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**AWCBC All Committees Meeting
National Work Injury Statistics Program (NWISP) Committee**
Executive Sponsor: Kurt Dieckmann
Chair: Pieter Lambooy, Tanya Vanier
Data Submission and Analytics Subcommittee (DSAC) Chair: Ian Preston
Coding Technical Committee (CTC) Chair: Diane Baker / Veronica Marshall

2021 MINUTES

DATE AND PLACE

The NWISP Committee met virtually via the annual AWCBC meeting on May 11 and 12, 2021.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ryan Merry (PE), Sylvie Blouin (QC), Natalie Daigle (QC), Pieter Lambooy (AB), Diane Baker (NB), Miriam Bartholomew (ON), Ian Preston (AB), Joseph Wong (BC), Mike McCormick (YT), Jilal Jemal (AWCBC), Veronica Marshall (AB), Sandy Devereux (AB), Dave Terrio (NS), Adrienne Kernersted, (MB), Dayna Philpott (YT), Kelvin Yan (AWCBC), Cheryl Tucker (AWCBC), Lynn Bourgeois (SK), Sebastien LeTourneau, Jenny white, Susan Abernethy, Sarah Flesch, Jamie Eddison, Samantha Green, Nathalie Daigle, Lisa Radicchi (NT), Carmen Beaudoin (AWCBC), Laurie Grant (SK), Tanya Vanier (NB), Kurt Dieckmann (YT), Cheryl Tucker (AWCBC)

OPENING REMARKS/INTRODUCTIONS

Kurt, Tanya and Pieter opened the meeting and recognized key accomplishments from the committee in 2021 including record results in our calibration efforts, a very smooth data submission process and highlights for the year (handout distributed pre meeting). Because of meeting in a virtual environment, roundtable introductions were delayed until the talking stick discussions which occurred at the end of the meeting.

MEETING MINUTES WILL BE BROKEN DOWN AS FOLLOWS:

1. CTC Minutes from their meeting
2. DSAC Minutes from their meeting
3. General committee meeting minutes

1. CTC Meeting Minutes

2020 CODING EXERCISE

All jurisdictions participated. Overall scores were 81% to 97%. National scores by variable were: Nature of Injury 91%, Part of Body 92%, Source of Injury 91%, Event or Exposure 96%, Secondary Source 84%.

It was the first time that jurisdictions could collaborate during a coding exercise. This was a success with high scores and positive comments from jurisdictions who took part in the coding exercise coder contact meeting. We will continue this process for coding exercises.

Note regarding “Years of NWISP Coding Experience” – It is working. We discovered that it only shows after the scores are published.

Action Item:

Based on coding exercise answers, the CTC will create issue(s) to:

- Add an includes list to Source 48130 Tires, except bike (*Includes: car tires, truck tires*)
- Add excludes list for Nature of Injury 14410 Bronchitis (*Excludes: acute bronchitis*)
- Review the Secondary Source for “exposure to sun”

2021 CODING EXERCISE

Continue to request 5 sample coding scenarios from each jurisdiction (real cases).

- Request sample cases by: September 30, 2021
- Start date: December 1, 2021
- Completion date: March 31, 2022
- Evaluation report distributed by: April 29, 2022

PSYCHOLOGICAL INJURY CODING EXERCISE

- New codes were created in January 2019
 - Decision was made to prepare a psychological injury coding exercise for a few years
- NOTE:** Very positive feedback received from the jurisdictions. They prefer to continue with a separate psychological injury coding exercise.

Psychological Injury Coding Exercise will be added to the CTC’s workplan each year. (Six cases; one month to complete – November; not graded; coders can submit individually; done by email)

2021 PSYCHOLOGICAL INJURY CODING EXERCISE

Ask jurisdictions to submit psychological injury scenarios when they submit sample cases for the national coding exercise.

- Choose cases by the beginning of October 2021
- Start Date: November 1, 2021
- Completion Date: November 30, 2021
- Email the Answer Key to those who completed this exercise after the completion date

AOC SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS (UPDATE)

At the NWISP Meeting, we were told a new platform is needed to replace the aging AOC. Any suggested improvements for coding sections of the AOC will be brought forward when there is a requirement gathering exercise for the new platform.

MORE CODING EXERCISES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR? (UPDATE)

The CTC and jurisdictions have too much workload to consider adding more coding exercises. We will continue with the national coding exercise and the psychological injury coding exercise.

AOC CODER TRAINING TOOL MAINTENANCE (UPDATE)

The coder training tool is up to date. When there is a requirement gathering exercise for a new platform to replace the AOC, we will bring forward suggested improvements at that time (e.g. ability to add new content, add rationale). Updates can still be made at this time, if required.

REVIEW OLD ISSUES TO DETERMINE VALIDITY OF DATA

Diane reviewed 95 resolved issues in 2020. Twenty-one were flagged for possible updates.

Action Item:

- Create new issues(s) to review 21 flagged issues and recommend updates if necessary

ISSUE IN PROGRESS DISCUSSED (NB202100)

New Nature of Injury codes were created to combine **psychological injury + physical injury** when there is **ONE Event** (e.g., PTSD + fractures from assault). However, we have no direction for how to code Nature of Injury and Event when there is **psychological injury + physical injury** and **TWO Events**. Examples: 1) PTSD + chemical burns. Concrete driver fell from truck into concrete caisson. Burns are from chemical contact. We don't know if the PTSD is from the fall/the chemical contact/or both. 2) PTSD + irritant conjunctivitis. Correctional officer had pepper spray blow back from gun during inmate stabbing and has PTSD from witnessing inmate being stabbed 67 times. Conjunctivitis is from chemical contact. The file clearly states the PTSD is from witnessing the stabbing. Status: The CTC will continue discussion and make recommendations for how to code scenarios with psychological and physical injuries involving two (or more) events.

TOP 3 FOR CTC

- 1) National Coding Exercise
- 2) Psychological Injury Coding Exercise
- 3) New issues (The CTC worked on 24 new issues in 2020)

CTC WORKPLAN (Processes and Timelines)

1) NATIONAL CODING EXERCISE:

(Sample cases are required by September 30, 2021)

- Mid-July: (Diane) Request samples from jurisdictions
- Beginning and near the end of September: (Diane) Send reminders

- Beginning of October: (Diane) Ask CTC to select possible cases
- End of October: (Diane/CTC) Conference call to choose the 12 cases
- November: (Diane/CTC) Conference call(s) to discuss wording of scenarios

and

start the Answer Key discussion

(Coding Exercise Start Date December 1, 2021)

◦ January 2022: (Diane/CTC) Conference call(s) if required (continue answer key)

◦ Target Date: Beginning of February 2022: (Diane) Prepare draft Answer Key and Rationale document for CTC review

◦ Target date: End of February 2022: (Diane) Enter the Answer Key and Rationale onto the AOC before end date

◦ Beginning of February and mid-March: (Diane) Send reminder regarding end date

(Coding Exercise End Date March 31, 2022)

◦ By April 30, 2022: (Diane/CTC) Review errors and make recommendations for Coding Manual

(Diane) Distribute the evaluation reports/scores

2) PSYCHOLOGICAL INJURY CODING EXERCISE:

(Sample cases chosen by beginning of October 2021)

◦ Beginning of October: (Diane/CTC) Chose psychological scenarios from the samples submitted for the national coding exercise

◦ Beginning/Mid October: (Diane/CTC) Conference call(s) to discuss wording of scenarios and start the Answer Key discussion

◦ Mid-October: (Diane) Send to AWCBC for branding.

(Psychological Injury Coding Exercise Start Date November 1, 2021)

◦ November 1, 2021: Start Date

◦ In November: (Diane/CTC) Continue working on answer key

◦ Near end of November 2021: (Diane) Send reminder to jurisdictions

(Psychological Injury Coding Exercise End Date November 30, 2021)

◦ November 30, 2021: Completion date

◦ Beginning of December: (Diane/CTC) Conference call to review answers received, decide recommendations for coding manual based on errors

◦ Beginning/Mid December: (Diane) Distribute Answer Key

3) NEW ISSUES

- Continue striving for a two-week turnaround for a recommended resolution.

2. Data Submission and Analytics Committee (DSAC) Debrief

Standards and conversion tables

Alberta submitted using 2011 NOC codes last year. This meant one less step for us with the conversion and worked well. Some jurisdictions were able to submit NWISP data using older standards and others using newer standards. We discussed internal reporting conversions (NOC, NAICS, ICD) and the challenges around updating standards internally.

When StatsCan updates the NAICS or NOC edition they report in, it was proposed that we make a new concordance table, get it approved by the committee, and then start reporting that way. No concerns with this approach.

Timelier NWISP and KSM submissions

We discussed challenges and barriers to earlier NWISP submissions. The main concerns voiced was resources, timing, and data quality. Most jurisdictions indicated that an earlier submission was possible, and jurisdictions will submit earlier if they are able. Concerns with submitting quarterly data included timing issues and possible revisions to data.

At NWISP committee meeting on May 12, this discussion continued. We continued to explore submitting data earlier where jurisdictions are able, and potentially publishing data of the jurisdictions who have submitted. Jurisdictions to submit by July 2021 and May 2022. Jilal to look into potential privacy issues if some provincial data has a low number of observations (less than 3).

For the 2020 NWISP release jurisdictions have a goal of submitting by July. We will continue work on this item, further steps are to come up with a list of essential summary data that we could potentially submit quarterly, similar to quikstats.

3. General Committee Minutes:

Review and approval of 2020 minutes

Prior year minutes were reviewed by the full committee and approved.

2020 Highlights

Pieter reviewed some of the achievements the committee was successful with since May 2019 including:

- **Calibration:** A cornerstone of our effort accomplished through CTC to know if we code consistently across the country – extremely successful year with an overall score of 91% and all jurisdictions scoring over 80% - a first for both and a huge congratulations to the full CTC on developing a collaborative approach which contributed to the successful scores!
- **Data submission:** Went ahead as planned and scheduled and with no concerns or issues – very smooth because of excellent process and communication.
- **Gender inclusivity plans:** NWISP was asked to survey jurisdictions around future plans to gather data regarding gender. This is done and recommendations on minimum data collection standards were sent to the executive and approved..
- **Maintaining the process** – It takes a lot of work to maintain the coding manual, update training materials, prepare conversion tables and data and to manage the day to day aspects of NWISP – done flawlessly in 2020.

Subcommittee Report Outs

Both CTC (Diane and Veronica) and DSAC (Ian/Sarah) offered a summary of their meetings and there were no action items for the broader committee to undertake as a result of those debriefs.

Five Year Plan

Tanya reviewed the 5 year plan and we are up to date with the commitments we have made through that plan which can be found within our committee room on the AWCBC website.

Two key areas were discussed to help us achieve our full plan by end of '23. Tanya facilitated that discussion and we talked through high level requirements for an AOC replacement and the business case for that and then second, what the future of national data collection looks like.

- AOC
 - Overall AOC process works well
 - One gap is 'wait time' for the system to tell you there are invalids - that can take a day to do that which means lag times that make submission more difficult.
 - Coders like the current manual and it's easy to maintain.
 - Would like to ensure any changes we make allow us to maintain change history and documentation on rationale behind why our change was made.
 - Easier system for externals to mine data - they find it difficult so a smoother user experience
 - Possibility of capturing differences on a claim over time (that may be very difficult but worth looking at) but could, presumably, entertain a requirement that we allow for stats on specific dates so we can capture all data at claim start date, 14 days post reg, 30 days post reg, etc. to allow us to capture severity and duration – very much a long term idea.
 - Is there a way to do just in time submission? Each jurisdiction with the new AOC would automatically upload claim information right into the AWCBC on a live basis. Anything 'batch' is usual manual so not practicable for frequent submission. The new system would have to find a way to automate this.
 - **Conclusion: Jilal, Pieter and Tanya along with DSAC will start to gather requirements for a new system for the remainder of this year and then compile the ideas into a business case which we can submit to the executive for approval and funding.**
- Timeliness of reporting

- Lag time way too late. We wait for all jurisdictions to submit before we publish which can create a 2 year lag on publishing which our customers are very unsatisfied with.
- **Agree to publish as we get submissions rather than wait until all submissions are in.** The publication would be informal until all submissions are in.
- Agree to review possibilities for more frequent/quarterly updates but if it's via AOC some won't be able to do that because of the effort involved and because their systems would not handle it. QC for instance runs a coding backlog and they will catch it up right before annual reporting times so they run a coding backlog throughout the year which would make quarterly submissions not feasible. Other jurisdictions have systems based challenges to submitting more frequently.
- Mike suggested a 'template' like KSM that each jurisdiction could manually do that may get us through the interim until a new AOC comes on line.
- **DSAC will do some planning for us on the following:**
 - **Goal 1** is publish when we get submissions and not need to wait for all to submit. DSAC will see if each jurisdiction could try to submit on a specific date in summer 2021 for their 2020 data which AWCBC could then go ahead and publish. AOC would publish what is available in July and the goal is to have all jurisdictions report in by then however, if a few are unable to do so, data will be published with what we have.
 - **Goal 2** is to Shoot for consistency next year in when all jurisdictions submit data for 2021. Target date would be May so we can publish 2021 data in May 2022. DSAC can confirm if that's suitable for jurisdictions and then manage the timeline for us ongoing.
 - **Goal 3:** DSAC can also work out a short term plan on what we can do to get quarterly updates that we could start in 2022 – could be a KSM like format or something different and the idea is we could post a 'snapshot' to the AWCBC of top 10 variables we watch with a one quarter lag between submission and report timeframe (ie, by end Q2 submit your Q1 information)
- Long term solution via the new AOC as to how we can tap into each jurisdiction's regular internal quarterly highlights data
- Long term solution on what other pieces of data we can start submitting beyond NWISP data
 - ****important to note – NWISP committee manages NWISP data and coding** which is very specific to nature of injury, part of body, etc. - **expanding what we submit may not fall within our mandate** – the exec committee would need to confirm if this is something they would want the NWISP committee to start work on**
- Other issue raised - privacy - agreed **Pieter, Jilal and Tanya will meet** on that topic to ensure we get a privacy impact assessment if one is needed and to assess our current process regarding protection of privacy.

2021 Workplan

Pieter will draft and circulate to NWISP in time for Kurt to submit the workplan to the executive committee (early June)

Talking Stick

An opportunity for each jurisdiction to highlight events and changes within their jurisdictions or to comment on the state of NWISP. Each member offered excellent perspective to help all of us understand our environments better.

Meeting Conclusion

Kurt, Cheryl, Tanya and Pieter closed the meeting and thanked attendees for taking the time not only to participate in the meetings but for all the excellent work they do and great results they achieve.