

ADVISORY NO. 303
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TOPIC: EDI MONITORING OF TEMPORARY INCOME BENEFIT PAYMENTS

The Commission regularly monitors performance measures associated with the initial payment of Temporary Income Benefits (TIBs). Recent reviews of these measures seem to indicate a decrease in the number of timely payments made to injured employees. Further study reveals that the majority of the initial TIBs payments were, in fact, timely. The Commission has determined that the apparent raise in late payments is actually due, in large part, to inaccurate reporting of the date of the initial payment.

The Commission has alerted the carriers and their electronic data partners to this problem, and in working with them, has identified two areas of concern:

1. The trading partner receives correct dates and information from the carrier, but incorrect dates and information are typed into the system and transmitted to the agency; and
2. The carrier has its electronic data interchange (EDI) transmission system linked directly to its' claims management system, but the data fields are mapped incorrectly, so the wrong information is automatically populating the data field and being transmitted.

Although there may be other possible causes, these two processes are most likely to account for the majority of the errors in reporting.

Carriers and their trading partners must evaluate whether data is being transmitted in accordance with the TWCC EDI Implementation Guide, which lays out the specific data requirements for filing. In particular, the evaluation of two reports--the EDI-148 First Report of Injury, and the EDI-148 A49 Subsequent Report for the Initial Payment -- include the key data elements identified in the audits as incorrectly reported.

The Commission will continue to review the TIBs payments to see whether carriers have been successful at correcting these reporting errors, and may conduct additional reviews if the problems persist. For additional information, contact the EDI Development Group at (512) 804-4335.

If you require any assistance in resolving this issue, please feel free to contact our EDI Coordinator at (512) 435-2222 or via email at fjc@fol.com.

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