

Compliance and Regulations Newsletter

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CALIFORNIA

Billing Deadline Extension for Emergency Services Approved by Governor

Provisions in last year's Senate Bill 1160 require bills for emergency treatment to be submitted within 30 days of the date of service. The 30-day billing deadline had an effective date of January 1, 2018.

On Monday, September 11th, Governor Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 489, by Senator Steven Bradford, extending the billing deadline to 180 days from the date treatment was provided when the emergency services are provided in a licensed, acute care hospital.

Concerns arose that the 30-day billing deadline may not allow sufficient time in a case where a worker who suffered a severe injury may not be able to communicate where he or she was injured and under what circumstances until after the 30-day billing period has lapsed.

Senator Bradford amended the bill while in the Assembly to clarify the meaning of "emergency treatment services" to be treatment for an emergency medical condition provided in a licensed general acute care hospital. The Assembly then passed the amended bill on July 20th with a vote of 67-0.

The Senate concurred with the amendments and passed the bill with a vote of 38-0 on August 24th. SB 489 will be effective January 1, 2018.

[Source](#)

MARYLAND

New Bill Submission Deadline Effective in October

As a result of House Bill 1484, sponsored by Delegates Cheryl D. Glenn and Warren E. Miller, the Maryland Workers' Compensation Commission has revised Labor and Employment Section 9-660. The updated section requires healthcare providers to submit bills for covered employees to the employer or insurer within 12 months from the date treatment was provided, the claim was accepted by the employer/insurer, or the commission determined the claim was compensable, whichever is later.

The employer/insurer may not be required to pay a bill submitted after the 12-month timeframe unless the healthcare provider files an application for payment (C-51 form) with the Commission within three years from the date treatment was provided, the claim was accepted by the employer/insurer, or the commission determined the claim was compensable, whichever is later.

Governor Lawrence Hogan Jr. approved HB 1484 on May 4th. It takes effect on October 1, 2017.

[Source](#)

MONTANA

Department Schedules Public Hearing on Treatment Guidelines

The Montana Department of Labor and Industry scheduled a public hearing for September 8th to discuss the adoption of the 2017 Montana Utilization and Treatment Guidelines.

After the hearing was scheduled, it was discovered that the proposal notice had not been sent to all interested parties as required by the Montana Administrative Procedure Act. Another public hearing has been scheduled for October 2nd to consider this change to 24.29.1591 related to utilization and treatment guidelines for workers' compensation injuries. If adopted, the 2017 guidelines would apply to medical services provided on or after January 1, 2018.

The Department has also proposed an update for the Lower Extremities chapter and General Guidelines Principals for all chapters. The proposed effective date is January 1, 2018.

Written comments will be accepted until October 6th.

[Source 1](#)

[Source 2](#)