

ADVISORY NO. 218

TOPIC: CHANGES IN MEDICAL FEE GUIDELINES

Attached is TWCC Advisory 97-01 and a letter of explanation from the executive director. This advisory was issued 6/13/97 to correct some clerical errors discovered in the TWCC Medical Fee Guideline 1966, and to provide clarification on several of its provisions. These clerical corrections and clarifications are purportedly made retroactive to 4/1/96, the effective date of the Medical Fee Guideline.

While this advisory impacts only a handful of Medical Fee Guideline provisions, it specifically provides that any health care provider who feels that the advisory affects the billing and reimbursement for services previously billed may resubmit such bills to the carrier and, if additional reimbursement is denied, may file a request for medical dispute resolution with the TWCC's Medical Review Division under the timetable set out in the advisory. Specifically, a request for medical dispute resolution on affected bills for services performed on or after 4/1/96 through 12/31/96 must be filed no later than 1/1/98. Requests on bills for services performed in 1997 must be filed within one year from date of service, as provided in TWCC Rule 133.305. What the advisory essentially does is extend the "statute of limitations" for filing disputes on bills for 1996 services until 1/1/98.

Should you encounter a resubmitted bill under this advisory and have any questions please feel free to contact F,O & L.