



WORKERS' COMPENSATION

# LEGISLATIVE

## NEWSLETTER

Updates on key state and national level legislative and regulatory news, and their potential impacts on the workers' compensation industry.

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**Q1**  
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# CALIFORNIA

## Senate Comp Bill Referred to Committee

SB 668 would authorize the medical director to adjust the Medical-Legal Fee Schedule every two years. Adjustments would be based on an evaluation of medical practice costs, including possible increases in the conversion factor and the per-page cost of reviewing records. The bill would require the medical director to update the fee schedule at specific times, such as when they adopt and revise maximum fees for treatment and services.

A provider shall not be paid fees that exceed those set in the fee schedule unless the provider provides an itemization and explanation of the fee showing it is a reasonable fee and that extraordinary circumstances relating to the medical condition being evaluated justify a higher fee.

The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Labor, Public Employment, and Retirement on March 5, 2025, and has not scheduled a hearing. Learn more [HERE](#).

# NEW YORK

## Governor Hochul Proposes Reforms to Improve Access to Health Care

NY Governor Kathy Hochul announced on February 26th proposed legislative and regulatory changes to improve injured workers' access to high-quality medical treatment. The proposed changes are part of her [2025 State of the State](#) proposals.

Approximately 10% of medical providers licensed in New York State take the additional steps required to become Board-authorized to treat injured workers. The Governor is proposing authorization become automatic as part of the licensing process. According to Hochul's office, injured workers in rural or suburban counties travel 35+ miles to workers' compensation medical appointments. A second proposal would allow resident and fellow physicians to treat injured workers under a supervising physician.

"Today, 40 percent of injured workers travel to a different county to receive care from a Board-authorized provider. On average, those in rural or suburban counties travel 35 miles or more to their workers' compensation-related medical appointment. This proposal would allow for more, and closer, options for care."

The Governor is also proposing an increase to workers' compensation fee schedules "to ensure that high quality providers in our system are paid at rates comparable to private health insurance."

She is also proposing an amendment to the Insurance Law directing health care insurers to pay for medical treatment on disputed claims and an amendment to workers' compensation law to allow workers' compensation insurers to pay for medical care for up to one year without accepting liability. The legislation would require insurers to notify injured workers that these payments are being made and that their claim will be accepted at the one-year point unless the claim is controverted.

# OREGON

## Oregon WCD Adopts New Fee Schedule

The Oregon Workers' Compensation Division adopted rules to update fee schedules.

Changes to OAR 436-009, Oregon Medical Fee and Payment take effect April 1st.

Notable changes include:

- Platelet Rich Plasma (PRP) injections are compensable for certain anatomical areas and non-operative conditions.
- Modifier 95 shall not be used by a provider if billing for telemedicine services billed with procedure codes 98000-98007.
- Maximum payment amounts for Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation services increased an average of 10 percent.
- Maximum payment amounts for radiology services increased an average of 5 percent, except for the technical components for procedure codes 72141, 72148, 73221, and 73721.
- For all other categories in the fee schedule, maximum payments may be higher or lower. However; the overall reimbursement is not projected to change.
- Overall payment increases to the DMEPOS fee schedule of 3.4 percent.

More information is available [HERE](#).

EK Health Services Inc. is a leading national workers' compensation managed care organization. EK Health restores quality of life for injured workers through innovative, cost-effective solutions, while providing client services with high-touch experiences, customizable solutions, lower costs, and proven results. Our holistic approach integrates the best people, processes, and technology to facilitate the best medical treatment available for return-to-work possibilities.

Learn more about EK Health's solutions at [ekhealth.com](https://ekhealth.com).



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