

**Worker's Compensation  
Insurance Letter**

<b>INS #</b>	421
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<b>Program</b>	Claims Management
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<b>Replaces</b>	INS 411



**State of Wisconsin  
Department of Workforce Development**

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**To:** Insurance Carrier and Self Insured Employer Claims Handling Offices and Certified Private Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors  
**From:** Judy Norman Nunnery, Division Administrator  
**Subject:** Annual Adjustment in the Monetary Limit for Private Vocational Rehabilitation Services to Worker's Eligible for Worker's Compensation

**Purposes:** To announce that effective January 1, 2001, a new limit of \$1,169 has been established for services provided by private vocational rehabilitation counselors to injured workers eligible for Worker's Compensation and for services that would otherwise have been provided by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

**Background:** In August 2000, the Department of Workforce Development's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) announced that it was suspending services to persons with disabilities including injured workers. When DVR is unable to provide services to eligible injured workers, s. 102.61(1m), Wis. Stats., and Wis. Admin. Code s. DWD 80.49(7)(e) require insurers to pay the reasonable and necessary costs of a vocational rehabilitation specialist in the private sector.

In 1994, the limit on the required payment was \$1,000. However, the administrative rule requires that the Department of Workforce Development annually update the limit based on the U.S. Department of Labor's consumer price index for all urban consumers, using the U.S. city average, for the 12 months ending September 30<sup>th</sup>.

The new limit of \$1,169 is a 3.2% increase over the year 2000 limit of \$1,133.

**Action Requested:** Apply the new limit if the vocational rehabilitation specialist provides any service to the injured worker during 2001, regardless of the date of injury. Insurers may agree to pay more if they wish, but are not required to do so.

**Inquiries:** If you have further questions about the DVR services, you may contact Abby Butler at (608) 266-6771. If you have questions regarding other worker's compensation matters, please review the Worker's Compensation Division's web site at <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/wc/>

**Enclosures:** None

**References:** Insurance Letter 411 dated 12/20/1999