

**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. Assess barriers to provider participation and explore expanded provider roles.**

Solicit input from a range of healthcare provider types (including but not limited to physicians, chiropractors, NPs, PAs, PTs, and behavioral health providers) to understand the challenges and opportunities they face in participating in Oregon's workers' compensation system. Evaluate the potential impact and feasibility of expanding attending provider roles to include non-physician providers to improve access, particularly in underserved areas.

- 2. Identify and recommend policy and system changes that reduce administrative barriers.**

Examine the role of reimbursement models, authorization processes, billing complexity, and documentation burden in deterring provider participation. Propose actionable strategies—including rulemaking or statutory amendments—to streamline administrative processes and reduce friction for both providers and injured workers.

- 3. Map system-level pain points and corresponding solutions.**

Outline key access-to-care barriers across the workers' compensation continuum. Align each identified barrier with recommended solutions, drawing from stakeholder input and available data to inform a clear and implementable path forward.