

MEDCO BOARD MEETING
TIME:

TUESDAY 23 JULY 2024
10:00 – 12:30

MEETING PLACE:

Microsoft Teams

DIRECTORS:

Martin Heskins (MH)	Executive Chair
Susan Brown (SB)	Motor Accident Solicitors Society
David Bott (DB)	Non-Executive Director
Kate Fox (KF)	The Law Society
John Howells (JH)	Non-Executive Director
Simon Margolis (SM)	Association of Medical Reporting Organisation
Joanne May (JM)	Gibraltar Insurance Association
Surendra Kumar (SK)	British Medical Association
Brett Dixon (BD)	Association of Personal Injury Lawyers
Jackie Proctor (JP)	Association of British Insurers
Toks Aluko (TA)	Chartered Society of Physiotherapist

OBSERVERS ATTENDING THE BOARD:

Leigh Evans (LE)	Head of Operations MedCo
Nadine Silverton (NS)	MedCo
Mark Waughman (MW)	MedCo
Scott Tubbritt (ST)	Ministry of Justice
Richard Patrick (RP)	Ministry of Justice

SECRETARIAT:

Jean Abbit (JA)	MedCo
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APOLOGIES:

Nigel Teasdale (NT)	Forum of Insurance Lawyers
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1. WELCOME

1.1 Declarations of interest/gifts etc.

None

1.2 MedCo Board Minutes from 4 June 2024

Approved

1.3 MedCo Public Board Minutes from 4 June 2024

Approved

1.4 Actions and Decision List

Updated

1.5 Board Dates

Included for information.

It was noted that the 8 October is the next face to face meeting.

2. UPDATES

2.1 MOJ Update

Work is continuing on business as usual and statutory tasks.

Shabana Mahmood has been appointed Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice. Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede has been appointed as Parliamentary Under Secretary (Ministry of Justice) and James Timpson, Minister of State for Prisons. ST will update MedCo when the full ministerial team are in post.

3. MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS

The Board were talked through the main highlights of the accounts.

4. COMMITTEE UPDATES

4.1. Audit

The Board was provided with an update following the AC meeting on 18 June 2024.

The audit plan is on track and within budget. In addition to DME audits, AUT audits have all started and final reports for AUTs are now being reviewed by the committee.

4.2 Operations

The Board were updated that MedCo have received several queries relating to mechanism of injury and referring to it as a 'new requirement'. Some queries have asked when the new requirement came into effect and clarification has been provided that this is not a new requirement.

Second searches are continuing to be closely monitored so that the issues highlighted can be investigated.

The regular monthly monitoring of the average number of claimants per search, temporary postcode usage for searches and examinations within 24 hours of selection continues.

The Board was advised that a comms has been prepared to support the launch of the new rule around ID verification checks for claimants at examinations. The comms and new rule will be published this week.

4.3 EAPR

The busy programme of Expert Quality Assessments (QA) is ongoing, with several reviews currently in progress. The follow-up QAs on Experts who were previously of concern are overall showing improvements in the quality of their reports.

Work in relation to case data uploads, reports completed in a day and numbers of practising addresses continues as part of the on-going monitoring process.

The Committee remains concerned about the level of experts' understanding regarding how to deal with psychological injuries and the number of referrals for additional reports.

4.4 Education and Training Committee

The Board was advised that the accreditation and CPD content review is now complete and moving to the next stage.

MedCo continue to receive feedback where mechanism of injury is not adequately covered in the expert's report, and work continues alongside other committees to address this issue.

4.5 IT refresh update

The Board received an update on the progress of the IT Tech refresh project.

4.6 Statistics

The report was noted as read.

5. AOB

5.1 MedCo Event

An e-shot for the October event, "Medical Reports – Working to Improve Quality", was sent to all MedCo registered users.

ST and his colleagues will be attending the event.