

FLAHIVE, OGDEN & LATSON

ADVISORY NO. 8

TOPIC: Carrier Submission of Medical Bills to the Commission.

DISCUSSION: The Commission has adopted Rule 134.802 (copy attached) which requires carriers to file a copy of all medical bills with the Commission in Austin within fifteen (15) days of final payment. The rule, furthermore, outlines additional information which must accompany each bill submitted to the Commission. This rule becomes effective on February 20, 1991. However, since the new law went into effect on January 1, 1991, Commission staff has advised that they expect a copy of all bills paid under new law claims to be filed with the Commission pursuant to this rule even if that occurred prior to February 20, 1991.

Additionally, Commission staff has indicated that they expect carriers to begin filing copies of bills from old law claims where the bill is paid after February 20, 1991.

As you will note, there is substantial additional information that must be submitted with each bill. Fortunately, the Commission has also adopted a rule requiring health care providers to use a standardized form which will include most of this data information. That form is HCFA-1500 (Interim TWCC-67). Thus, to the extent that the information required in the rule is already completed on HCFA-1500, you need not duplicate that information.

On the other hand, the health care provider will not have the workers' compensation number, the date the bill is received by the carrier, and payment information. The carrier can put the Commission Number, if known, in the top right hand corner of HCFA-1500. If you put your date stamp on the front of the HCFA-1500, that will constitute the date of receipt by the carrier. Lastly, upon payment, the carrier will complete Section H of HCFA-1500 showing the amount of reimbursement. The date of payment should be indicated on line 28. If part of the charge is disputed, the carrier must also attach Interim TWCC-62 (Notice of Medical Payment Dispute) and place the appropriate denial code beside any payment of less than 100% on Section H of HCFA-1500.

If your company is not prepared to submit this information electronically, the rule provides that paper copies of the original bill must be submitted to the Commission in Austin. In order to assure timely compliance with this rule and reduce mailing costs, carriers should consider instituting procedures that might allow a single weekly mailing of all medical bills paid at that point.

The Commission is prepared to accept this information electronically. If your company is interested in submission of this information by electronic means, you should contact Maria Munoz with the commission in Austin. The telephone number is (512) 440-3939. At this time, the only means of electronic transmission that the Commission is prepared to accept would be data written to a magnetic tape. The Commission is hoping to upgrade this program to more sophisticated forms of data transmission in the future.

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