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Phoenix, AZ 85028

May 5, 2017

Dale L Schultz, Chairman
Industrial Commission of Arizona
800 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

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Industrial Commission of Arizona

MAY 09 2017

DIRECTOR

Dear Mr. Schultz,

I have been employed as a nurse case manager in Arizona since 1992. I have worked for Encore Unlimited since 2002. During my employment, I have worked with many of the physicians and seen results related to their practices. I feel very strongly about only recommending physicians that I would treat with or would send my family or friends for treatment. By utilizing the most reputable physicians, I help assure the best outcomes of my injured workers which in turn, helps control costs.

I understand that the Physician Fee Schedule proposed for 2017-2018 will slash the reimbursement for surgical services for our worker's compensation claimants. I am concerned that the physicians with good outcomes will begin to leave the work comp arena. This will cause claim costs to rise because of surgical outcomes, unnecessary surgery, and improper use of narcotics for pain management. These will translate in to longer absences from work. Because many of the new physicians in the work comp arena do not provide impairment ratings, additional costs will be incurred for an IME to provide closure information and ratings. It seems that the overall cost of the claims will increase with these factors, not decrease.

Please reconsider the proposed 2017-2018 Physician Fee Schedule because it will adversely affect our injured workers and the physicians that treat them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kathy Bullock RN BS CCM

Kathy Bullock RN, BS, CCM
Nurse Case Manager
Encore Unlimited

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Kathy

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