

UPDATE ON UTILIZATION AND TREATMENT GUIDELINES WORKING GROUP  
REPORT TO ECONOMIC AFFAIRS INTERIM COMMITTEE

JANUARY 21, 2010

Jerry Keck, Administrator  
Employment Relations Division  
Department of Labor and Industry

- A. Department and LMAC have identified medical costs as major cost driver in WC. Strategies for medical cost containment include:
1. Pharmacy Fee Schedule
  2. Non-Facility Fee Schedule (medical providers)
  3. Facility Fee Schedule (hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers)
  4. Utilization and Treatment Guidelines
    - a. Evidence Based Medicine
    - b. Get right treatment in a timely manner
    - c. Eliminate unnecessary or inappropriate treatments
    - d. Streamline approval of appropriate medical treatments
- B. Process for adoption of Utilization and Treatment Guidelines
1. Department appointed Medical Provider Group (15 active WC providers)
  2. Asked Medical Provider Group to review 3 guidelines:
    - a. ACOEM (American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine)
    - b. ODG (Occupational Disability Guideline from Work Loss Institute)
    - c. State of Washington WC medical treatment guidelines
  3. Group has met 6 times (once a month since August, 2009)
  4. At January meeting, asked to review Colorado Treatment Guidelines
  5. Scheduled to meet week of February 22 to review Colorado Guidelines
- C. Proposed timeline to adopt Utilization and Treatment Guidelines
1. Week of February 22 – Review of Colorado Guidelines  
Recommendation to Department from Medical Provider Group
  2. March 1 – 15: Meetings with representatives of labor, employers and workers' compensation insurers to review proposed guidelines.
  3. March 16 – April 4: Department complete draft of rules.
  4. April 5: File notice of proposed rules.
  5. July 1: Utilization and Treatment Guidelines become effective.