

Worker's Compensation
201 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 7901
Madison, WI 53707-7901
Telephone: (608) 266-1340
Fax: (608) 267-0394
e-mail: dwdwc@dwd.wisconsin.gov
website: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/wc>



Worker's Compensation Insurance Letter

INS #	491
Date	April 17, 2012
Program	Claims Management
Type	Informational
Replaces	Insurance Letter

To: Claims Handling Offices for Insurance Carriers and Self Insured Employers
From: John Metcalf, Division Administrator
Subject: Worker's Compensation 2012 Rate Changes

Purpose: Announce 2012 maximum weekly compensation rate for permanent partial disability change and other changes effective April 17, 2012.

Background: Changes to the Wisconsin Worker's Compensation Act, Chapter 102, Wis. Stats., will become effective April 17, 2012.

The maximum average weekly wage for permanent partial disability purposes will be increased to \$483, resulting in a maximum permanent partial disability rate of \$312 for injuries occurring before January 1, 2013. The maximum weekly indemnity rate for permanent partial disability remains at \$302 for injuries occurring between January 1, 2012 and April 17, 2012.

As part of the "Agreed Upon Bill" process for this legislative cycle the Worker's Compensation Advisory Council (WCAC) agreed that a final treating practitioner's report is required when an injured employee sustains an eye injury requiring medical treatment on three (3) or more occasions off of the employer's premises. The report is not required where liability is denied and the injured employee does not contest that denial.

Section 102.16(2)(d), Wis. Stats., is amended to reduce the formula amount used to determine the reasonableness of a disputed health service fee from 1.4 standard deviations from the mean to 1.2 standard deviations from the mean, as shown from a database that is certified by the Department.

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

Inquiries: A chart with detailed benefit payment information for 2012 is available on our web site at: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/publications/wc/WKC-9572-P.pdf>.

If you have any questions, please contact us at (608) 266-1340.