

2009 Medical Access Study Executive Overview

The Department of Labor & Industry is required by the Workers' Compensation Act (Act) to commission an annual study to determine whether the fee schedule for health care services is adequate to ensure that injured workers have sufficient access to quality health care. The study also considers the impact of using panel providers on access to quality care and on the number of days lost per injury. The results of this study may be found online at:

<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=552714&mode=2>

2009 MEDICAL ACCESS STUDY FINDINGS FROM THE COMPARISON OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION WITH OTHER FEE SCHEDULES

The comparison of the 2009 workers' compensation fee schedule with Medicare, managed care, and automobile insurance payments for 56 CPT codes revealed the following:

1. **Workers' Compensation vs. Current Medicare:** The workers' compensation payments were on average 30 percent higher than current Medicare:
 - 30 procedures had fees that were more than 25 percent higher than Medicare.
 - 42 procedures had fees that were more than 10 percent higher than Medicare.
 - 4 procedures had fees that were lower than Medicare.
 - 2 procedures had fees that were more than 10 percent lower than Medicare.

Workers' compensation paid higher on most surgical procedures. Codes that paid approximately the same as, or even less than, Medicare were, for the most part, injection procedures.

2. **Workers' Compensation vs. Auto Insurance (=110 percent of current Medicare):** The workers' compensation fee schedule was on average 19 percent higher than auto insurance:
 - 23 procedures had fees that were more than 25 percent higher than auto insurance.
 - 33 procedures had fees that were more than 10 percent higher than auto insurance.
 - 10 procedures had fees that were lower than auto insurance.
 - 4 procedures had fees that were more than 10 percent lower than auto insurance.
3. **Workers' Compensation vs. Sample Managed Care:** The workers' compensation fee schedule was on average 21 percent higher than the sample managed care fee schedule.

Bureau of Workers' Compensation Publications

- 33 procedures had fees that were more than 25 percent higher than the sample managed care.
- 43 procedures had fees that were more than 10 percent higher than the sample managed care.
- 5 procedures had fees that were lower than the sample managed care.
- 2 procedures had a fee that was more than 10 percent lower than the sample managed care

Additional Workers' Compensation Publications

<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/publications/10443>

Following is a list of publications (laws, regulations, newsletters, and reports) designed to provide Pennsylvania's employers with information regarding their rights and duties under Pennsylvania's Workers' Compensation program.

Title/Description	L&I Form Number
<u>WC Act</u>	
<u>2009 Medical Access Study Executive Overview</u>	
<u>"Remember: It is important to tell your employer about your injury."</u>	LIBC-500
<u>Procedures for Completing an Application for Fee Review</u>	LIBC-600
<u>Brochure: Workers' Compensation and the Injured Worker</u>	LIBC-100
<u>Brochure: La Compensación de los Trabajadores Lesionados</u>	LIBC-100 (ESP)
<u>Employers' Guide to Self-Insuring Workers' Compensation</u>	LIBC-300
<u>PA Workers' Compensation Employer Information</u>	LIBC-200
<u>State-Certified Workplace Safety Committee Program</u>	LIBC-733
<u>Work Injuries & Illnesses Report 2008</u>	LIBC-775
<u>Workers' Compensation and Workplace Safety Report - 2007/08</u>	LIBC-772
Newsletters	
<u>News & Notes - Summer 2010</u>	
<u>News & Notes - Spring 2010</u>	
<u>News & Notes - Winter 2009/2010</u>	
<u>News & Notes - Fall 2009</u>	