



To: Wisconsin Workers Compensation Division, John Dipko, Administrator and the Wisconsin Workers Compensation Advisory Council (WCAC)

From: Wisconsin Academy of Audiology (WAA)

Date: November 15, 2024

Re: Request to change Wisconsin Workers Compensation rules for approved signers on the Workers Compensation WKC-16-B form to include audiologists.

The Wisconsin Academy of Audiology asks that the Worker's Compensation Advisory Council authorize audiologists, Doctors of Audiology (Au.D), be allowed to sign WKC-16-B forms based upon their education, training, and professional experience. The Administrative Code DWD 80.25 Loss of hearing currently defines (c) "Licensed to practice in the same health care profession" as licensed to practice as a physician, psychologist, chiropractor, podiatrist or dentist." These, including audiologists, are all doctoring professions. We ask that audiologists be added to this listing.

We understand that it is a challenge to find physicians (MDs, including ENTs) to evaluate a claim for occupational deafness. Please know that often the examination that accompanies a report is obtained by a Doctor of Audiology (Au.D). It is not unusual for physicians to defer to the Doctor of Audiology's opinion.

Kindly add us to the agenda of the Workers Compensation Advisory Council Public Hearing on December 10. If the rules are changed to allow audiologists, Doctors of Audiology, to sign WKC-16-B forms, there will be an expanded statewide choice of providers for both Respondents and Applicants. This change provides Respondents and Applicants a greater choice of experts, be they MDs, or Au.Ds.

Respectfully.

Dr. Veronica Heide, President

Dr. Meredy Hase, Board Member

Doctors of Audiology

Attachment: Position Statement