

March 2011

Health Technology Clinical Committee Chair and Vice-Chair Appointment

The Health Care Authority is pleased to announce that two Health Technology Clinical Committee (HTCC) members have accepted appointments as chair and vice chair. The clinical committee is an independent group of eleven health care practitioners who will make coverage decisions about selected health technologies based on an evidence report. The appointed chair and vice chair bring an excellent combination of talent, experience, and knowledge to bear on directing the committee's work, and both share a passion for evidence based medicine. The chair and vice chair are:

Chair – C. Craig Blackmore, M.D., MPH:

Dr. Blackmore is the Scientific Director of the Center for Healthcare Solutions at Virginia Mason Medical Center and is an Affiliate Professor of Radiology at the University of Washington. His research interests include cost-effectiveness and outcomes analysis of radiology imaging studies and evidence-based use of imaging. His work has focused on imaging in spine trauma and pelvic fractures. Blackmore received his medical degree from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in 1990; and a master's in public health from the University of Washington in 1997, through the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program. He completed a Diagnostic Radiology residency at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. Dr. Blackmore is a co-editor for the text: Evidence Based Imaging: Optimizing Imaging for Patient Care, and has published over 50 articles in peer-reviewed journals. He has also served on the Editorial Boards of the journals Academic Radiology, AJR, and the Journal of the American College of Radiology. Dr. Blackmore has delivered numerous lectures on evidence based imaging in the US and Europe.

Vice chair – Christopher Standaert, MD

Dr. Standaert is a physical medicine and rehabilitation physician, specializing in non-operative spine care and neuro-musculoskeletal rehabilitation with UW Sports and Spine Physicians at Harborview Medical Center, Seattle, WA. Dr. Standaert is also a clinical associate professor in the departments of Rehabilitation Medicine, Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine, and Neurological Surgery at the University of Washington, Seattle, WA. Dr. Standaert graduated from Harvard Medical School and completed a residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Washington followed by a fellowship in spine and musculoskeletal medicine in West Springfield, MA. Dr. Standaert has been in practice since 1996. Dr. Standaert currently serves on the Practicing Physicians Advisory Council for the Department of Health and Human Services and is a member of the American Academy of Neuromuscular and Electrodagnostic Medicine; American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation; American Medical Association; and the North American Spine Society. He has a strong interest in the advancement of effective clinical practice for spine and musculoskeletal disorders and frequently writes and speaks on related topics.

Program Background: The HTA program is part of Governor Gregoire's five point strategy to make the state a leader in the way it buys and uses health care. The program determines if health services used by state government are safe and effective. The focus of the program is to rely on scientific, or evidence-based, information about safety, effectiveness and cost to inform decision and improve quality. The Committee will make coverage and reimbursement decisions about selected health technologies (medical equipment, devices, and diagnostic tests) based on an evidence report. For additional information about the program and committee, please contact Denise Santoyo, HTA Program Coordinator; or please visit www.hta.hca.wa.gov.