



THE TREASURER OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

Tom Gallagher

MEMORANDUM

December 11, 2001

TO: Workers' Compensation Claim Coordinators, Personnel Officers, and Safety Coordinators

FROM: Denzil Weimorts

SUBJECT: Important Workers' Compensation Information

- Thank you for your hard work.

With the closing of 2001, the staff of Risk Management would like to say "thank you" to all agency personnel who are involved with providing workers' compensation benefits to injured state employees. You provide a vital and essential service and we could not do our job without your help. Again, thank you for your good work in 2001 and we look forward to working with you in 2002!

- Maximum Compensation Rate, Effective January 1, 2002:

In accordance with Section 440.12(2)(a)(b), Florida Statutes, effective January 1, 2002, the maximum compensation rate will be \$594.00 per week. Injured employees on temporary total disability are paid 66 2/3% of their average weekly wage, not to exceed the maximum compensation rate, or \$594.00 per week for accidents that occur in calendar year 2002.

- First Report of Injury forms:

Effective with dates of accident on or after April 1, 2000, all state agencies have reported injury information directly to Protegrity/Humana. Protegrity is responsible for producing the First Report of Injury forms, and providing a copy to Risk Management, the injured employee and the reporting agency.

TREASURER • INSURANCE COMMISSIONER • FIRE MARSHAL

DENZIL WEIMORTS, CLU • MGMT. REVIEW SPECIALIST • DIVISION OF RISK MANAGEMENT, BUREAU OF STATE EMPLOYEES' WC CLAIMS
PO Box 8020 • TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32314-8020 • (850) 413-4832, SC 293-4832 • TELECOPIER (850) 922-2511

Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity Employer

Important Workers' Compensation Information

➤ Changes to the Workers' Compensation Law effective October 1, 2001, include but are not limited to the following:

- Section 440.12(1), allows for direct deposit of indemnity benefits into claimant's financial institution. Risk Management is reviewing how this can be accomplished on "long-term" disability cases.
- Section 440.13(2)(f), allows for, upon the written request of the employee, the opportunity for one change of physician during the course of treatment for any one accident. This change applies to accidents not covered by managed care.
- Section 440.134(2)(a), makes managed care optional for carriers. Risk Management plans to continue to use a managed care arrangement.
- Section 440.14(5)(a), makes employee responsible for providing information on concurrent employment. Risk Management is not responsible for interest or penalties on compensation due for the period that employee does not make concurrent employment information available.
- Section 440.22, states "Exemption of workers' compensation claims from creditors does not extend to claims based on award of child support or alimony."
- Section 440.45, moves Office of the Judge of Compensation Claims to the Department of Management Services, headed by the Deputy Chief of Compensation Claims, who reports to the Director of the Division of Administrative Hearings.

➤ Special Disability Trust Fund:

It is no longer necessary for state agencies to complete the "Medical Information Questionnaire" for Special Disability Trust Fund purposes. Legislation passed eliminating claims for reimbursement from the Special Disability Trust Fund on dates of accident after December 31, 1997. Questionnaires previously completed should be maintained in employees' personnel file.

➤ State Employees' Bureau of Workers' Compensation Claims Personnel:

All bureau personnel have a direct telephone extension and e-mail capability. Attached find a list of all bureau personnel that handle workers' compensation claims, along with telephone extensions and e-mail addresses. Instructions to determine which staff member is responsible for a specific claim are also included. We encourage your use of e-mail to communicate information such as medical status, return to work dates, questions to individual staff members, etc.

**BUREAU OF STATE EMPLOYEES' WORKERS' COMPENSATION
CLAIMS
STAFF CLAIM ASSIGNMENTS**

Workers' compensation files on injured State of Florida employees are assigned to staff according to location, and then alphabetically per injured employee's last name. The bureau is divided into three units covering North Florida, Central Florida and South Florida. The following are a list of counties assigned to each of the three units.

North Florida (Unit 1)

Baker, Bradford, Bay, Calhoun, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Hamilton, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Nassau, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Suwannee, Taylor, Wakulla, Walton, Washington

Central Florida (Unit 2)

Alachua, Citrus, Flagler, Gilchrist, Hernando, Hillsborough, Lake, Levy, Marion, Orange, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Seminole, St. Johns, Sumter, Volusia, Union

South Florida (Unit 3)

Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Collier, Dade, De Soto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Indian River, Lee, Manatee, Martin, Monroe, Okeechobee, Osceola, Palm Beach, St. Lucie, Sarasota

Determine the staff member assigned a specific workers' compensation claim:

1. Claims are assigned to either Unit 1, 2 or 3 based on the county in which the accident occurs.
2. Claims are assigned to the workers' compensation specialist or workers' compensation examiner within the unit according to the last name of the injured employee. Claims are assigned to a specialist if the injured employee misses more than 40 hours of work due to the injury. If the injured employee does not miss more than 40 hours or work, the claim is considered "medical-only", and the file is assigned to an examiner. (It is possible for the claim to initially be assigned to an examiner, and then transferred to a specialist when the injured employee is later disabled and unable to work.) All litigated claims are assigned to a specialist.
3. A list of the specialists and examiners, along with their portion of the alphabet are provided on the following page. Some of the alphabetic divisions of workload are for less than "whole" letters. For example, a staff member may be assigned the letters De – I. That staff member will be responsible for claims on which the injured employee's last name begins with the letters "De" through the letter "I". Also included are staff's phone extensions and E-mail addresses. To phone staff using suncom, dial 293 plus the extension. To call staff on a regular phone line, the area code and number is (850) 413- plus the extension. As to the E-mail addresses, we encourage communications dealing with work status, questions to individual staff, etc.

RISK MANAGEMENT STAFF BY AREA & ALPHABET

North Florida (Unit 1)

* Denotes Unit Supervisor

<u>Alphabet</u>	<u>WC Specialist</u>	<u>Extension</u>	<u>E-mail Address</u>
A-C	Mary Pate	4812	patem@doi.state.fl.us
D-He	Tracie Wallace	4842	wallacet@doi.state.fl.us
Hf-Me	LeAnne Hotchkiss	4845	hotchkissl@doi.state.fl.us
O-So	Susan Grissom	4813	grissoms@doi.state.fl.us
Sp-Z	Peter Imholz	4838	imholzp@doi.state.fl.us
Mf-N	*Michael Cresap	4808	cresapm@doi.state.fl.us

<u>Alphabet</u>	<u>WC Examiner (medical)</u>	<u>Extension</u>	<u>E-mail Address</u>
A-Ec	Lindy Tano	4829	tanol@doi.state.fl.us
Ed-K	Barbara Stanphill	4748	stanphillb@doi.state.fl.us
L-Rd	Ruthie Mike	4810	miker@doi.state.fl.us
Re-Z	Tammatha (Tamm) Grice	4809	gricet@doi.state.fl.us

Central Florida (Unit 2)

* Denotes Unit Supervisor

<u>Alphabet</u>	<u>WC Specialist</u>	<u>Extension</u>	<u>E-mail Address</u>
Bf-De	Patty Gladden	4836	gladdenp@doi.state.fl.us
Df-I	Sharon Scott	4844	scottss@doi.state.fl.us
J-M	Gail Mitchell	4841	mitchellg@doi.state.fl.us
N-Sm	Barbara Cutts	4828	cuttsb@doi.state.fl.us
Sn-Z	Jean Bradish	4818	bradishj@doi.state.fl.us
A-Be	*Lamar Hartsfield	4814	hartsfieldl@doi.state.fl.us

<u>Alphabet</u>	<u>WC Examiner (medical)</u>	<u>Extension</u>	<u>E-mail Address</u>
A-Dq	Crystal Gibson	4815	gibsonc@doi.state.fl.us
Dr-K	Erika Starke-Carde	4833	cardee@doi.state.fl.us
L-Rob	Jenny Bane	4840	banej@doi.state.fl.us
Roc-Z	Katina Hinson	4819	hinsonk@doi.state.fl.us

South Florida (Unit 3)

* Denotes Unit Supervisor

<u>Alphabet</u>	<u>WC Specialist</u>	<u>Extension</u>	<u>E-mail Address</u>
A-Col	Linda Morris	4830	morrisl@doi.state.fl.us
Com-Har	Sam Walker	4824	walkers@doi.state.fl.us
Has-Mh	Troy Nelson	4839	nelsont@doi.state.fl.us
Mi-Q, Sa-Sil	Charlene Miller	4847	millercl@doi.state.fl.us
Sim-Z	Steve Kirkpatrick	4843	kirkpatrick@doi.state.fl.us
R	*David Williams	4820	williamsd@doi.state.fl.us

<u>Alphabet</u>	<u>WC Examiner (medical)</u>	<u>Extension</u>	<u>E-mail Address</u>
A-Dam	Irene Barney	4825	barneyi@doi.state.fl.us
Dan-Jom	Jeumika Brown	4822	brownj@doi.state.fl.us
Jon-Q	Pam Barr	4837	barrp@doi.state.fl.us
R-Z	Gale Gatlin	4821	gatling@doi.state.fl.us