

Co-Chair Emily Ann Rivas, MSN, RN, CWCN, CHPN

Scope Statement:

The Access to Care Sub-Committee is established under the Management and Labor Advisory Committee (MLAC) to investigate and make recommendations regarding systemic barriers to timely, high-quality care for injured workers in Oregon. This includes, but is not limited to, provider shortages, administrative burdens, reimbursement inefficiencies, and regulatory limitations that affect provider participation in the workers' compensation system. The sub-committee will consider perspectives from labor, management, providers, insurers, MCO's, TPA's, self-insured employers, and injured workers to identify solutions that promote access, equity, and sustainability in the delivery of care.

Objective:

To identify key barriers to accessing timely and appropriate care in Oregon's workers' compensation system and to develop evidence-based, stakeholder-informed recommendations that support provider participation, reduce administrative burdens, and improve outcomes for injured workers.

1. Develop a problem statement and map of system-level barriers affecting access to care
2. Identify key barriers to provider participation in the workers' compensation system (e.g., reimbursement, billing complexity, insurance provider structures authorization delays).
3. Evaluate the impact of including non-physician providers (NPs, PAs, PTs, etc.) as attending providers in the workers' compensation system.
4. Create a stakeholder advisory panel to support ongoing feedback loops throughout the sub-committee's work.