

Advisory Committee Minutes

10/08/2026

World Insurance Offices – 4500 Westown Parkway Suite 150, West Des Moines, IA

In attendance – Marketa Oliver, Alan Tscherter, Darcy Wibstad, Karin Wehmeyer, Lori Boren (via Zoom), Denise Ballard, Todd Ackerman, Rick Hunsaker. Wellmark team – Brandon Litton, Sharon Bowlin, Tina Brown, Jesse Armour, Cynde Shepherd (via Zoom), Scott Sundstrom

Absent – Michell Houseton

Wellmark reviewed IGHCP's annual health plan performance and identified an increase in healthcare costs driven primarily by high-cost claimants, cancer-related treatments, and specialty pharmacy spending. Despite these increases, the plan continues to perform better than Wellmark benchmarks and comparable public-sector groups.

High-cost claimants, cancer diagnoses, and GLP-1 diabetes medications such as Mounjaro and Ozempic were the primary contributors to the increase in healthcare spending.

Advisory Committee members expressed concern about low utilization of preventive care services and wellness resources. Several strategies were discussed, including onsite biometric screenings, improved member communications, wellness incentives, and re-engagement of the Wellness Committee.

Wellmark highlighted successful utilization management, case management, and transition-of-care programs that have helped manage costs and support members with complex health needs.

Wellmark highlighted the growing impact of the federal No Surprises Act Independent Dispute Resolution (IDR) process. Wellmark warned that out-of-network provider arbitration could significantly increase future healthcare costs and plans to pursue Iowa legislation to replace the current federal model with a more predictable reimbursement formula.

No formal renewal rate guidance was provided pending underwriting analysis.