



## ADVISORY NO. 516

### **TOPIC: Division Tolls Deadlines for Benefit Payments, EDI Reporting and Dispute Deadlines**

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Texas workers' compensation carriers and other system participants have been given some relief from deadlines they may not have been able to meet as a result of power outages caused by Winter Storm URI during the third week in February 2021.

On February 23, 2021, Commissioner of Workers' Compensation Cassie Brown issued [Commissioner's Bulletin No. B-0008-21](#), which announced that certain deadlines that ran from February 12, 2021 through February 23, 2021 had been tolled. Deadlines that occurred during this period for *the following actions are now due under the Commissioner's Bulletin on February 24, 2021 (today)*:

- medical and income benefit payments;
- electronic data reporting; and
- medical and income benefit disputes.

Carriers whose deadlines to take the actions set out above, which fell between February 12, 2021 and February 23, 2021, if not previously taken, should make every effort to complete those tasks today. If you faxed or emailed a document to our office for filing between February 12, 2021 and February 23, 2021 and have confirmation that we received your fax or email, your document has been timely filed with the Division. Although our firm's power was out of service for much of the Winter Storm, we quickly constructed an alternate process, which we utilized for filing time-sensitive documents. If you do not have confirmation of FO&L's receipt of any such filings, you should resubmit those documents today by 3:00 p.m.

Medical billing deadlines and injured worker claim notification and filing deadlines have likewise been tolled. You should take this tolling into account in determining whether a claim or bill was timely reported or submitted.

The Division advises that for more information about this tolling notice, system stakeholders can contact agency staff using the following methods:

**Health care providers**

[compconnection@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:compconnection@tdi.texas.gov)

800-252-7031, Option 3

**Hearings**

512-804-4010

**Injured employees**

800-252-7031, Option 1

**All other questions**

[DWCEXternalRelations@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:DWCEXternalRelations@tdi.texas.gov)

If you have questions you would like to discuss with our firm concerning this Bulletin, please contact James Sheffield, Steve Tipton, or Bobby Stokes.