

CALIFORNIA WORKERS' COMPENSATION NEW ELECTRONIC BILLING REQUIREMENTS

As part of a 12-point plan to help control medical costs, the California Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) introduced standardized guidelines for both paper and electronic billing formats. The first phase of these new standardized formats related to paper billing, and compliance began on October 15, 2011. Claims Administrators are required to comply with the second phase, related to electronic billing, by October 18, 2012.

ELECTRONIC BILLING REQUIREMENTS

As outlined in Labor Code §4603.4 (a)(2), Claims Administrators are mandated to be able to accept, process and remit in formats and timeframes required if a provider sends an eBill, although providers are not mandated to use the electronic option and may still submit billings via mail

Any bill that is submitted electronically and deemed to be a "Complete Bill" must be paid within 15 working days or objected to within 15 working days.

The DWC's Medical Billing and Payment Guide is available at:

http://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/DWCPropRegs/Ebilling/Guide_CompanionGuide/MedicalBillingPaymentGuideFinal_final.pdf

KEENAN COMPLIANCE

In order to ensure compliance with the new electronic billing requirements and increase our efficiencies, Keenan has engaged the services of Jopari Solutions, Inc. Consistent with industry standard practices, the fees related to eBilling are charged to the claim file.

Jopari supplies integrated eBill compliance and payment solutions to workers' compensation, auto, and health insurance industry providers and payers. Jopari significantly upgrades the technology Payers use to manage bills and disbursements, substantially reducing associated expenses. Jopari services enable insurance Payers to comply fully with regulatory requirements, including eBill and ePay jurisdictional initiatives, and HIPAA.

As a Keenan TPA client, your workers' compensation program is already in compliance with these new billing requirements. If you have any questions regarding eBilling or EDI compliance, please contact Susie Crane at scrane@keenan.com or by phone at (310) 212-0363, ext. 3900.

Keenan & Associates is not a law firm and no opinion, suggestion, or recommendation of the firm or its employees shall constitute legal advice. Clients are advised to consult with their own attorney for a determination of their legal rights, responsibilities and liabilities, including the interpretation of any statute or regulation, or its application to the clients' business activities.