



MEDICAL UNIT NEWSLETTER

MAY 2014

State of Nevada
Department of Business & Industry

Division of Industrial Relations
Workers' Compensation Section

Implementation of ICD-10 Delayed

Happy spring from the Division of Industrial Relations, Workers' Compensation Section, Medical Unit! Just as warmer weather brings environmental changes, there are changes happening in the medical community both nationally and locally. The Medical Unit would like to clarify how some of these changes affect the Nevada workers' compensation community.



ICD-10 is coming, although its implementation has been delayed. On April 1, 2014, President Obama signed a bill regarding physician reimbursement for Medicaid and Medicare services. Less well known was the inclusion to delay ICD-10 implementation for at least another year. The previous implementation date, October 1, 2014, has been extended by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services to October 1, 2015. The transition to ICD-10 includes medical diagnoses, ICD-10-CM, in all health care settings. ICD-10 procedure codes, ICD-10-PCS, will only be used for inpatient procedures. Nevada workers' compensation will likely comply with the transition to ICD-10 as directed by CMS.

This implementation delay allows all the various entities involved with ICD-10 additional time to prepare for the inevitable changes accompanying adoption of the ICD-10 code set. The ICD-10 code set has approximately five times the number of codes as ICD-9 thereby greatly increasing the specificity of the code set. To avoid delays in payments, both billers and coders need to be trained to code using the new system and clinicians must know how to document appropriately in patient charts to assist coders in identifying accurate ICD-10 codes. For additional information, check the CMS website at www.cms.gov

Katherine Godwin, RN, BSN
WCS Medical Unit Supervisor

CMS Rolls Out New Mandatory Claim Form

The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services rolled out the new *CMS-1500 Health Workers' Compensation Insurance Claim Form (02-12)* requiring mandatory use of the revised form effective April 1, 2014. Even if a provider is re-billing services with a date of service prior to March 31, 2014, CMS 1500 Form (02-12) should be used. Many providers use this form to bill workers' compensation payers for medical services. The DIR/WCS adopted this form; however, the form belongs to CMS. Therefore, CMS' rules apply to its use.

PPD Evals and IMEs Not Interchangeable

A permanent partial disability (PPD) evaluation is different than an independent medical evaluation (IME). The purpose of an IME is generally to provide another medical opinion regarding the status and treatment of an injured employee. The purpose of a PPD evaluation is solely to provide an impairment rating. No treatment recommendations are given during a PPD evaluation. It is not appropriate to request an impairment rating and an IME from the same physician or chiropractor. This is a violation of [Nevada Administrative Code 616C.021](#) and administrative fines may be levied.

First Quarter Statistics*

PPD Assignments	
Southern	990
Northern	318
Rural	104
Total	1412
Active PPD - Raters	
Total	213

*FY2013 statistics available at <http://dirweb.state.nv.us/WCS/StatisticsFY2013.pdf>

Completion of Workers' Compensation Forms Not Billable

The WCS has been alerted to a recent trend whereby treating doctors are charging injured employees to complete workers' compensation forms. Reportedly, injured employees are being charged to complete even the [Employees' Claim for Compensation/Report of Initial Treatment, C-4 Form](#). Although this practice is common in many settings for patients who have other types of insurance coverage, it is not acceptable with injured workers. Pursuant to [Nevada Revised Statutes 616C.135](#), a health care provider must charge the insurer for any treatment related to the industrial injury or occupational disease. The health care provider may charge the patient for services that are not related to the employee's industrial injury or occupational disease. Completing required forms is a function directly related to providing care for an injured employee's industrial injury or occupational disease. The required forms are statutorily mandated and are the primary mechanism for health care providers to communicate with involved parties. Also, reimbursement in workers' compensation is primarily established by the [Nevada Medical Fee Schedule](#), not by individual health care providers. It should be noted that charging an injured worker to complete workers' compensation forms may lead to disciplinary action including administrative fines up to \$1,000 per violation.

WCS Announces 4th Annual Nevada WC Educational Conference

The WCS will host the 4th Annual Nevada Workers' Compensation Educational Conference on August 14-15, 2014 at the Tuscany Suites & Casino in Las Vegas. Plan on attending to take advantage of education specific to the Nevada workers' compensation community as well as great networking opportunities. Information for vendors and sponsors and for registration will soon be found on the WCS website.

Are you on the list to receive general email notifications, including for the conference? If not, please register to receive WCS email notifications at <http://dirweb.state.nv.us/WCS/wcs.htm> under the "Update" icon. Providing your email address to the Medical Unit for other business does not constitute authorization for email notifications.

FORM FOCUS: D-35

[Request for a Rotating Physician or Chiropractor, D-35 Forms](#) must be submitted to the WCS regardless of whether a rater is assigned via the rotating list, mutual agreement or court order per [NAC 616C.103\(3\)](#). This practice helps maintain the integrity of the rotating list and allows the Medical Unit to track the number of PPD evaluations completed.

Raters Request Medical Records Submissions in Chronological Order

The DIR has received several requests from rating physicians to request that those sending medical records in advance of a PPD evaluation, submit the records in chronological order with duplicate records removed. This practice significantly improves the raters' efficiency in completing impairment evaluations in a timely manner. It also decreases unnecessary charges to the requestor.

Welcome, New Medical Unit Staff

As a result of several recent promotions, we have new staff joining the Medical Unit. Please join us in welcoming Judi Waite, Compliance Audit Investigator in the Carson City office. She replaced Debbie Atkinson who is the new Audit Unit Supervisor. Linda Jones accepted a position as an investigator in the Employer Compliance Unit. Cynthia Hernandez is now the new Administrative Assistant in the Henderson office. Welcome Judi and Cynthia!

PPD Review Panel

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WCS Medical Information Web Page:

<http://dirweb.state.nv.us/WCS/medical.htm>