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**AWCBC All Committees Meeting
National Work Injury Statistics Program (NWISP) Committee**

Executive Sponsor: Kurt Dieckmann

Chair/Co-Chair: Pieter Lambooy/Julius Veracion

Data Submission and Analytics Subcommittee (DSAC) Chair/Co-Chair: Norm Samaroo/Ian Preston

Coding Technical Committee (CTC) Chair: Diane Baker

2019 MINUTES

DATE AND PLACE

As part of the AWCBC All Committees Meeting, the NWISP Committee met on May 15 and May 16, 2019, at the Omni King Edward Hotel in Toronto.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Laura Lee MacEwen (PE), Sylvie Blouin (QC), Pieter Lambooy (AB), Diane Baker (NB), Julius Veracion (ON), Ian Preston (AB), Joseph Wong (BC), Mike McCormick (YT), Jilal Jemal (AWCBC), Veronica Marshall (AB), Sandy Devereux (AB), Aviaja Kunuk (NWT/NU), Dave Terrio (NS), Jenny White (PEI), Alex Campbell (SK), Tanya Vanier (NB), Adrienne Kierstead (MB), Matthew Koczur (NWT), Kurt Dieckmann (YT)

OPENING REMARKS/INTRODUCTIONS

Kurt, Pieter and Julius gave the opening remarks. The Agenda was reviewed. All members introduced themselves and described their background. The group then divided into two breakout meetings - Coding Technical Committee (CTC) and Data Submission and Analytics Committee (DSAC).

MEETING MINUTES WILL BE BROKEN DOWN AS FOLLOWS:

1. General meeting minutes
2. Coding Technical Committee Minutes (only CTC members present) – *Page 3-10*
3. Data Submission and Analytics Committee Minutes (only DSAC members present) – *Page 10-12*

General Meeting Minutes

New PTSD Codes

General discussion about the new PTSD codes that have been implemented over the past year – Julius lead this discussion and only **action item is to continue to utilize the codes and offer feedback through the year if any.**

Workplan Update

Julius and Pieter drafted the workplan for 2019/20 and reviewed with the general committee. Actions and due dates were accepted by the committee.

Action items for the coming year focus on: Developing ideas around what a “quickstats” package could look like to offer more current data to jurisdictions; **Kurt to discuss with the Executive** an idea around how to best assess gender based data with the idea we reach out to all jurisdictions and eventually **develop recommendations that jurisdictions could follow** that highlight best practices on how to capture data beyond the current M/F methodology. This will help us align with other committees within AWCBC most particularly the Prevention committee so we can get better information on injury trends and recovery rates.

Five Year Plan Update

Pieter provided the group with an overview of the 2019-23 five year plan. Based on discussions with the broader committee in 2018, the plan drafted met the group’s requirements to build on the infrastructure built through the prior plan and then focus on fundamental within the new plan.

Our plan for the coming five years will ensure we align with the AWCBC’s Strategic Direction by focusing on:

1. Standardized process to help AWCBC **ID national trends** and emerging issues
2. Ensure **orientation materials** for new members to our committees and sub committees are top notch
3. Make sure our well used **on line training** program is up to date and promotes national consistency – in addition to supporting AWCBC’s **AOC manual**
4. National **calibration** to focus on consistency
5. Assisting AWCBC with exploring **future data requirements**, formats and trending information

The group reviewed the principles of the plan as well as a copy of the plan and approved the document.

Sub committee Debriefs

Diane provided an overview of the CTC meeting and minutes are attached below for further detail.

Ian provided an overview of the DSAC meeting and minutes are attached below for further detail.

No issues brought forward for broader committee decision.

2. CODING TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (CTC) MINUTES

PRESENT

Aviaja Kunuk (NWT/NU), Sylvie Blouin (QC), Sandy Devereux (AB), Veronica Marshall (AB), Adrienne Kernsted (MB), Laura Lee MacEwen (PE), Julius Veracion (ON), Diane Baker (NB)

Present for part of the meeting: Pieter Lambooy (AB), Kurt Dieckmann (YT)

2018 CODING EXERCISE

Newfoundland did not participate (their coder is a CTC member and works on the Coding Exercise Answer Key). Overall scores were from 81% to 98%. National scores by variable were: Nature of Injury 95%, Part of Body 94%, Source of Injury 83%, Event or Exposure 91%, Secondary Source 88%.

Adding “years of NWISP coding experience” before completing the coding exercise had to be disabled, since it didn’t work with Internet Explorer.

Based on the 2018 Coding Exercise errors, the CTC will:

- 1) Review how to code drone and make recommendation for Coding Manual
- 2) Add “Includes: flatbed truck” to Source 82590 Truck, n.e.c.
- 3) Add “Includes: fall from a moving vehicle (highway)” to the Includes list of Event code 41490 Noncollision accident, n.e.c.
- 4) Add “Includes: intoxication” to Part of Body 50090 Body Systems, n.e.c.

- 5) Add “Includes: Picker (machine that picks up golf balls)” to Source 84900 Offroad vehicle, nonindustrial, n.e.c.
- 6) Review “can of compressed air in a cubicle environment” and make recommendation for Coding Manual

Action Item:

Diane will create new issues for CTC review.

2018 CODING EXERCISE – CHALLENGE

BC challenged the Event for Case 3.

Scenario:

Farm worker rode on the back of a flatbed truck and fell off onto the paved roadway when the truck hit a pothole.

Event on Answer Key:

41490 Noncollision accident, n.e.c.

Rationale:

The Event is coded as a highway accident (noncollision) because the truck was driving on a paved roadway at the time of the accident. Major Group 41* Highway accident includes accidents to vehicle occupants occurring on that part of the public highway, street, or road normally used for travel. Resolved Issue ON1997009 tells us a fall from a moving vehicle (highway) is coded as Event 41490.

Challenge:

BC questioned if 42310 Fall from moving vehicle, mobile equipment – nonhighway would also be acceptable, since it would be more plausible that a farm worker would be riding on the back of a flatbed truck on farm premises rather than out on a public road, where they indicate it would be illegal. They state even through the scenario said that the road was paved, it should not be the determination as to whether it was a highway accident. They state lots of industrial, commercial and farm premises have paved roads.

CTC response:

The CTC indicated that we added paved road to the scenario to ensure coders were searching the resolved issues in the Coder’s Reference Manual/Issues section of the AOC. In hindsight, we could have changed the scenario to “Worker rode” from “Farm worker rode.” Joseph Wong was advised of the CTC’s response at the NWISP Meeting.

2019 CODING EXERCISE

Continue to request 5 coding scenarios from each jurisdiction.

Dates

- Request sample cases by: September 30, 2019
- Start date: December 2, 2019
- Completion date: March 31, 2020
- Evaluation report distributed by: April 30, 2020

Action Item:

Refer to “CTC WORKPLAN (Processes and Timelines)” on Page 8.

CREATE SIX PSYCHOLOGICAL SCENARIOS FOR JURISDICTIONS TO COMPLETE

This will be separate from the national coding exercise. Now that the new codes have been in effect since January 2019, we will ask jurisdictions to complete scenarios to ensure they are using the new codes (and existing codes) correctly.

This will be put on the workplan for a few years to ensure consistency when coding psychological injury claims.

Action Item:

- CTC will prepare scenarios in October
- Send to jurisdictions in November
- Request they return their answers in two weeks

CODERS NOW HAVE ACCESS TO CREATE NEW ISSUES ON THE AOC

Reminder was given that coders can now create new issues for the CTC’s review. An email was sent to Coding Exercise Administrators advising of this August 7, 2018.

CTC TERMS OF REFERENCE AND NEW MEMBERS

The CTC Terms of Reference was reviewed and will be an annual standing item on this committee’s agenda at the AWCBC All Committees Meeting.

New CTC voting members: Laura Lee MacEwen (PE)
Analiza Gabriel (ON)
Natalia Kalnina (ON)

Action Item (Complete):

Diane sent CTC orientation material to Laura Lee, Analiza and Natalia on May 27, 2019.

NEW PSYCHOLOGICAL CODES (FEEDBACK NOW THAT THEY ARE IN USE)

We discussed that the codes are now cleaner, more understandable. It was an easy transition. The how-to guide was clear and it gave lots of time for coders to complete the sample questions prior to the new codes coming into effect.

NOT ALL JURISDICTIONS CODE SECONDARY SOURCE

It is unclear why three jurisdictions don't code Secondary Source. It is perhaps because of system requirements for their internal coding systems.

AWCBC WILL REBRAND THE CODER'S REFERENCE MANUAL

The AOC Coder's Reference Manual will be updated with the AWCBC's new logo/layout.

To be added:

- MSI mapping for ergonomic injuries
- How-to Guide for coding psychological injuries

To be deleted:

- Secondary Source Rules (*double-up with Coding Manual*)
- Outdated information regarding selecting unspecified Nature of Injury codes

AWCBC TO RUN REPORT TO SEE WHAT CODES ARE NOT BEING USED

Codes that are never/seldom used will be reviewed by the NWISP Committee to see if they should be archived.

PROCESS FOR NEW CODES

A process will be created to add new codes. Await further direction from NWISP chairs.

REVIEW OLD ISSUES TO DETERMINE VALIDITY OF DATA

On hold pending the report indicating which codes are never/seldom used, in case any resolved issues are affected by archiving codes.

ADDITIONS TO AOC CODING MANUAL ALPHA INDEX

CTC to make recommendations for words to be added to the Alpha Index/which codes should be linked to those words.

Action Item:

Diane has a list started. CTC will review and make recommendations. Send to the AWCBC by the end of June.

AOC SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

Diane will ask Jilal if the “Resolution Tab” of a resolved issue can also show the “Issue Description” similar to how it looks on the “NWISP Issue Resolved emails.”

Action Item:

Diane will ask Jilal if this is possible.

AOC CODER TRAINING REQUIRES UPDATES

Diane and Veronica will review the AOC coder training to correct areas that need updating due to the new codes and guidelines created for psychological injuries. Example: the current answer for a question may be “5” guidelines, where now there are “6” guidelines. We will not add new information at this time, we will simply recommend the updates to current information.

Action Item:

Diane and Veronica will update current scenarios by end of September and let Jilal know of any changes required.

CODING EXERCISE - NEW CODES AND GUIDELINES ALREADY ADDED?

Since a jurisdiction chose a new code created in January 2019 on the coding exercise, it seems the new codes and guidelines populated the coding exercise as options automatically without having to add them as a choice.

Action Item (Complete):

Diane was able to look at the codes available for the coding exercise and the new codes are there as options.

CO-WORKER CODES – ONLY ONE CODE REQUIRED

Due to inconsistency when selecting co-worker, uns. and co-worker, n.e.c. on the coding exercise, the CTC will discuss:

- Removing the “uns.” from code 57200. Its title would then become: 57200 Co-worker, former co-worker of injured or ill worker.
- The current Includes and Excludes for code 57200 would be deleted.
- Code 57209 (*Co-worker, former co-worker of injured or ill worker, n.e.c.*) would be archived and its Includes and Excludes would be deleted.

Action Item:

Issue in Progress NB201810 was on hold. Diane will update this issue for CTC review.

NEW SOURCE CODES FOR HEALTHCARE NOT REQUIRED AT THIS TIME

Prior to the NWISP Meeting, the CTC had a conference call (only three members were available for the call) to discuss more detailed codes for Healthcare, since the healthcare industry has the highest number of injuries. We prepared a list of new healthcare source codes suggestions to review during the CTC portion of the NWISP Meeting.

At the NWISP Meeting, those attending the CTC portion of the meeting didn't think new source codes were necessary. They felt the sources were ok coded as 79400 Health care and orthopedic equipment, n.e.c. Therefore this discussion did not move beyond the CTC portion of the meeting to the NWISP Meeting.

Action Item:

Diane will recommend the resolution for the issue currently in progress (NB201904) as “no action required at this time.”

NOTE:

Since most of the All Committee Chair Report Outs at the AWCBC All Committees meeting mentioned injuries in healthcare, Diane will keep the list of suggested new source codes in case there comes a time when more detailed source codes are required.

INCLUDES LISTS FOR EXISTING CODES - HEALTHCARE SOURCES

We will recommend:

- *Includes: hospital bed to 23100 Beds, bedding, mattresses*
- *Includes: mobility scooter to 79700 Wheelchairs*
- *Includes: medial monitors (e.g. heart monitors); defibrillators to 37210 Medical machinery and equipment, except x-ray*

Action Item:

Diane will create new issue. (CTC already agreed on recommendation).

INCLUDES LISTS FOR EXISTING CODES – VIOLENCE EVENTS

We will recommend:

- *Includes: grabbing, pulling, choking* to 61400 Squeezing, pinching, scratching, twisting
- *Includes: cutting, slashing, piercing* to 61500 Stabbing
- *Includes: bullying* to 61700 Threats, verbal assaults, harassment (other than sexual)

Action Item:

Diane will create new issue. (CTC already agreed on recommendation).

RECOMMEND NEW CODES UNDER EVENT DIVISION 2*

Under Event Group 290* Other bodily reaction and exertion:

(new code numbers to be determined / titles, Includes and Excludes may change)

- Bodily reaction and exertion involving physical contact with other person in sporting event or physical training
Includes: Officers participating in “ground fighting” during training exercises
- Bodily reaction and exertion while handling person who is resistant/noncompliant
Includes: patient resistant to care — no intent to harm (no mention of aggression, etc.)
Excludes: harmful actions of unknown intent or intentional harmful actions (61); restraining (61*); trying to stop patient when falling (29000)*

Update old scenarios.

Action Item:

Issue in Progress NB201903 was on hold. Diane will add new information for CTC review.

RECOMMEND NEW CODES UNDER EVENT DIVISION 6*

- Physical contact with other person while restraining, subduing

Update old scenarios.

Action Item:

Issue in Progress NB201903 was on hold. Diane will add new information for CTC review.

Top 3 for CTC:

- 1) National Coding Exercise and “psychological scenarios exercise”

- 2) Updating answers on AOC Coder Training due to new codes and guidelines for psychological injuries
- 3) New Issues

CTC WORKPLAN (Processes and Timelines)

Coding Exercise

(Sample cases are required by September 30, 2019)

- Diane – Mid-July: Request samples from jurisdictions
At the beginning and near the end of September: Send reminders
- Diane – Beginning of October: Ask CTC to select possible cases
- Diane/CTC – End of October: Conference call to choose the 12 cases
- Diane/CTC – November: Conference call to discuss wording of scenarios and start the Answer Key discussion
- Diane – Prepare draft Answer Key and Rationale document for CTC review.

(Coding Exercise Start Date December 2, 2019)

- Diane – Enter the Answer Key and Rationale onto the AOC before end date (target date February 1, 2020).

(Coding Exercise End Date March 31, 2020)

- Diane – Distribute the evaluation reports/scores by *April 30, 2020*.

New Issues In Progress

Continue striving for a two-week turnaround for a recommended resolution. Some issues will require more time.

3. DATA SUBMISSION AND ANALYTICS COMMITTEE (DSAC) MINUTES

Standards and Conversion Tables

The updated concordance tables required to allow AWCBC to report NWISP data using industry and occupation classification structures that are consistent with the current Statistics Canada classifications were endorsed by the committee.

Jilal confirmed that implementation of the concordance tables, as well as updates to the submission process to support the new standards will be implemented in 2020, in time for the 2019 submission. Note that jurisdictions will not have to change the occupational or industrial classification structure that they submit in, although jurisdictions that already code in the updated standards (e.g. BC and Alberta) will have the option to submit directly using those structures.

Claim Definition

Responses to the claim definition survey were reviewed and discussed. All responding jurisdictions were consistent in how they submitted to AWCBC. The committee discussed the feasibility of identifying permanent disability claims without time loss by using the last column of the NWISP submission file. Currently the last column identifies LTCs with a 0 and Fatality claims with an 8. Jilal will investigate the option of adding a NTL-PD identifier of 1 to the submission.

New PTSD Codes

The committee discussed the new PTSD codes and how/if they were being used in our respective jurisdictions. We also discussed our more general approach to identifying psychological injury claims, or claims with a psychological component. Saskatchewan indicated that they collect information on “Area of injury”, which can include additional NWISP codes and it used to identify claims with a secondary psychological component. Alberta and Nova Scotia are identifying secondary psychological claims using payments for counselling or similar services. NWT indicated that they provide cost relief to employers for costs associated with treating psychological barriers to return to work on claims where the barriers themselves are not compensable.

Publication timing

The committee discussed the feasibility and desirability of publishing NWISP data as soon as a jurisdiction submits it, rather than waiting for all jurisdictions to complete their submissions and publishing them as a unit. As a first step, Jilal will review the last 2 years of submissions to determine how far apart we currently are in submitting. If there is not a significant gap then the IT investment required to allow staggered publication is unnecessary. We also presented the idea to Kurt for consideration by executives, to see if they have any questions or concerns about a potential new publication schedule. We also discussed the possibility of all jurisdictions making an effort to submit earlier if possible. This would not represent an actual modification of the deadline, but simply a request to jurisdictions to submit earlier if it is feasible for them to do so.

Data Platform Enhancements

The committee discussed ways to make our data more accessible to external interested parties. We agreed that publishing a 10 year history of the data we already publish would be a good start – Jilal will look into implementing this. We also agreed to make the

results of any already completed information requests publically available – Also to be implemented by Jilal. We discussed the possibility of a self-serve update to existing reports. That is, if someone submitted an information request for 2017 data on a particular subset of data, enabling them to retrieve the same query result, but updated with 2018 information. Jilal will investigate the technical feasibility of this option. Finally we discussed the option of providing full self-service querying capability to external users. It was determined that this approach would be extremely difficult (if not impossible) to implement without potentially releasing information that at least some jurisdictions would consider personally identifiable. We discussed releasing a semi aggregated table that users could pivot or otherwise transform, similar to Statistics Canada, but agreed to focus on the easier to implement data releases described above first.

Covered Workers

The committee discussed implementation details and challenges of estimating covered workers in their jurisdictions. We noted that some jurisdictions are estimating covered workers on a head count basis, while others are estimating on a full-time equivalent basis. These differing basis are inherent in the estimation processes of the jurisdictions. The committee discussed a survey that was done some time in the past where jurisdictions described their process for estimating covered workers. Ian and Jilal will both try and track down this survey and circulate it to the committee.

Novel Statistics and Measures

The committee shared techniques, tools, and statistical measures that they were using in their jurisdictions that might be of interest to others. We had a round table discussion of how we identify serious injuries. Saskatchewan identifies them based on any of the following criteria: A permanent clinical impairment rating > 10%, >50 days of wage replacement benefits, a flag for serious injuries by a claim owner. New Brunswick identifies them based on a subset of NWISP codes, and BC uses ICD 9 codes. Julius gave a demo of the open data portal that Ontario has implemented. Ian described a tool for easier retrieval of data from Statistics Canada – to be shared with the group.

- 1.