

Division of Worker's Compensation
P.O. Box 7901
Madison, WI 53707
Telephone: (608) 266-1340
Fax: (608) 267-0394
<https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/wc>



Worker's Compensation Insurance Letter

To: **Claims Handling Offices for Insurance Carriers and Self Insured Employers**
From: **Steve Peters, Division Administrator**
Subject: **Worker's Compensation 2020 Rate Changes**

Insurance Letter Number: 524
Date Sent: December 12, 2019
Program: Claims Management
Type: Informational
Replaces: Insurance Letter # 520

Purpose: Announce 2020 maximum rates effective January 1, 2020.

Background: Wisconsin's maximum Worker's Compensation rate will increase to \$1,051.00 per week for temporary total disability, permanent total disability and death benefits for injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2020. The new average weekly wage used to compute the maximum rate is \$1,575.50.

Using this new wage raises the maximum death benefit for fatal injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2020 to \$315,300. 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 \$362 for injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2020. If this benefit rate is changed, a new Insurance Letter will be sent.

The 2020 maximum limit for private vocational rehabilitation services increased by 1.85% to \$1,736. 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 2020 is available on our web site at: <https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/publications/wc/WKC-9572-P.pdf>

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