



## OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH **BEST PRACTICES**

— Working together to keep people working —

# OMD Updates for Self-Insured Employers WSIA Liaison Committee January 2024

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## Advisory Committee Meetings

### **New Location** [L&I Tukwila](#)

12806 Gateway Drive S  
Tukwila WA 98168  
Room C20

### Industrial Insurance Chiropractic Advisory Committee (IICAC)

- [IICAC Meeting Information](#)
- January 18, 2024

### Advisory Committee on Health Care Innovation & Evaluation (ACHIEv)

- [ACHIEv Meeting Information](#)
- January 25, 2024

### Industrial Insurance Medical Advisory Committee (IIMAC)

- [IIMAC Meeting Information](#)
- January 25, 2024

## Health Policy

### Request for Quotes & Qualifications (RFQQ)

- L&I contracts with medical experts to advise claim managers on appropriate patient care to support our mission of keeping Washington safe and working. L&I's Office of the Medical Director ensures that medical care received by workers and crime victims/survivors is evidence-based and high quality to meet national and community standards for safety and efficacy. Consultations with medical specialists on care coordination and quality assurance are essential to patient care, and are necessary for the adjudication of workers' and crime survivors' claims. Workers benefit enormously by the advice provided by these medical consultants.
- The OMD intends to issue a Medical Consultant RFQQ in early 2024 to acquire multiple service specialists.

## Coverage Decisions

### New/Pending Decisions or Updates

- Acupuncture for Chronic migraine and chronic tension-type headache (The HTCC has finalized the determination. Adoption of the determination in L&I is pending)
- Hyaluronic acid/Platelet-rich plasma for hip and knee osteoarthritis (The HTCC finalized the determination on November 17th, 2023. L&I updates on the coverage decisions for hyaluronic acid and platelet-rich plasma are pending).
- Spinal cord stimulation (The HTCC met in November 2023 to re-review the topic. The HTCC tabled the determination making for the next meeting).

## Pilots & Projects

### Master's Level Therapist (MLT) Pilot Project

- As the MLT pilot reached its end on January 1, 2024, we'd like to offer the following information and resources:

Effective January 1, 2024, MLTs were formally adopted in the L&I system. Additionally, beginning January 1, 2024, L&I published an updated behavioral health interventions policy that is part of the Medical Aid Rules and Fee Schedules (MARFS). MLTs who plan to continue to provide services for L&I should complete the following steps:

1. Read [Chapters 1 and 2 of MARFS](#),
2. Read the updated payment policy for [Behavioral Health Interventions](#),
3. Review our [website on billing L&I](#), and sign up for a [billing workshop](#).

If an MLT no longer elects to provide services with L&I, please contact [PACMail@Lni.wa.gov](mailto:PACMail@Lni.wa.gov) to close their account. Please ensure there is a transition plan for any workers receiving care and please submit all bills prior to account closure.

Please don't hesitate to contact us at [MLT@LNI.wa.gov](mailto:MLT@LNI.wa.gov) should you have any questions.

### Behavioral Health Interventions Project (BHIP)

- Effective January 1, 2024, Master's Level Therapists join the L&I provider network. This will expand access to behavioral health interventions (BHI) and affect coverage for both MLTs and Psychologists. BHI is a brief course of care focused on improving the worker's ability to return to work by addressing psychosocial barriers that may impede their recovery. This doesn't include components of a diagnosed mental health condition and shouldn't be used in place of a mental health referral or treatment. For details, see our [updated payment policy](#).
  - OMD will present **Behavioral Health Initiatives: What's this New Program All About?** on January 26, 2024 at the [WSIA Winter Seminar](#).

## OMD

### Associate Medical Director for Psychology

- Jennifer Jutte, PhD