

Need to Know: January 1, 2018 Workers' Comp Update

New SLU Guidelines Adopted: The WCB formally adopted new Schedule Loss of Use Guidelines as required by the 2017 NYS Budget Bill. The guidelines are dramatically different than the September 1 version, due to unprecedented negative feedback from labor and claimant representatives (55,000 negative comments and picketing at WCB locations). Revised guidelines were published 11/22/17 and adopted as of the 1st of 2018. The final result looks incredibly similar to the 1996 SLU Guidelines, with small adjustments to guidance based on range of motion and improved directions. Minimal savings may be realized due to the direction to compare range of motion with the contralateral body part.

Proposed Prescription Drug Formulary: Also as required by the 2017 NYS Budget Bill, the WCB has published a proposed drug formulary for NYS workers' compensation. This will go into effect July 1, 2018. The main highlight of these regulations are that some preferred drugs may be dispensed without prior authorization from NCA. No opioids are on this preferred list. This program should improve the speed with which claimants are able to get their medications. The additional controls put in place by this formulary should assist NCA in continuing the fight against abusive treatment practice but do not provide any real additional savings that NCA has not already been providing to clients. (Note: NCA currently works with a Prescription Benefit Manager and has a formulary in place for claimants; this will continue within the NYS formulary.)

Self-Service Supplier Portal: The WCB has sent out mailings to all participants in the workers' compensation system asking for enrollment in a Supplier Portal account. This account will allow for electronic payment of 15-8 reimbursements and other reimbursements as necessary from the WCB to individual self-insureds. ***NCA has completed this for all our clients, and will be electronically receiving 15-8 reimbursements and applying them to the claims files*** (we currently do this manually for your files). You may disregard this mailing.

Register for Self-Service Supplier Portal by January 19, 2018

In October 2017, the New York State Workers' Compensation Board (Board) sent a letter notifying all Board vendors (i.e., entities who receive payments from the Board) that the Board is in the process of transitioning to the Statewide Financial Management System (SFS).

To date, we have not received a response from you. To ensure there are no interruptions in payments from the Board, all Board vendors must register to be included in this database.

If you have already completed the survey below, nothing further is needed from you at this time.

By January 19, 2018, please pre-register for the enrollment package by using the link below and provide the required contact information including your legal business name, Taxpayer Identification Number, and primary accounts receivable information:

There will be another mailing in the future that will allow each client to sign up for electronic payment of assessments to the WCB. *Neither of these portals is mandatory.* Please refer any questions to your consultant or NCA representative.

Prepared by

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