

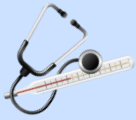


# NEVADA WORKERS' COMPENSATION CHRONICLE

Department of Business & Industry  
A Publication of the Workers' Compensation Section

Division of Industrial Relations  
Spring Edition (March 2017 - May 2017)

This newsletter is not intended to provide legal advice to the reader. Legal opinions or interpretations of statutes and regulations referenced should be sought from legal professionals.



**IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR...**

## RELEASE OF THE MEDICAL FEE SCHEDULE



Most people enjoy annual celebrations of various kinds. We often plan vacations coinciding with these events and even use holidays to describe our lives chronologically. Many businesses experience cyclical patterns as well and workers' compensation is no exception. Every year, on February 1, a revised Medical Fee Schedule (MFS) is posted on the Division of Industrial Relations (DIR), Workers' Compensation Section's (WCS) website. Although we receive many requests for advanced copies of the new fee schedule, it is not released prior to February 1 (unless February 1 lands on a weekend). The primary reason for this is that NRS 616C.260 (2) requires that the MFS be revised by the corresponding annual change in the Consumer Price Index. These figures are not usually available until near the end of January. As soon as the figures are released, the Medical Unit staff warps into mathematical mode, calculating and re-calculating every dollar amount to ensure the accuracy of each value listed in the MFS.

So what are the changes for 2017? The biggest change for most people is the new codes for evaluation and re-evaluations for both physical and occupational therapy. There are three new codes for each discipline and they are based on complexity of the evaluation (low, medium and high). This may sound familiar to physicians who have had to substantiate their billing codes in similar fashion for several years now. Fortunately, the Common Procedural Terminology (CPT) books published by the American Medical Association provides some guidance for users. One of the components is the therapist's face to face time to complete the evaluation. Be aware that, although this may be the easiest way to objectively determine which code is appropriate, the complexity of problem solving, co-morbidities and planning is essential to accurate coding.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Division of Public and Behavioral Health has Added Workers' Compensation Education Training to Mandatory Provider Meetings

Over the last several years there has been a growing trend of non-compliance in obtaining workers' compensation insurance by non-medical facilities that provide adult day care, adult group care, individual residential care, and personal care agencies. The Employer Compliance Unit of the Workers' Compensation Section (WCS) has investigated numerous uninsured employer claims that originated from these types of employers, as they misclassified their employees as independent contractors. Some of the injuries that have occurred have been catastrophic and in some cases resulted in fatalities.

Due to this alarming increase, the WCS enlisted the help of the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Residential Services to form a partnership to reach out to providers in this industry as a united front. The Division of Public and Behavioral Health agreed to add a WCS educational segment to their monthly mandatory provider meetings where 35-40 providers gather to receive updates and/or training relating to their industry.

*(Continued on page 4)*



## SAVE THE DATE WORKERS' COMPENSATION EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

The State of Nevada Workers' Compensation Section  
will host the 7TH annual  
**WORKERS' COMPENSATION EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE**

Thursday, August 24, 2017 and  
Friday, August 25, 2017  
**Las Vegas, Nevada**

More details about workshops, speakers and how to register will be coming soon.

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*Introducing*

# CARDS

## Claims and Regulatory Data System

WCS and CapTech Consulting have scheduled training sessions for our regulated community prior to our planned launch in April 2017. Training sessions fill up quickly and have limited space so we encourage you to sign up for sessions as soon as possible. Due to the limited space we are only allowing 5 persons per Insurer/TPA in the southern office and 3 persons per insurer/TPA in the northern office to register for training sessions at this time. If additional space is available we will notify Insurers/TPAs the week prior to training of available space and additional individuals may then register. Registration is required to attend the training sessions. Future sessions will be held on an as needed basis.

## TRAINING SCHEDULE

**NORTHERN NEVADA** - Wednesday, March 8, 2017

**LOCATION:** 400 King Street Suite 400, Carson City, Nevada

SESSION	DATE	TIME
1	Wednesday, March 8, 2017	10:30 am - 12:00 pm
2	Wednesday, March 8, 2017	1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
3	Wednesday, March 8, 2017	3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

**SOUTHERN NEVADA** – Tuesday, March 14 – 16, 2017

**LOCATION:** 1301 North Green Valley Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada 89074

SESSION	DATE	TIME
1	Tuesday, March 14, 2017	8:30 am - 10:00 am
2	Tuesday, March 14, 2017	10:30 am - 12:00 pm
3	Tuesday, March 14, 2017	1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
4	Tuesday, March 14, 2017	3:30 pm - 5:00 pm
5	Wednesday, March 15, 2017	8:30 am - 10:00 am
6	Wednesday, March 15, 2017	10:30 am - 12:00 pm
7	Wednesday, March 15, 2017	1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
8	Wednesday, March 15, 2017	3:30 pm - 5:00 pm
9	Thursday, March 16, 2017	8:30 am - 10:00 am
10	Thursday, March 16, 2017	10:30 am - 12:00 pm
11	Thursday, March 16, 2017	1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
12	Thursday, March 16, 2017	3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

**TO REGISTER:** Email the following information for each attendee to [CARDS@business.nv.gov](mailto:CARDS@business.nv.gov):

**Subject Line:** CARDS Training

**First Name**

**Last Name**

**Company Name**

**Phone Number**

**Training Location**

**Preferred Session(s)**



## New IT System and Web Portal Will Affect All Insurers and TPAs

If you haven't heard, WCS is currently undertaking modernization and transformation of its internal and external systems. The WCS has been working with CapTech Consulting to retire its current legacy systems with a new, built-from-the-ground-up system that will help achieve increased efficiencies, improved accuracy, and faster processing times. In addition to developing a custom case management system for WCS employees and an enhanced claims indexing repository, the project includes a robust web portal. The new web portal will be accessible to all workers' compensation insurers and TPAs and will include the following features upon launch:

- Registration and user log in
- D-38 Claims Indexing web submission (individual claims)
- D-38 Claims Indexing flat file/FTP submission
- D-38 Request for Prior Claims History web submission
- TPA & Insurer Information Forms web submission
- Comparative industry data reports

Watch our CARDS webpage (<http://dir.nv.gov/WCS/cards/>) for new information related to CARDS. We will be posting information regarding claim reporting requirements, flat file layouts, training and other communications.

Questions may be directed to the WCS Project Manager, Stephanie Canter, at [cards@business.nv.gov](mailto:cards@business.nv.gov) or (702) 486-9091.

# FRAUD WATCH

The Workers' Compensation Fraud Unit is responsible for investigating and prosecuting workers' compensation fraud, whether it be by claimants, employers or health care providers. Below are tips for detecting claimant fraud:

## Employment Change

A reported accident occurs just before or after a strike, job termination, layoff, end of a big project, or at the conclusion of seasonal work.

## No Witnesses

No one sees the accident, and the employee's own description does not logically support the cause of injury.

## Suspicious Claims History

A record of numerous, suspicious or litigated claims.

## Treatment is Refused

The claimant refuses diagnostic procedures to confirm an injury.

## Late Reporting

The employee delays reporting the claim.

## History of Changes

The claimant has a history of frequently changing physicians, changing addresses and numerous past employment changes. Beware of an allegedly disabled claimant who is hard to get ahold of at home.

## Group Claims

Watch for use of the same doctor and lawyer by several claimants.

This information and more can be found at the Office of Attorney General website.

[ag.nv.gov/About/Criminal\\_Justice/Workers\\_Comp/](http://ag.nv.gov/About/Criminal_Justice/Workers_Comp/)

If you suspect fraud, you may contact the Workers' Compensation Fraud Unit at :

Carson City Office:  
775-684-1100

Las Vegas Office:  
702-486-3420

Reno Office:  
775-687-2100



## WCS MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Workers' Compensation Section is to impartially serve the interests of Nevada employers and employees by providing assistance, information, and a fair and consistent regulatory structure focused on:

Ensuring the timely and accurate delivery of workers' compensation benefits.

Ensuring employer compliance with the mandatory coverage provisions.

(Medical Fee Schedule continued from page 1)

The WCS cannot set forth a definitive guide for health care providers and will not attempt to do so. However, we use the same resources health care providers use and make decisions based on the documentation provided. As usual, documentation is a key component of accurate billing and reimbursement.

The American Dental Association has a similar set of billing codes and they have also made revisions. Some of you may already be aware of this change as it initially occurred in 2016. Codes D9220 (deep sedation/general anesthesia, first 30 minutes) and D9221 (deep sedation/general anesthesia, each addition 15 minutes, or part thereof) were deleted and replaced by D9223 (deep sedation/general anesthesia, each 15 minute increment or part thereof). These codes are time dependent and anesthesia time is required on medical bills.

A few last words to remind all involved in medical billing and reimbursement of the importance of the following:

- An ICD-10 diagnosis(es) is required on all medical bills.
- Always use Nevada Specific Codes as directed on the Medical Fee Schedule.
- Contact Medical Unit staff at either WCS office to answer questions regarding related issues.
- Medical Billing training classes are regularly provided by DIR/WCS free of charge. See the DIR/WCS website for details.

Katherine Godwin, RN  
Medical Unit Supervisor

## Training Sessions

### SOUTHERN NEVADA

1301 North Green Valley Parkway  
Suite 200, Henderson, Nevada 89074

✉ [aljohnson@business.nv.gov](mailto:aljohnson@business.nv.gov)  
☎ (702) 486-9019

### NORTHERN NEVADA

400 West King Street  
Suite 400, Carson City, Nevada 89703

✉ [kawilliams@business.nv.gov](mailto:kawilliams@business.nv.gov)  
☎ (775) 684-7265

## C-4 Processing & Coverage Verification

4/26/2017 at 9:30 am

## Medical Billing

4/26/2017 at 1:30 pm

# Reporting Reminders



**FY16 WCS Workers' Compensation Claims Activity Report and Insurer Information Form** pursuant to NRS 616B.009 and NAC 616B.016 were due February 28, 2017. Links to the blank forms and instructions were distributed via email on January 11, 2017 and can be found on our Web site at [http://dir.nv.gov/WCS/Insurer-TPA\\_Reporting/](http://dir.nv.gov/WCS/Insurer-TPA_Reporting/). Insurers that have not submitted these should do so immediately.

**OD-8 Occupational Disease Claim Report** (NRS 617.357) is an ongoing reporting requirement whereby certain occupational diseases of the heart or lungs, and infectious diseases or cancer are required to be reported to the Division of Industrial Relations (DIR). The claim must be reported to the DIR within 30 days after the insurer accepts or denies the claim. Additionally, the insurer is required to notify the DIR in writing within 30 days after the claim is appealed; affirmed, modified or reversed on appeal; or is closed or reopened.

**Failure to submit the required reports may result in administrative fines.**

The **2016 Occupational Disease Claims Report** – a compilation of the data reported by insurers and TPAs in calendar year 2016 pursuant to NRS 617.357 – is available on our website at:

<http://dir.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dirnv.gov/content/WCS/InsurerReportingDocs/2016%20Occ%20Disease%20Report.pdf>

Questions may be directed to WCS Research and Analysis at (702) 486-9080 or to [wcsra@business.nv.gov](mailto:wcsra@business.nv.gov).

## CONTACT WCS

Department of Business and Industry  
Division of Industrial Relations  
Workers' Compensation Section

### SOUTHERN NEVADA

☎(702) 486-9080 / Fax: (702) 990-0364

### NORTHERN NEVADA

☎(775) 684-7270 / Fax: (775) 687-6305

<http://dir.nv.gov/WCS/Home/WCSHelp@business.nv.gov>





**WCS WILL BE CLOSED  
MONDAY, MAY 29, 2017  
IN OBSERVANCE OF  
MEMORIAL DAY.**

**ENJOY THE HOLIDAY.**

*(Education continued from page 1)*

The goal of this partnership is for the WCS to educate employers on mandatory provisions for workers' compensation during the early stages of their business development which will help to avoid uninsured employer claims, costly employer sanctions, and possible criminal prosecution by the State Attorney General's office. 📖

**Angelia Yllas**  
*Employer Compliance Supervisor*

## Hails and Farewells and Promotions



Welcome to **Valerie Wharton**, who has joined us as an Administrative Assistant II (AAIL) stationed at the receptionist desk in the Northern Nevada Workers' Compensation Section of DIR. Prior to coming on board with the State of NV, she worked for years at the Douglas County School District as a Substitute Teacher's Aide and (still) as a beekeeper with her husband of 26 years. Together they harvest their own locally produced raw honey. Valerie is also a proud veteran of the U.S. Air Force. She is also an animal lover and her favorite pastime is dancing.

Welcome to **Alicia Coats**, who has joined the Northern Nevada Workers' Compensation Unit as an AAIL. Previously she was with the Secretary of State's Office, Customer Service Division as an AAIL, later the Technology Division of the Secretary of State's office as an Information Technology Technician I (ITT1) for 2 years. Most recently, she was an ITT II with Enterprise Information Technology Services where she helped monitor the mainframes and servers. Her hobbies are spending time with family and friends, enjoying the outdoors (fishing, off-roading, camping), making crafts, and cooking/baking.



A big hello and welcome to **Guadalupe Manzo**, the newest addition to the WCS team. She has just started her new position as Administrative Assistant II with the Workers' Compensation Section in Southern Nevada. Lupe started her career with the state at the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services in 2013, where she served 4 years. She currently looks forward to gaining experience and working with the Research and Analysis team here at WCS. When she is not at work, Lupe enjoys spending time with her family and friends.



## CARDS

## IMPORTANT DATES!

### March 2017

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1	2	3
6	7	8 INSURER/TPA TRAINING CARSON CITY	9	10
13	14 INSURER/TPA TRAINING LAS VEGAS	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24 LAST DAY TO SUBMIT OLD FLAT FILE FORMAT OR D38 PAPER CLAIMS INDEXING
27 FIRST DAY NEW D38 AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE	28	29	30	31

### April 2017

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3	4	5	6	7
10	11 CARDS LAUNCH DATE	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28