



March 14, 2016

HB 1800

Concentra Urgent Care

Michael D. Rhine PT, DPT, OCS

Good morning, members of this honorable Committee, and thank you for inviting Concentra to testify. My name is Michael Rhine, I am a Doctor of Physical Therapy, and Concentra's Vice President of Operations for the North East Region, including Pennsylvania.

Concentra is the largest provider of occupational medicine in the nation, with more than 300 outpatient locations, and 150 "on site" facilities collocated with large employers. We treat approximately 30,000 patients per day. 1 in 7 people injured at work in the US will walk through our doors.

Our Pennsylvania presence includes 3 centers in the Greater Philadelphia region, Wilkes-Barre, 5 locations in Central Pennsylvania, 4 in Pittsburgh, and several on sites at large employers across the State. These locations welcome and treat approximately 1,800 patients per day. Services include primary care occupational medicine, physical therapy, x-ray, employer services, and specialty care.

As it relates to operating in states with Evidence-Based Treatment Guidelines (guidelines), we are not opposed to guidelines as long as they do not create unnecessary administrative barriers to providing timely patient care. As a company, we have practiced an evidence-based approach to treatment of the injured worker since the inception of our company and our care has not been impacted by any set of guidelines in other states. In fact, state guidelines have supported our evidence based medicine approach.

One issue that we are concerned about is clinician education about the guidelines. Many clinicians operate in states with guidelines with no knowledge that the guidelines even exist. If Pennsylvania introduces guidelines, it is important that there be an extensive grassroots education program for clinicians.

www.concentra.com

5080 Spectrum Drive,
1200 West Tower
Addison, Texas 75001
800.232.3550
972.364.8000
972.000.0000



More broadly, Concentra recommends that the Committee carefully define the issue that it is attempting to solve with the implementation of guidelines. In Concentra's opinion, the primary goal for any treatment guidelines should be to help patients obtain necessary medical care in a timely manner, and return to normal function as soon as they are able.

Concentra operates in states that follow ODG, ACOEM, as well as their own treatment guidelines. As between ODG and ACOEM, we do not have a strong preference. However, we have noted more states are currently using ODG than ACOEM. With either of these choices there is obviously a recurring cost to all stakeholders to access and use these guidelines.

One alternative to predefined guidelines, is the approach taken by Colorado, which developed its own state-specific guidelines. The process took intensive stakeholder input, particularly from physicians, in the development and implementation phases, as well as on-going updates of their own guidelines. Other states have since adopted the Colorado guidelines for their own use.

As it related to the structure of HB 1800, we would suggest modifying the term of panel members to have a rotation of half the members every 2 years. As it relates to the specialties included on the board, we need to ensure that there is always a primary care physician and occupation medicine professional included.

Thank you very much for your time today. I would be happy to answer any questions that you might have.

