

Worker's Compensation Insurance Letter

INS #	451
Date	November 30, 2004
Program	Claims Management
Type	New Process
Replaces	Insurance Letter 447



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 2005 Rate Changes

Purpose: Announce 2005 maximum rates.

Background: Wisconsin's maximum Worker's Compensation rate is \$711 per week for temporary total disability, permanent total disability and death benefits for injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2005 and before January 1, 2006. The new average weekly wage used to compute the maximum rate is \$1066.50.

Using this new wage raises the maximum death benefit for fatal injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2005 to \$213,300.

The maximum weekly indemnity rate for permanent partial disability will increase to \$242 for injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2005.

The weekly maximum benefit payable for supplemental benefits remains at \$233 for claims with dates of injury prior to May 13, 1980.

The 2005 maximum limit increases by 2.5% to \$1270 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. Request reimbursement of supplemental benefit payments under s. 102.44(1) Wis. Stats. on form WKC-140 for year 2004. You may copy the form printed on the reverse side of this letter.

Inquiries: A chart with detailed benefit payment information for 2005 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.

Enclosure : WKC-140 on reverse side

Reference: Insurance Letter 451