

# **Draft Proposed Electronic and Standardized Billing Regulations**

## **Title 8, California Code of Regulations Chapter 4.5 Division of Workers' Compensation Subchapter 1 Administrative Director – Administrative Rules**

### **Article 5.5. Application of the Official Medical Fee Schedule (Treatment)**

#### **§9792.5. Payment for Medical Treatment.**

This section is applicable to medical treatment rendered before XXXX.

(a) As used in this section:

- (1) "Claims Administrator" has the same meaning specified in Section 9785(a)(3).
- (2) "Medical treatment" means the treatment to which an employee is entitled under Labor Code Section 4600.
- (3) "Physician" has the same meaning specified in Labor Code Section 3209.3.
- (4) "Required report" means a report which must be submitted pursuant to Section 9785.
- (5) "Treating physician" means the "primary treating physician" as that term is defined by Section 9785(a)(1).

(b) Any properly documented bill for medical treatment within the planned course, scope and duration of treatment reported under Section 9785 which is provided or authorized by the treating physician shall be paid by the claims administrator within ~~sixty~~ forty five working days from receipt of each separate itemized bill and any required reports, unless the bill is contested, as specified in subdivisions (d), and (e), within thirty working days of receipt of the bill. Any amount not contested within the thirty working days or not paid within the ~~sixty day~~ forty five working day period shall be increased ~~40%~~ 15%, and shall carry interest at the same rate as judgments in civil actions retroactive to the date of receipt of the bill.

For purposes of this Section, treatment which is provided or authorized by the treating physician includes but is not limited to treatment provided by a "secondary physician" as that term is defined by Section 9785(a)(2).

(c) To be properly documented, a bill for medical treatment which exceeds the amount presumed reasonable in the Official Medical Fee Schedule adopted pursuant to Labor Code Section 5307.1, must be accompanied by an itemization and explanation for the excess charge.

(d) A claims administrator who objects to all or any part of a bill for medical treatment shall notify the physician or other authorized provider of the objection within thirty working days after receipt of the bill and any required report and shall pay any uncontested amount within ~~sixty days~~ forty five working days after receipt of the bill. If a required report is not received with the bill, the periods to object or pay shall commence on the date of receipt of the bill or report, whichever is received later. If the claims administrator receives a bill and believes that it has not received a required report to support the bill, the claims administrator shall so inform the medical provider within thirty working days of receipt of the bill. An objection will be deemed timely if sent by first class mail and postmarked on or before the thirtieth working day after receipt, or if personally delivered or sent by electronic facsimile on or before the thirtieth working day after receipt. Any notice of objection shall include or be accompanied by all of the following:

(1) An explanation of the basis for the objection to each contested procedure and charge. The original procedure codes used by the physician or authorized provider shall not be altered. If the objection is based on appropriate coding of a procedure, the explanation shall include both the code reported by the provider and the code believed reasonable by the claims administrator.

(2) If additional information is necessary as a prerequisite to payment of the contested bill or portions thereof, a clear description of the information required.

(3) The name, address, and telephone number of the person or office to contact for additional information concerning the objection.

(4) A statement that the treating physician or authorized provider may adjudicate the issue of the contested charges before the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board.

(e) An objection to charges from a hospital, outpatient surgery center, or independent diagnostic facility shall be deemed sufficient if the provider is advised, within the thirty working day period specified in subdivision (d), that a request has been made for an audit of the billing, when the results of the audit are expected, and contains the name, address, and telephone number of the person or office to contact for additional information concerning the audit.

(f) Any contested charge for medical treatment provided or authorized by the treating physician which is determined by the appeals board to be payable shall carry interest at the same rate as judgments in civil actions from the date the amount was due until it is paid.

Authority: Sections 133, 4603.5 and 5307.3, Labor Code.

Reference: Sections 4603.2 and 5307.1, Labor Code.

**Article 5.5.0 Rules for Medical Treatment Billing and Payment on or after XXXX,  
2008 [90 days after the effective date of this regulation]**

**Section 9792.5.0 Definitions.**

As used in this article:

(a) "Claims Administrator" means a self-administered insurer providing security for the payment of compensation required by Divisions 4 and 4.5 of the Labor Code, a self-administered self-insured employer, or a third-party administrator for a self-insured employer, insurer, legally uninsured employer, or joint powers authority.

(b) "Health Care Provider" means a provider of medical treatment, goods and services, including but not limited to a physician, a non-physician or any other person or entity who furnishes medical treatment, goods or services in the normal course of business.

(c) "Health Care Facility" means any facility as defined in Section 1250 of the Health and Safety Code, any surgical facility which is licensed under subdivision (b) of Section 1204 of the Health and Safety Code, any outpatient setting as defined in Section 1248 of the Health and Safety Code, any surgical facility accredited by an accrediting agency approved by the Licensing Division of the Medical Board of California pursuant to Health and Safety Code Sections 1248.15 and 1248.4, or any ambulatory surgical center or hospital outpatient department that is certified to participate in the Medicare program under Title XVIII (42 U.S.C. Sec. 1395 et seq.) of the federal Social Security Act.

(d) "Physician" includes physicians and surgeons holding an M.D. or D.O. degree, psychologists, acupuncturists, optometrists, dentists, podiatrists, and chiropractic practitioners licensed by California state law and within the scope of their practice as defined by California state law.

(1) "Psychologist" means a licensed psychologist with a doctoral degree in psychology, or a doctoral degree deemed equivalent for licensure by the Board of Psychology pursuant to Section 2914 of the Business and Professions Code, and who either has at least two years of clinical experience in a recognized health setting or has met the standards of the National Register of the Health Service Providers in Psychology.

(2) "Acupuncturist" means a person who holds an acupuncturist's certificate issued pursuant to Chapter 12 (commencing with Section 4925) of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code.

(e) "Third Party Biller/Assignee" means a person or entity who is either billing or collecting payment in place of, or on behalf of, the rendering physician, health care provider or health facility.

Authority: Sections 133, 4603.4, 4603.5 and 5307.3, Labor Code.

Reference: Sections 3209.3, 4603.2, 4603.4 and 5307.1, Labor Code.

**Section 9792.5.1. Medical Billing and Payment Guide; Medical Billing and Payment Companion Guide; Various Implementation Guides.**

(a) The California Division of Workers' Compensation Medical Billing and Payment Guide, dated XXXX, 2007, which sets forth billing, payment and coding rules for paper and electronic medical treatment bill submissions, is incorporated by reference. It may be downloaded from the Division of Workers' Compensation website at [www.XXXX.ca.gov](http://www.XXXX.ca.gov) or may be obtained by writing to:

Division of Workers' Compensation  
Medical Unit  
Attn: Medical Billing and Payment Guide  
P.O. Box XXXX  
XXXX

(b) The California Division of Workers' Compensation Medical Billing and Payment Companion Guide, dated XXXX, 2007, which sets forth billing, payment and coding rules and technical information for electronic medical treatment bill submissions, is incorporated by reference. It may be downloaded from the Division of Workers' Compensation website at [www.XXXX.ca.gov](http://www.XXXX.ca.gov) or may be obtained by writing to:

Division of Workers' Compensation  
Medical Unit  
Attn: Medical Billing and Payment Companion Guide  
P.O. Box XXXX  
XXXX

(c) The HIPAA-approved implementation guides listed in subdivision (c)(1) through (3) are incorporated by reference. They may be obtained for a fee from the Washington Publishing Company, PMB 161, 5284 Randolph Road, Rockville, MD, 20852-2116; Telephone (301) 949-9740; and FAX: (301) 949-9742. They are also available through the Washington Publishing Company on the Internet at <http://www.wpc-edl.com/>.

(1) ASC X12N 837—Health Care Claim: Dental, Version 4010, May 2000, Washington Publishing Company, 004010X097 and Addenda to Health Care Claim: Dental, Version 4010, October 2002, Washington Publishing Company, 004010X097A1.

(2) ASC X12N 837—Health Care Claim: Professional, Volumes 1 and 2, Version 4010, May 2000, Washington Publishing Company, 004010X098 and Addenda to Health Care Claim: Professional, Volumes 1 and 2, Version 4010, October 2002, Washington Publishing Company, 004010X098A1.

(3) ASC X12N 837—Health Care Claim: Institutional, Volumes 1 and 2, Version 4010, May 2000, Washington Publishing Company, 004010X096 and Addenda to Health Care Claim: Institutional, Volumes 1 and 2, Version 4010, October 2002, Washington Publishing Company, 004010X096A1.

(d) The HIPAA-approved implementation guides for pharmacy billing listed in subdivision (d)(1) through (3) are incorporated by reference. They may be obtained for a fee from the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP), 9240 E. Raintree Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85260; Telephone (480) 477-1000; and FAX (480) 767-1042. They may also be obtained through the Internet at <http://www.ncpdp.org>.

(1) Telecommunication Standard Implementation Guide Version 5, Release 1 (Version 5.1), September 1999, National Council for Prescription Drug Programs.

(2) The Batch Standard Batch Implementation Guide, Version 1, Release 1 (Version 1.1), January 2000, supporting Telecommunication Standard Implementation Guide, Version 5, Release 1 (Version 5.1) for the NCPDP Data Record in the Detail Data Record, National Council for Prescription Drug Programs.

(3) The National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) equivalent NCPDP Batch Standard Batch Implementation Guide, Version 1, Release 0, February 1, 1996.

(e) The *National Uniform Claim Committee 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form Reference Instruction Manual for 08/05 Version*, version 3.0 revised July 2007, is incorporated by reference. The manual can be obtained directly from the National Uniform Claim Committee at: [http://www.nucc.org/images/stories/PDF/claim\\_form\\_manual\\_v2-1\\_3-07.pdf](http://www.nucc.org/images/stories/PDF/claim_form_manual_v2-1_3-07.pdf).

(f) The *National Uniform Billing Committee Data Specifications Manual* for the UB 04 form is incorporated by reference. The manual can be obtained from the National Uniform Billing Committee at <http://www.nubc.org/become.html> by becoming a UB 04 committee paid subscriber.

(g) The National Council of Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) Data Specifications Manual for the NCPCP paper form is incorporated by reference. The manual can be obtained directly from NCPCP at: [www.ncpdp.org/](http://www.ncpdp.org/)

or

National Council of Prescription Drug Programs  
9240 E. Raintree Dr.  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85260-7518.

Authority: Sections 133, 4603.4, 4603.5 and 5307.3, Labor Code.

Reference: Section 4600, 4603.2 and 4603.4, Labor Code.

**Section 9792.5.2 – Standardized Medical Treatment Billing Forms/Formats, Billing Rules, Requirements for Completing and Submitting Form CMS 1500, Form CMS 1450 (or UB 04), American Dental Association Form, Version 2002, NCPDP Universal Claim Form, Payment Requirements.**

(a) On and after XXXX, 2008, [90 days after the effective date of this regulation] all paper bills for medical treatment provided by physicians, health care providers, and health care facilities

shall be submitted on claim forms set forth in the *California Division of Workers' Compensation Medical Billing and Payment Guide*.

(b) On and after XXXX, 2008, [90 days after the effective date of this regulation] all medical bills shall conform to the provisions of the *California Division of Workers' Compensation Medical Billing and Payment Guide* which includes coding, billing standards, timeframes and other rules.

(c) On and after XXXX, [18 months after the effective date of regulation], all bills for medical treatment provided by physicians, health care providers, and health care facilities may be electronically submitted to the claims administrator for payment. Electronic bills submitted on or after that date shall conform to the applicable provisions of the *California Division of Workers' Compensation Medical Billing and Payment Guide* and the *California Division of Workers' Compensation Medical Billing and Payment Companion Guide*.

(d) Except as otherwise specifically provided, third party billers and assignees shall submit bills in the same manner as the original rendering provider or facility would be required to do had the bills been submitted by the provider or facility directly and shall conform to applicable provisions of the *California Division of Workers' Compensation Medical Billing and Payment Guide* and the *California Division of Workers' Compensation Medical Billing and Payment Companion Guide*.

Authority: Sections 133, 4603.4, 4603.5 and 5307.3, Labor Code.

Reference: Section 4600, 4603.2 and 4603.4, Labor Code.

### **Section 9792.5.3 – Medical Treatment Bill Payment Rules.**

(a) On and after XXXX, 2008, [90 days after the effective date of this regulation] claims administrators shall conform to the payment, communication, penalty, and other provisions contained in the *California Division of Workers' Compensation Medical Billing and Payment Guide*, except that the provisions relating to the payment of electronic medical bills shall become effective on XXXX, 2008 [18 months after the effective date of this regulation].

(b) On and after XXXX, [18 months after the effective date of this regulation] claims administrators shall conform to the payment, communication, penalty, and other provisions contained in the *California Division of Workers' Compensation Medical Billing and Payment Companion Guide*.

Authority: Sections 133, 4603.4, 4603.5 and 5307.3, Labor Code.

Reference: Section 4600, 4603.2 and 4603.4, Labor Code.