

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this in response to the propose Physicians and Pharmaceutical fee schedule hearing. After attending the hearing and reading the literature on the subject, I am writing in support or the ICA's proposal. As a Risk Manager for a city that is self-insured, I have a responsibility to the employee to ensure that they have the best possible care so that they can return to a normal life after an injury. I also have a responsibility to the tax payer that they are not paying more than is necessary to return that employee back to a normal life. This proposal will assist us in carrying out our responsibility to both. Also, as a side note as this has happened here in Avondale. When a physician dispenses a pharmaceutical from their office and charges more than the acceptable fee, in most cases we will deny the billing. This usually will put us in a bad light with employees as it appears that we are preventing the employee from getting the medications needed. The employee then will turn the narrative negative and then as Risk Managers we have to try to straighten out the situation. In the case we had here an employee was given an ointment for pain from the doctor. The doctor charged us about 60% more than the local pharmacy. We paid the first bill and when the employee went to the doctor for a refill, we refused to cover the cost of the refill. The employee came out of the doctor's office with the feelings that we were refusing him treatment and of course the word got out as to his feelings. We had to sit down with the employee and explain to him the situation then we had to go around putting out the fires that were started with the comments made. We would not have been in this situation if the employee would have been directed to the pharmacy in the first place.

Any way we can control the overcharging for medical services would be supported by me.

Thank you

Phil

Phillip Cundiff Sr.

Risk Manager
City of Avondale

