

Worker's Compensation
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Worker's Compensation Insurance Letter

INS #	506
Date	December 8, 2015
Program	Claims Management
Type	Informational
Replaces	Insurance Letter 502

NAME
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To: Claims Handling Offices for Insurance Carriers and Self Insured Employers
From: BJ Dernbach, Division Administrator
Subject: Worker's Compensation 2016 Rate Changes

Purpose: Announce 2016 maximum rates effective January 1, 2016.

Background: Wisconsin's maximum Worker's Compensation rate will increase to \$936 per week for temporary total disability, permanent total disability and death benefits for injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2016 and before January 1, 2017. The new average weekly wage used to compute the maximum rate is \$1404.

Using this new wage raises the maximum death benefit for fatal injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2016 to \$280,800. The maximum burial expense remains \$10,000 and the death benefit to unestranged parents remains \$6,500.

As of this date, the maximum weekly indemnity rate for permanent partial disability will remain \$322 for injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2016. If this benefit rate is changed, a new Insurance Letter will be sent.

The 2016 maximum limit for private vocational rehabilitation services increased by .32% to \$1616. When the Department of Workforce Development's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) is unable to provide services to eligible injured workers, insurers are required to pay the reasonable and necessary vocational rehabilitation costs including the costs of services provided by the vocational rehabilitation specialists in the private sector. This change is based on the average annual percentage change in the U.S. Consumer price index for all urban consumers. The new limit applies regardless of the date of injury

Action Requested: Please inform all claim handlers of these changes.

Inquiries: A chart with detailed benefit payment information for 2016 is available on our web site at: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/publications/wc/WKC-9572-P.pdf>

If you have any questions, please contact us at (608) 266-1340.

Reference: Insurance Letter 502