

Chronology of Attending Physician Status in Oregon Workers' Compensation Law

Note: Some historical records are no longer available; this chart reflects best available information

	<i>Law changes enacted</i> ¹	<i>Other proposals</i>	<i>MLAC activities (besides bill review)</i>
1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restricted attending physicians to Medical Doctors, Osteopathic Physicians, and maxillo-facial surgeons • Chiropractors had limited attending physician status for 30 days and 12 visits at any point in the claim, including 30 days to authorize time loss benefits. • Other types of providers allowed to provide compensable services for 30 days or 12 visits from the date of injury, but no authority to approve time loss benefits, determine impairment, or manage return to work. 		Mahonia Hall agreements
1995	none	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naturopaths full attending physician (HB 2086) • Podiatrists full attending physician (HB 3228) 	
1997	none	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naturopaths full attending physician (HB 2356) • Podiatrists full attending physician (HB 3173) 	
1999	none	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nurse practitioners full attending physician (HB 3417) • Podiatrists full attending physician (SB 698) 	

¹ Law changes and proposed legislation only for changes to attending physician status for providers working outside of Managed Care Organizations.

	<i>Law changes enacted ¹</i>	<i>Other proposals</i>	<i>MLAC activities (besides bill review)</i>
2001	none	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chiropractors full attending physician (SB 295) • Nurse practitioners full attending physician (SB 680) 	
2003	<p>Nurse practitioner full attending physician (HB 2828 passed, bill was vetoed by Governor)</p> <p>Authorized nurse practitioners allowed to provide compensable medical services for 90 days, authorize 60 days of time loss on initial claim, and release workers to work; law to sunset in 2008 (HB 3669)</p> <p>Department-developed educational materials about the workers' compensation system and required nurse practitioners to certify they have read the materials in order to provide compensable medical services. (HB 3669)</p>	Naturopaths full attending physician (HB 3469)	
2005	Study of impact of expanding chiropractic authority (HB 2588 passed, but bill was vetoed by Governor)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Podiatrists full attending physician (SB 469) • Physician assistants consulting physician status (SB 1001) • Chiropractors 90 days/24 visits (HB 2790) • Naturopathic physicians attending physician for 30 days/12 visits (SB 669) 	

	<i>Law changes enacted ¹</i>	<i>Other proposals</i>	<i>MLAC activities (besides bill review)</i>
2005 – 06	None		<p>At request of Governor Kulongoski, MLAC conducted extensive review of care providers and their authorities. Study included literature review, analysis of cost and usage data, provider training and licensure requirements, and surveys of workers and employers. MLAC recommended legislation to expand authorities (see 2007 law changes)</p> <p>MLAC also reviewed the sunset on Nurse Practitioner authorities and recommended making the law change permanent.</p>

	<i>Law changes enacted ¹</i>	<i>Other proposals</i>	<i>MLAC activities (besides bill review)</i>
2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chiropractic physicians, podiatrists, naturopaths, and physician assistants allowed to be attending physicians for 60 days or 18 visits, whichever ever comes first, on the initial claim. The “clock” starts ticking from the date of first visit to one of the four provider types. (HB 2756) • Allows the four provider groups to authorize time loss for 30 days and manage the worker’s return to work from the date of first visit to one of the four provider types. (HB 2756) • Department-developed educational materials about the workers’ compensation system and required the four provider types to certify they have read the materials in order to act as attending physicians and provide compensable medical services. (HB 2756) • 2003 nurse practitioner law made permanent (90 days, 60 days of time loss) (HB 2247) • Emergency room physicians limited to 14 days of time loss (SB 504) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand chiropractic physician authority (multiple proposals, including full attending (HB 2431), 24 visits/90 days (SB 458), 30 visits/90 days (HB 2430), 60 days/24 visits (HB 2840) • Study of impact of expanding chiropractic authority (HB 2432) • Podiatrists full attending physicians (HB 3528) • Physician assistants consulting physician status, authorize time loss, longer treatment time frames (SB 352) • Naturopaths expanded treatment time frame to 60 days (concept presented, no bill drafted) 	
2009	Allows chiropractic physicians to make findings of permanent impairment while acting as attending physician (HB 2045)	Podiatric physician attending physician (HB 2978)	
2011	Podiatrists full attending physician (HB 2743)	Nurse practitioners treatment from 90 to 180 days (HB 3212)	

	<i>Law changes enacted ¹</i>	<i>Other proposals</i>	<i>MLAC activities (besides bill review)</i>
2011-13	None		MLAC Access Subcommittee looked at general provider participation in the workers' compensation system. The subcommittee looked at hassle factors, provider authorities, and surveyed providers. MLAC recommended changes to nurse practitioner treatment time frames and how "come along" providers are treated in MCOs.
2013	Nurse practitioner treatment and temporary disability authorization time frame extended to 180 days but limits treatment period to initial claim (SB 533).		
2015	None	Study of cost and outcome of treatment by attending physician type (SB 323)	
2018-2019	None		Physician assistant authority expansion (discussed conceptually, no bill was drafted)