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STATE OF OKLAHOMA

WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

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NOTICE REGARDING EVALUATION OF PERMANENT IMPAIRMENT

To: Workers' Compensation Insurance Carriers, Self-Insured Employers, Group Self-Insurance Associations, CompSource Oklahoma, Third-Party Administrators, Injured Workers, Attorneys, Other Interested Persons
From: Rick Farmer, Executive Director
Date: April 16, 2014

This alert is issued to identify the applicable edition of the American Medical Association's Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment for use in evaluating permanent impairment for injuries occurring on or after February 1, 2014, and to clarify evaluation of permanent partial loss of use under the Administrative Workers' Compensation Act (AWCA). Please see that reports comply with this Notice to avoid unnecessary delay in processing claims.

AMA Guides

A physician's evaluation of permanent impairment for work injury, including occupational disease or illness, occurring on or after February 1, 2014, shall be based solely on criteria established by the 6th Edition of the American Medical Association's Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment. The 6th Edition represents the appropriate edition of the Guides as provided in the AWCA. Deviations from the 6th Edition are permitted only when specifically provided for in the Guides, 85A OS 45(C)(3), or pursuant to an alternative method of evaluation developed by the Physician Advisory Committee and approved as provided by law, 85A OS 60.

Questions regarding the 6th Edition of the AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment may be directed to Dr. Jay P. Cannon, Medical Director, Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Commission, Jay.Cannon@wcc.ok.gov.

Permanent Partial Loss of Use

Permanent partial impairment for partial loss of use to body parts listed in 85A OS 46(A) shall be evaluated as a percentage of whole body impairment, not to exceed 350 weeks, 85A OS 46(C), using the 6th Edition of the AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment, inclusive of the conversion tables to the body as a whole. A permanent partial loss of use benefit chart for injuries occurring on or after February 1, 2014 is posted on the Commission's website, www.wcc.ok.gov.