

Worker's Compensation Insurance Letter

INS #	447
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Program	Claims Management
Type	New Process
Replaces	Insurance Letter 440



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

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To: Insurance Carriers, Self Insured Employers and Claims Handling Offices
From: Frances Huntley-Cooper, Division Administrator
Subject: Worker's Compensation 2004 Rate Changes

Purpose: Announce 2004 maximum rates.

Background: Wisconsin's maximum Worker's Compensation rate is \$687 per week for temporary total disability, permanent total disability and death benefits for injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2004 and before January 1, 2005. The new average weekly wage used to compute the maximum rate is \$1030.50.

Using this new wage raises the maximum death benefit for fatal injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2004 to \$206,100.

The maximum weekly indemnity rate for permanent partial disability will increase to \$232 for injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2004.

As of this date, the weekly maximum benefit payable for supplemental benefits remains at \$202 for claims with dates of injury prior to January 1, 1978. Although there are provisions in the latest "Agreed Bill" that would change this benefit, the bill has not been enacted to date. When this benefit is changed, a new Insurance Letter will be sent.

The 2004 maximum limit increases by 2.3% to \$1239 for services provided to worker's compensation claimants by private vocational rehabilitation specialists. This new rate applies regardless of the date of injury. When the Department of Workforce Development's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) is unable to provide services to eligible injured workers, insurers are required to pay the reasonable and necessary vocational rehabilitation costs including the costs of services provided by the vocational rehabilitation specialists in the private sector.

Action Requested: Please inform all claim handlers of these changes.

Inquiries: A chart with detailed benefit payment information for 2004 is available on our web site at: <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/dwd/publications/wc/WKC-9572-P.pdf>
If you have any questions, please contact us at (608) 266-1340.

Reference: Insurance Letter 440