



Texas Department of Insurance

Division of Workers' Compensation, Office of the Commissioner

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 22, 2010

TO: Workers' Compensations System Participants

FROM: Matthew Zurek, Executive Deputy Commissioner Health Care Management and System Monitoring

RE: Reminder — Workers' Compensation Conversion Factor Changes (CY 2010) and Commissioner's Bulletin #B-0048-09

The purpose of this memorandum is to remind Texas workers' compensation system participants of Commissioner's Bulletin #B-0048-09, issued November 6, 2009 by the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (TDI-DWC), which informed system participants of the annual change to the Medical Fee Guideline conversion factors as established in 28 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §134.203. For services provided as of January 1, 2010, for calendar year (CY) 2010, the Medical Fee Guideline conversion factors in 28 TAC §134.203(c) are \$54.32 and \$68.19 respectively. As explained in Commissioner's Bulletin #B-0048-09, the conversion factor of \$54.32 applies to service categories of Evaluation & Management, General Medicine, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Radiology, Pathology, Anesthesia, and Surgery when performed in an office setting. The conversion factor of \$68.19 applies to Surgery when performed in a facility setting.

System participants are reminded that as a part of 28 TAC §134.203, TDI-DWC established conversion factors and an annual update based on the Medicare Economic Index (MEI), a weighted average of price changes for goods and services used to deliver physician services. The MEI for 2010 reflects an increase of 1.2%. Consequently, the Medical Fee Guideline conversion factors for CY 2010 are \$54.32 and \$68.19 respectively, which reflect the 1.2% MEI increase.

TDI-DWC also has posted on its website a conversion factor spreadsheet representing each applicable calendar year's conversion factors under the Medical Fee Guideline as follows:

Category	For services provided 1/1/10 through 12/31/10	For services provided 1/1/09 through 12/31/09	For services provided 3/1/08 through 12/31/08
Anesthesia	\$54.32	\$53.68	\$52.83
Evaluation & Management	\$54.32	\$53.68	\$52.83
General Medicine	\$54.32	\$53.68	\$52.83
Pathology	\$54.32	\$53.68	\$52.83
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	\$54.32	\$53.68	\$52.83
Radiology	\$54.32	\$53.68	\$52.83
Surgery in an office setting	\$54.32	\$53.68	\$52.83
Surgery in a facility setting	\$68.19	\$67.38	\$66.32
MEI Percentage Adjustment	1.20%	1.60%	

There are additional resources available from TDI-DWC to further assist system participants with the content of this memorandum.

- Commissioner's Bulletin #B-0048-09
<http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/bulletins/2009/cc47.html>
- 28 TAC §134.203 (and §§134.1, 134.2, and 134.204)
<http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/wc/rules/adopted/documents/aordermfg0108.pdf>
- CMS link regarding details of the MEI
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PhysicianFeeSched/PFSFRN/itemdetail.asp?filterType=none&filterByDID=-99&sortByDID=4&sortOrder=descending&itemID=CMS1230135&intNumPerPage=10>
- TDI-DWC Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Medical Fee Guidelines
<http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/wc/fee/documents/mfgfaqs.doc>

TDI-DWC reminds system participants of the need to adhere to these changes, and failing to timely apply these conversion factor updates constitutes an administrative violation.

If there are any questions regarding the information in this memorandum, contact Ruth Richardson at 512-804-4850 or by e-mail at Ruth.Richardson@tdi.state.tx.us.