

WCIRB Bulletin

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Reporting of Small Medical Only or First Aid Claims

The Insurance Commissioner recently approved amendments to the *California Workers' Compensation Uniform Statistical Reporting Plan—1995* (USRP) effective January 1, 2017, to clarify the reporting requirements for small medical only or “first aid” claims. The Insurance Commissioner’s Decision (CDI File No. REG-2016-00018), dated October 14, 2016, approved amendments that specifically reference first aid as defined in California Labor Code Section 5401(a), to clarify that insurers must report the cost of all claims for which any medical care is provided and medical costs are incurred, including those involving first aid treatment, even if the insurer did not make the payment. These changes can be found at Section II, *Definitions*, Rule 24, *Medical Only or Medical Claims Only*, and Section V, *Loss Information*, Subsection A, *General Loss Reporting Instructions*, Rule 1, *Reporting Losses*, of the USRP and are provided below for your reference.

As indicated in the Insurance Commissioner’s Decision, the reporting of first aid claims has been an enduring concern. It has been the long-standing position of the CDI and the WCIRB, as communicated in several prior WCIRB Bulletins, that insurers are required to report the medical costs incurred on first aid claims, even if paid by the employer, as any other medical loss. By explicitly citing first aid in the definition of medical claims and the reporting of losses, the amendments clarify the intent of the regulations and what has been communicated in prior WCIRB Bulletins.

There are no special or unique coding requirements related to the reporting of claims meeting the Labor Code Section 5401(a) definition of first aid. The reporting requirements in Part 4 of the USRP applicable to the reporting of medical costs incurred on any other medical only claim also apply to the medical costs incurred on claims meeting the first aid definition.



Part 4, *Unit Statistical Report Filing Requirements, Section II, Definitions:***24. Medical Only or Medical Claims Only**

A claim or injury for which no indemnity is incurred, but for which medical treatment costs are incurred is a "medical only" claim or injury, regardless of whether the cost of medical treatment, including first aid, is paid by an employer or insurer, or regardless of whether a Workers' Compensation Claim Form (DWC 1) is filed. "Medical Only" claims or injuries include but are not limited to all compensable injuries in which the disability does not extend beyond the waiting period specified in the workers' compensation laws of California, or injuries for which immediate medical treatment has been provided prior to a determination of compensability pursuant to Labor Code Section 5402(c).

Part 4, *Unit Statistical Report Filing Requirements, Section V, Loss Information, Subsection A, General Loss Reporting Instructions:***1. Reporting Losses**

Any and all claims, including those involving first aid as defined in California Labor Code Section 5401(a), in which Indemnity Losses or Medical Losses are incurred or Allocated Loss Adjustment Expenses are paid must be reported individually.

All loss amounts are on a direct basis (excluding reinsurance assumed and adjustment for reinsurance ceded) and must be reported on a gross basis prior to the application of any deductibles.