DATA SUBMISSION AND ANALYTICS COMMITTEE 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 codes and is 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)   Fatality
B)   Time loss claims with 50 or more time loss days
C)   Severe injuries reportable to Ministry of Labour Relations & Workplace Safety (these are identified when the claim is set-up, which is before any of the NWISP coding is done):
  1.   Fracture (skull, spine, pelvis, femur, humerus, fibula, tibia, radius or ulna)
  2.   Head injury
  3.   Neck injury
  4.   Serious eye injury
  5.   Amputation or near amputations
  6.   Wounds to the torso
  7.   Electrical burn
  8.   Third degree burn
  9.   Exposure to radiation

10.   Injury causing internal hemorrhage
11.   Injury caused by an explosion (directly or indirectly)
12.   Asphyxiation
13.   Poisoning and serious toxic effects from exposure to chemicals
14.   Severe infections (HIV, HBV, HCV or tuberculosis)

D)   Mental Health Claims (primary mental health claims only at this point)

E)   Permanent Functional Impairment award >= 10%

New Brunswick identifies them based on a subset of NWISP codes
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.