

Compliance and Regulations Newsletter

Demetria Woodson

Manager of Compliance and Regulations, EK Health Services, Inc.

CALIFORNIA

CA Governor Approves Debit Card Bill

California Gov. Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 880 into law on September 23, 2018 allowing carriers to deposit indemnity payments into a prepaid card account.

SB 880 began as a pilot project to allow State Compensation Insurance Fund to deposit temporary disability indemnity payments into a prepaid card account. It was then expanded to include all carriers and all indemnity payments.

The amended bill allows employers to make all disability indemnity payments using a prepaid card account from January 1, 2019 through January 1, 2023.

The bill prohibits fees for access to in-network ATMs and point-of-sale purchases from the financial institution. Fees associated with using the debit card must be disclosed to the injured worker in writing.

The Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation must issue a report to the Legislature on payments made to prepaid card accounts by December 1, 2022.

The use of a debit card provides a more efficient way for injured workers to receive their benefits.

[Source](#)

CALIFORNIA

DWC Schedules Public Meeting to Discuss Medical-Legal Fee Schedule Changes

The Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) scheduled a pre-rulemaking public meeting to discuss changes to the Medical-Legal Fee Schedule used to reimburse physicians for examinations and reports that decide issues of compensability for work-related injuries.

DWC posted the proposed amendments online in an open forum in May and received an "overwhelming response" as stated by the DWC. More than 520 pages of comments were received during a two-week period with many respondents suggesting DWC to consider an overhaul of the Medical-Legal Fee Schedule.

The proposed amendments include specific requirements to determine the appropriate code to bill as well as time limitations on certain evaluation codes.

The Division's notice stated it is particularly interested in:

- Determining the ideal format for the new fee schedule to offer optimum benefit for QMEs, AMEs, injured workers, employers, medical management organizations, and carriers
- Identifying potential obstacles
- Identifying representatives to participate in pre-rulemaking meetings to further develop the best format for the new medical-legal fee schedule

The public meeting is scheduled for October 17th.

[Source 1](#), [Source 2](#), [Source 3](#)
