PDD 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*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PPD Assignments</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southern</td>
<td>990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1412</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Active PPD - Raters</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

CT Caszatt, DO
Michael Glick, DO
Paul Pirruccello, DC
Charles Quagliari, MD
Andrei Razsadin, DC
John Siegler, MD

WCS MEDICAL UNIT

Henderson Office
Katherine Godwin, RN, BSN (702) 486-9104
kgodwin@business.nv.gov
Cynthia Hernandez (702) 486-9103
cyhernandez@business.nv.gov
Fax (702) 990-0363

Carson City Office
Judi Waite (775) 684-7264
jdwitte@business.nv.gov
Fax (775) 687-6305

WCS Medical Information Web Page:
http://dirweb.state.nv.us/WCS/medical.htm