

April 30, 2017

Jacqueline Kurth
Medical Resource Office
Industrial Commission of Arizona
800 W. Washington Avenue
Suite 305
Phoenix, Arizona 85007-2922

Dear Ms. Kurth:

It has been brought to my attention that there is a movement & initiative to decrease workers compensation reimbursement to physicians. My assumption is that this is an effort to reduce costs.

I think most workers compensation providers would agree that "there is more than meets the eye" when treating an injured worker. It's not just about diagnosing a meniscus tear and performing arthroscopic surgery on it. There is a lot more paperwork than your average commercial insurance would require.

More often than not, we have to consider issues such as causation, return to work, impairment ratings, maximum medical improvement, and supportive care. Those not trained and well versed in treating workers compensation patients are less likely to understand this part of the system. I fear this will lead to sub-standard medical care, ultimately affecting the injured worker the most.

A reduction in fees will lead unfortunately lead to poorer quality care and reduction in service. For example, it is likely to lead to longer wait times for injured workers to be seen and treated. Many may choose not to fill out forms, meet with case managers, or declare a stationary status / provide impairment ratings.

This is likely to end up resulting in an increased cost to the insurance companies, due to an increased need for Independent Medical Examinations.

While I support cost-savings in healthcare, it is my opinion that this proposal would be a deterrent to quality workers compensation providers and ultimately negatively affect the injured workers / patients.

I thus advise against its approval.

Sincerely,



Dr. Amit Sahasrabudhe

Board-Certified Orthopedic Surgeon