Newsline No. 48-12	
October 23, 2012	
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Division of Workers' Compensation issues first 15-day notice of modifications to text of proposed hospital outpatient departments and ambulatory surgical centers fee schedule regulations and notice of additional documents added to the rulemaking file

The Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) has modified the text of proposed hospital outpatient departments and ambulatory surgical centers fee schedule regulations. DWC has electronically distributed first 15-day notice of modification to interested parties and has posted the modified regulations on the DWC website. Members of the public may comment on the modifications until 5 p.m., November 7, 2012.

The proposed modifications to the text of the hospital outpatient departments and ambulatory surgical centers fee schedule regulations are authorized by Labor Code sections 59, 133, 4603.5, 5307.1, and 5307.3.

The modifications in this draft of the regulations include the following:

- The implementation of Senate Bill (SB) 863 (Chaptered 9/19/2012; Chapter 363, statutes of 2012) as it relates to the OMFS hospital outpatient departments and ambulatory surgical centers fee schedule. In particular, SB 863 amends section (c)(1) of Labor Code section 5307.1, which states in pertinent part, "the maximum facility fee for services performed in an ambulatory surgical center shall not exceed 80 percent of the fee paid by Medicare for the same services performed in a hospital outpatient department." The proposed modification to the regulations changes the workers' compensation multiplier for ambulatory surgical centers to 0.80 Medicare multiplier for services rendered on or after January 1, 2013
- Adjustments made to the hospital outpatient departments and ambulatory surgical centers fee schedule through three Administrative Director Orders issued subsequent to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and public hearing held on January 25, 2011
- Harmonization of billing requirements with the Division's e-billing and standardized paper bill regulations
- Minor clarifications and technical edits

A list of additional documents added to the rulemaking file is provided, and the documents are available for public review at DWC's office located at 1515 Clay Street, 17th Floor, Oakland, California, during normal business days and hours.