linda Kacur, regarding ICD 9 to Z795, is now on the AWCBC website under the Members section.

WSIB ONTARIO PRESENTATION - Julius Veracion
New Case Management System “ACES” (Accounts & Claims Enterprise System)

WSIB captures injury coding (NWISP) and disease coding (ICD). The Organizational Chart and the Model for the Division were shown. “ACES” replaces the legacy mainframe which is 30+ years old. With all the appetite for data, Reference Data Management now has a higher profile. They work closely with employees that use the data. Subject matter experts provided a voice for all WSIB departments. The volunteers, Neo Sawh and Salome Saldanha, provided an overview of their involvement. Julius advised the changes start on June 6, 2016. The ability to capture 25 diagnoses will give a better picture. Bottom line: Will support better return to work. Other benefits: User friendly, strengthens brand, improves communication, improves accuracy of information and facilitates consistent data collection. There is nothing in place right now to identify diagnostic clusters. Mary Ottorino advised WSIB could provide an update at next year’s meeting (e.g., how 25 diagnoses affect data analysis).

DISCUSSION WITH COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE - Warren Preece, Kim Walker

The Communications Committee is interested in packaging national work injury statistics -- Who is getting hurt, when, how? More people are talking about prevention. There is a market for our data and Cheryl Tucker would have to be comfortable with how we package and present the data. A newsletter may bridge the gap of information-sharing between meetings. Better-packaged data may be of news value. Jurisdictional data is more current than what is available on the AWCBC website. Pieter Lambooy explained the NWISP Committee's very stable mandate, how we collect data towards the front of the claim and how that really doesn’t change over time. Jurisdictional injuries are different because of different types of employers, etc. There can be no comparison between jurisdictions and the data has no relation on Board performance. Pieter gave an overview of both NWISP sub-committees: The Coding Technical Committee and the Data Submission and Analytics Committee.

Action Item: (Norm Samaroo)

Data Submission and Analytics Committee will collaborate with the Communications Committee to develop a strategy to package data for our consumers.

“NWISP BIG PICTURE LIST”

This list of questions was not reviewed. A survey will be sent to the jurisdictions.

Action Item: (Michelle Beavington)

"NWISP Big Picture List" survey will be sent out in October with a 30-day deadline.

DATA SUBMISSION / CHECKLIST

Michelle Beavington advised checklists quickly indicate what jurisdictions are using. Record layouts didn't always match checklists. Sylvie Blouin and Michel Daigle will review the French translation. Norm Samaroo gave examples of what the Data Submission and Analytics Committee would be involved with: 1) Reviewing each jurisdiction's data checklist definitions; 2) Trying to get all jurisdictions onboard in terms of updates; 3) Trying to improve turnaround time, since upload of data and Data Check take one day and the report is only the next day; 4) Trying to improve data presentation/use of data to give an overall picture – WCB, injuries, trends, Canada as a whole; 5) Identifying diagnostic clusters; 6) Standardized definition of Occupational Disease. Mary Ottorino noted July 31 is the deadline for data submission to the AWCBC.

Action Item: (Sylvie Blouin, Michel Daigle)

Review French translation of data submission checklist.

Action Item: (Norm Samaroo)

Data Submission and Analytics Committee will review jurisdictional checklists.
Discuss ways to improve turn-around time, etc.

DISCUSSION REGARDING WEBSITE, FUTURE DATA REQUESTS - Cheryl Tucker

The NWISP program is excellent and data rich, but it doesn't look user friendly on the website. A lot more graphics would be beneficial and this will be a lot of work for the AWCBC. Cheryl noted jurisdictions are not using the data extraction tool. In the future, it may be discussed whether data should be open to the public to allow them to pull their own data. Cheryl advised NWISP and KSM stats should be separate.

DEMONSTRATION OF AWCBC WEBSITE - Michelle Beavington

Demonstration was given of public website along with members section. Michelle is requesting feedback on data extraction tool. The website and AOC now share a password. Committee members noted that automatic resize to screen for coding manual would be helpful, that ICCs and KSMs are hard to work with, and colloquial terms would help coders. Pieter noted updating the online data tool will be long-term and a business case should be made for the Executive.

Action Item: (Michelle Beavington, Mary Ottorino, Pieter Lambooy)

Five-year plan will include business case/coordinating requirements for long-term system improvement/updating of online data tool for the Executive.

OVERVIEW OF EXTERNAL DATA REQUESTS - Michelle Beavington

The website has very basic data tables available. We can download all data, but the public sees it with “X’s”. Requests are done at Major Group level. Code level is too much. There is a charge for external data requests. When asked if we receive feedback on our data, Michelle advised she is not really asking what they use it for. She says the turnaround time to get in touch is 24 hours, with a lot of back and forth to figure out what they want and give them the cost estimate. It takes a lot of time to reformat the data for the request; it takes a couple of hours. The AWCBC received 107 data requests last year (64 ad hoc). They also receive requests for things we don’t track (e.g., rates). Michelle advised requests are from students (20%), government labour (10%), media (5%), unions (8%), WCBs (7%), employers/prevention are the rest of the requests. Could perhaps include who made the request. Norm Samaroo suggested grouping requests by topic. His committee will discuss.

Action Item: (Norm Samaroo)

Data Submission and Analytics Committee will discuss grouping public data requests by topic.

REVIEW OF AOC ONLINE CODER TRAINING

Problems have been found in the new AOC coder training (grammatical errors, inability to navigate smoothly through it, etc.) Pieter Lambooy advised AOC coder training is key for consistency nationwide. Amanda Banewski will review AOC coder training and will give feedback to both CTC and Michelle Beavington. The CTC can suggest info for coder training now that it is online.

Action Item: (Amanda Banewski)

Review AOC coder training.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS

Topics included: how engaged employees are; how passionate committee members are; committee members do not hesitate to collaborate by phone/email; how NWISP Committee has evolved over the years; work done by Coding Technical Committee; classroom training/auditing for new coders helpful and improves coding exercise score; loss of knowledge when long-time coder retires; appreciation for coding exercise rationale document; how management is supportive and appreciative of NWISP program; time constraints to get everything done (e.g., training on new systems, appropriate time to code claims, etc.); difficulty finding issues in the Reference Manual and difficulty finding something in the Coding Manual using the Search function; some jurisdictions do not have built-in invalid code combination flags.

INVALID CODE COMBINATIONS - Coding Technical Committee

Data check looks for invalid combinations at the Code level (5-digit); however, when codes are valid at the 5-digit level, all codes within their Major Group levels (2-digit) will also show as valid. For example, since NOI hearing loss (12610) is valid with POB inner ear (02003), NOI carpal tunnel syndrome (12410) also shows as valid with inner ear, etc. The CTC will inquire if they can request code combinations be made invalid.

NWISP AND KSM OVERLAP - Data Submission and Analytics Committee

Mike McCormick advised there is overlap between KSM and NWISP – same problems arise. He notes collaboration is missing with KSM Committee. Norm Samaroo noted first priority is external – how do we present data? Mike suggested perhaps certain pieces of KSM could be included. Michelle Beavington stated KSM definitions were reviewed with her Committee and Norm stated CFO Committee also reviewing KSM definitions. Sylvie Blouin noted NWISP is not for reduction of injury rate.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, TERMS OF REFERENCE AND 5-YEAR PLAN:

Pieter Lambooy advised we should clarify our roles and responsibilities. There should be a summary for all members. The 5-year plan will be available online. Terms of Reference will be reviewed every year.

Action Item: (Mary Ottorino, Pieter Lambooy)

By October 31, discuss why things are done the way they are. Prepare roles and responsibilities for all members. Remove anything no longer needed.

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS CODING RESOLUTIONS - Coding Technical Committee:

This is ongoing. We now have the ability to archive outdated issues.

WORKPLAN:

Please refer to Workplan document for details.

NEXT YEAR'S MEETING

Most of the meeting will be subcommittee work.

Day 1: Mostly subcommittee work.

Day 2: Review 5-year plan, review workplan, roundtable discussions.