

Workers' Compensation

Overview

Workers' Compensation provides insurance to employers to provide benefits and care to employees injured on the job and benefits to families of those killed on the job. Like Medicaid, Workers' Compensation, also known as industrial insurance, is administered by each state and, likewise, each state determines its own rules regarding PA reimbursement and scope of practice.

Texas Information

PAs are covered for medical services they provide to Workers' Compensation patients in Texas. Although PAs are not credentialed, practices employing PAs may submit claims for the medical services they provide with the supervising physician's provider number or facility's tax identification number in box 17/17a and the PA's NPI number in box 31. Medical services provided by PAs to Workers' Compensation patients are reimbursed at 100 percent of the physician fee schedule.

PAs may provide virtually any Workers' Compensation service within a PA's scope of practice as defined by Texas state law including first assisting at surgery. First assisting at surgery claims should be submitted with the AS modifier and are reimbursed at 125 percent of the Medicare reimbursement for the same service. A 10 percent incentive payment is paid to practices operating in rural areas; claims for rural care should include the AQ modifier.

PAs are specified on the list of certified health providers in Workers' Compensation regulations, but some restrictions on PA practice exist. Physicians must see patients upon their initial visits to the practice and must sign Workers' Compensation forms. Physicians must also be on-site for interdisciplinary programs such as work hardening and chronic pain management (although not for all medical services).

Where Can I Find Information About How PAs Are Reimbursed by Workers' Compensation in Texas?

Information about Workers' Compensation in Texas is available from the Division of Workers' Compensation website, <http://www.tdi.state.tx.us/wc/indexwc.html> or by calling customer service at 512/804-4636. For assistance understanding Workers' Compensation policies, you may also contact the AAPA's reimbursement staff at 703/836-2272, ext. 3218 or 3219.