



November 22, 2023

## Notice of Permanent Changes to Workers' Compensation Rules

**Caption:** Increase time a physician assistant may be an attending physician (HB 3412); and incorporate new requirements for sign language interpreters (HB 2696)

The Workers' Compensation Division has adopted permanent changes to:

- OAR 436-009, Oregon Medical Fee and Payment
- OAR 436-010, Medical Services
- OAR 436-015, Managed Care Organizations

These changes are **effective** January 1, 2024.

Rulemaking Notice was published in the October 2023 *Oregon Bulletin*.

### Summary of proposed changes to OAR 436-009, Oregon Medical Fee and Payment:

- Amended rule 0005: Clarifies “patients” as “workers” within the definitions of “Interpreter” and “Interpreter services.”
- Amended rule 0110:
  - Specifies that any sign language interpreter chosen to assist a worker, whether chosen by the worker or by the insurer, must be a sign language interpreter licensed by the Health Licensing Office under Oregon Laws 2023, chapter 414;
  - Clarifies “patients” as “workers” for purposes of seeking sign language interpreter services under this chapter.
- Amended matrix for health care providers, Appendix A:
  - Removes “physician assistants” from existing “type B” attending physician category;
  - Includes “physician assistants” in new category of “type C” attending physician;
  - States that a physician assistant may serve as the attending physician for up to 180 days rather than the current 60 days or 18 visits; and
  - Clarifies that medical services for aggravation of injury or illness provided by a chiropractic physician, naturopathic physician, physician assistant, authorized nurse practitioner, or any other health care provider must be authorized by a type A attending physician.

### Summary of proposed changes to OAR 436-010, Medical Services:

- Amended rule 0005 modifies the definition of “come-along provider” to include “physician assistant.”
- Amended rule 0210:
  - Removes “physician assistants” from existing “type B” attending physician category;
  - Includes “physician assistants” in new category of “type C” attending physician;

- Specifies that physician assistants must certify to the director that they have reviewed packet of material prior to providing compensable medical services;
- Allows workers to keep a physician assistant as the attending physician for up to 180 days rather than the current 60 days or 18 visits;
- Allows physician assistants to authorize the payment of temporary disability compensation for 180 days rather than the current 30 days; and
- Specifies that physician assistants may not make findings regarding the worker’s impairment for the purpose of evaluating the worker’s disability.
- Amended rule 0220 clarifies that, when a worker must change its attending physician, that change does not count toward the worker’s two changes if that change is prompted by the period of treatment by a type C attending physician expiring, a physician assistant’s requirement to refer the worker to an attending physician for a closing examination, or a possible worsening of the worker’s condition following claim closure.
- Amended rule 0225 specifies that any sign language interpreter chosen to assist a worker, whether chosen by the worker or by the insurer, must be a sign language interpreter licensed by the Health Licensing Office under Oregon Laws 2023, chapter 414.
- Amended rule 0230 replaces “physician or authorized nurse practitioner” with “the prescribing provider.”
- Amended rule 0280 adds “physician assistants” to the list of medical service providers unable to perform a worker’s closing exam and clarifies they must refer the worker to a type A attending physician to do the closing exam.
- Amended matrix for health care providers, Appendix A:
  - Removes “physician assistants” from existing “type B” attending physician category;
  - Includes “physician assistants” in new category of “type C” attending physician; and
  - Clarifies that medical services for aggravation of injury or illness provided by a chiropractic physician, naturopathic physician, physician assistant, authorized nurse practitioner, or other health care provider must be authorized by a type A attending physician.

**Summary of proposed changes to OAR 436-015, Managed Care Organizations (MCOs):**

- Amended rule 0005 modifies the definition of “come-along provider” to include physician assistants.
- Amended rule 0030 includes a requirement that MCOs have a process that allows workers to select a physician assistant.
- Amended rule 0040 adds “physician assistants” to the list of come-along providers for which an MCO has to report to the director denials and terminations of come-along status.
- Amended rule 0070 allows an MCO enrolled worker to continue to treat with a physician assistant who is not a member of the MCO, if the physician assistant maintains the worker’s medical records and with whom the worker has a documented history of treatment.



Sally Coen

November 22, 2023

Authorized Signer

Printed name

Date

**Final rules, with marked changes, have been posted to the Workers’ Compensation Division’s website: <https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Pages/new-rules.aspx>.**

**Mailing distribution:** Agency email lists

December 26, 2023

## Notice of Temporary Changes to Workers' Compensation Rules

**Caption:** Adoption of new medical billing codes for 2024

The Workers' Compensation Division has adopted temporary changes to OAR 436-009, Oregon Medical Fee and Payment Rules, to be **effective** [Jan. 1, 2024] through [March 31, 2024].

### Summary of changes:

- Revised rule 0004 adopts, by reference, new medical billing codes for 2024 and related references:
  - The American Medical Association (AMA) Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®2024);
  - The AMA CPT® Assistant through Volume 32, Issue 12, 2023;
  - The Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS2024); and
  - The American Dental Association's CDT 2024 Dental Procedure Codes.
- Revised rule 0010 specifies that billing codes and modifiers in Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®2024) may be used on billing forms.
- Revised rule 0012 – has been amended to include the reference to CPT® 2024. The revised rule explains that notwithstanding OAR 436-009-0004, medical services that may be provided through telemedicine are not limited to those listed in Appendix P of CPT® 2023 or CPT® 2024.
- Revised rule 0023 includes associated fee schedules in Appendices C and D that list codes and maximum allowable payments for ambulatory surgery center services. Appendices C and D have been amended to include new medical billing codes for 2024. Maximum payment amounts for new codes have been set using 2023 multipliers if the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has published Outpatient Prospective Payment System amounts. Otherwise, the maximum payment is set at 80% of the amount billed.
- Revised rule 0040 includes an associated Appendix B, "Physician Fee Schedule," that lists codes and maximum allowable payments for numerous medical services. Appendix B has been amended to include new medical billing codes for 2024. Maximum payment amounts for new codes have been set using 2023 conversion factors if the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has published relative value units. Otherwise, the maximum payment is set at 80% of the amount billed.
- *Temporary* Revised rule 0080 includes an associated Appendix E, that lists codes and maximum allowable payments for durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies. Appendix E has been amended to include new medical billing codes for 2024. Maximum payment amounts for new codes have been set using 2023 multipliers applied to payment amounts published by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

**Need for the Temporary Rule(s):** Temporary rules are needed to allow health care providers and workers' compensation insurers to use 2024 medical billing codes on and after Jan. 1, 2024.

**Documents Relied Upon, and where they are available:** Rulemaking advisory committee records; this issue was discussed with the committee. These documents are available for public inspection upon request to the Workers' Compensation Division, 350 Winter Street NE, Salem, Oregon 97301-3879. Please contact Marie Loiseau, rules coordinator, 971-286-0316, [WCD.Policy@dcbs.oregon.gov](mailto:WCD.Policy@dcbs.oregon.gov).

**Justification of Temporary Rule(s):** Failure to act promptly will result in serious prejudice to the public interest or the interest of the parties concerned. Delay in adoption of up-to-date codes creates procedural friction in workers' compensation billing and payment. Adoption of 2024 codes will keep workers' compensation billing codes consistent with industry standards.

The agency finds that issuing temporary rules under ORS 183.335(5) is appropriate because it will avert administrative burdens to health care providers, workers' compensation insurers, and self-insured employers we would expect with delayed adoption of 2024 codes. Without these temporary rule changes: providers and payers would be required to use only 2023 codes until the agency can formally adopt new codes effective April 1, 2024 (projected); workers' compensation bills would have to be processed differently than bills for private health insurance, Medicare, etc.; providers using new codes would be subject to bill rejection; and insurers submitting data containing new codes to the agency would be subject to civil penalties. In addition, workers' access to quality health care is jeopardized if health care providers perceive workers' compensation care as too burdensome.

The agency finds that issuing permanent rules under ORS 183.335(2) and (3) is not appropriate because updated billing codes are not published by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and others in time for Oregon to adopt changes using standard (permanent) rulemaking procedures.



Authorized Signer

Sally Coen

Printed name

Dec. 26, 2023

Date

**Mailing distribution:** WCD: S, U, AT, CE, EG, NM, CI, MR, DC, DO, GR, MD, OT, PY, M1 | agency email lists

**Full text of these rules has been posted to the Workers' Compensation Division's website – <https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Pages/new-rules.aspx>.**

Or call 971-286-0316 to get free paper copies



# Oregon Medical Fee and Payment Rules Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 436, Division 009

*Effective Jan. 1, 2024*

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Historical rules: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf)

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***Summary of rule changes effective January 1, 2024:***

- *Temporary* Revised rule 0004 adopts, by reference, new medical billing codes for 2024 and related references:
  - The American Medical Association (AMA) Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®2024);
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  - The American Dental Association's CDT 2024 Dental Procedure Codes.
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- *Temporary* Revised rule 0080 includes an associated Appendix E, that lists codes and maximum allowable payments for durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies. Appendix E has been amended to include new medical billing codes for 2024. Maximum payment amounts for new codes have been set using 2023 multipliers applied to payment amounts published by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.
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  - Specifies that any sign language interpreter chosen to assist a worker, whether chosen by the worker or by the insurer, must be a sign language interpreter licensed by the Health Licensing Office under Oregon Laws 2023, chapter 414;
  - Clarifies "patients" as "workers" for purposes of seeking sign language interpreter services under this chapter.
- Amended matrix for health care providers, Appendix A:
  - Removes "physician assistants" from existing "type B" attending physician category;
  - Includes "physician assistants" in new category of "type C" attending physician;
  - States that a physician assistant may serve as the attending physician for up to 180 days rather than the current 60 days or 18 visits; and
  - Clarifies that medical services for aggravation of injury or illness provided by a chiropractic physician, naturopathic physician, physician assistant, authorized nurse practitioner, or any other health care provider must be authorized by a type A attending physician.

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CHAPTER 436, DIVISION 009**

NOTE: Revisions are marked: new text | ~~deleted text~~.

## **436-009-0001 Purpose and Applicability of These Rules**

### **(1) Purpose.**

The purpose of these rules is to establish uniform standards for administering the payment for medical benefits to workers within the workers' compensation system.

### **(2) Applicability of Rules.**

(a) These rules apply to all services rendered on or after the effective date of these rules.

(b) The director may waive procedural rules as justice requires, unless otherwise obligated by statute.

(c) Any orders issued by the division in carrying out the director's authority to enforce Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) chapter 656 and Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) chapter 436, are considered orders of the director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.726(4)  
Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.248  
Hist: Amended 3/11/19 as Admin. Order 19-051, eff. 4/1/19  
Amended 3/3/21 as Admin. Order 21-051, eff. 4/1/21

See also the Index to Rule History: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf)

## **436-009-0004 Adoption of Standards (*temporary rule*)**

(1) The director adopts, by reference, the American Society of Anesthesiologists ASA, Relative Value Guide 2023 as a supplementary fee schedule for those anesthesia codes not found in Appendix B. To get a copy of the ASA Relative Value Guide 2023, contact the American Society of Anesthesiologists, 1061 American Lane, Schaumburg, IL 60173, 847-825-5586, or [www.asahq.org](http://www.asahq.org).

(2) The director adopts, by reference, the American Medical Association's (AMA) Current Procedural Terminology (CPT® 2023 [and CPT® 2024](#)), Fourth Edition Revised, 2022 [and 2023](#), for billing by medical providers. The definitions, descriptions, and guidelines found in

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CPT<sup>®</sup> 2023 [and CPT<sup>®</sup> 2024](#) govern the descriptions of services, except as otherwise provided in these rules. The guidelines are adopted as the basis for determining level of service.

(3) The director adopts, by reference, the AMA's CPT<sup>®</sup> Assistant, Volume 0, Issue 04 1990 through Volume ~~3132~~, Issue 12, ~~20222023~~. If there is a conflict between CPT<sup>®</sup> 2023 [or CPT<sup>®</sup> 2024](#) and the CPT<sup>®</sup> Assistant, CPT<sup>®</sup> 2023 [and CPT<sup>®</sup> 2024](#) ~~is~~ [are](#) the controlling resources.

(4) To get a copy of the CPT<sup>®</sup> 2023, [CPT<sup>®</sup> 2024](#), or the CPT<sup>®</sup> Assistant, contact the American Medical Association, AMA Plaza, 330 N. Wabash Ave., Suite 39300, Chicago, IL 60611-5885, 312-464-4782, or [www.ama-assn.org](http://www.ama-assn.org).

(5) The director adopts, by reference, only the alphanumeric codes from the CMS Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS). These codes are to be used when billing for services, but only to identify products, supplies, and services that are not described by CPT<sup>®</sup> codes or that provide more detail than a CPT<sup>®</sup> code.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in these rules, the director does not adopt the HCPCS edits, processes, exclusions, color-coding and associated instructions, age and sex edits, notes, status indicators, or other policies of CMS.

(b) To get a copy of the HCPCS, contact the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, VA 22161, 800-621-8335 or [www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/HCPCSReleaseCodeSets/Alpha-Numeric-HCPCS.html](http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/HCPCSReleaseCodeSets/Alpha-Numeric-HCPCS.html).

(6) The director adopts, by reference, CDT 2023 [and CDT 2024](#): Dental Procedure Codes, to be used when billing for dental services. To get a copy, contact the American Dental Association at American Dental Association, 211 East Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60611-2678, 312-440-2500, or [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org).

(7) The director adopts, by reference, the 02/12 1500 Claim Form and Version [9-0-7/21-11.0 7/23](#) (for the 02/12 form) 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form Reference Manual published by the National Uniform Claim Committee (NUCC). To get copies, contact the NUCC, American Medical Association, PO Box 74008935, Chicago, IL 60674-8935, or [www.nucc.org](http://www.nucc.org).

(8) The director adopts, by reference, the Official UB-04 Data Specifications Manual [2022 2023](#) Edition, published by National Uniform Billing Committee (NUBC). To get a copy, contact the NUBC, American Hospital Association, 155 North Wacker Drive, Suite 400, Chicago, IL 60606, 312-422-3000, or [www.nubc.org](http://www.nubc.org).

(9) The director adopts, by reference, the NCPDP Manual Claim Forms Reference Implementation Guide Version 1.4 (7/2015) and the NCPDP Workers'

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Compensation/Property & Casualty Universal Claim Form (WC/PC UCF) Version 1.1 – 5/2009. To get a copy, contact the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP), 9240 East Raintree Drive, Scottsdale, AZ 85260-7518, 480-477-1000, or [www.ncdp.org](http://www.ncdp.org).

(10) Specific provisions contained in OAR chapter 436, divisions 009, 010, and 015 control over any conflicting provision in ASA Relative Value Guide 2023, CPT® 2023, [CPT® 2024](#), CPT® Assistant, HCPCS 2023, [HCPCS 2024](#), CDT 2023, [CDT 2024](#), 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form Reference Instruction Manual, Official UB-04 Data Specifications Manual, or NCPDP Manual Claim Forms Reference Implementation Guide.

(11) Copies of the standards referenced in this rule are also available for review during regular business hours at the Workers' Compensation Division, Medical Resolution Team, 350 Winter Street NE, Salem, OR 97301.

Stat Auth: ORS 656.248, 656.726(4); Stats Implemented: ORS 656.248  
Hist: Amended 3/2/22 as Admin. Order 22-050, eff. 4/1/22  
Amended 12/19/22 as Admin. Order 22-066, eff. 1/1/23 Temp  
Amended 3/9/23 as Admin. Order 23-050, eff. 4/1/23  
[Amended 12/26/23 as Admin. Order 23-057, eff. 1/1/24](#)  
See also the Index to Rule History: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-009-0005 Definitions**

(1) Unless a term is specifically defined elsewhere in these rules or the context otherwise requires, the definitions of ORS chapter 656 are hereby incorporated by reference and made part of these rules.

(2) Abbreviations used in these rules are either defined in the rules in which they are used or defined as follows:

- (a) CMS means Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.
- (b) CPT® means Current Procedural Terminology published by the American Medical Association.
- (c) DMEPOS means durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies.
- (d) EDI means electronic data interchange.
- (e) HCPCS means Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System published by CMS.
- (f) ICD-9-CM means International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification, Vol. 1, 2 & 3 by US Department of Health and Human Services.

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(g) ICD-10-CM means International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification.

(h) MCO means managed care organization certified by the director.

(i) NPI means national provider identifier.

(j) OSC means Oregon specific code.

(k) PCE means physical capacity evaluation.

(l) WCE means work capacity evaluation.

(3) **“Administrative review”** means any decision making process of the director requested by a party aggrieved with an action taken under these rules except the hearing process described in OAR 436-001.

(4) **“Ambulatory surgery center”** or **“ASC”** means:

(a) Any distinct entity licensed by the state of Oregon, and operated exclusively for the purpose of providing surgical services to patients not requiring hospitalization; or

(b) Any entity outside of Oregon similarly licensed, or certified by Medicare or a nationally recognized agency as an ASC.

(5) **“Attending physician”** has the same meaning as described in ORS 656.005(12)(b). See Appendix A, “Matrix for Health Care Provider Types.”

(6) **“Authorized nurse practitioner”** means a nurse practitioner licensed under ORS 678.375 to 678.390 who has certified to the director that the nurse practitioner has reviewed informational materials about the workers’ compensation system provided by the director and who has been assigned an authorized nurse practitioner number by the director.

(7) **“Board”** means the Workers’ Compensation Board and includes its Hearings Division.

(8) **“Chart note”** means a notation made in chronological order in a medical record in which the medical service provider records such things as subjective and objective findings, diagnosis, treatment rendered, treatment objectives, and return to work goals and status.

(9) **“Clinic”** means a group practice in which several medical service providers work cooperatively.

(10) **“CMS form 2552”** (Hospital and Hospital Health Care Complex Cost Report) means the annual report a hospital makes to Medicare.

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OREGON MEDICAL FEE AND PAYMENT RULES**

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(11) **“Current procedural terminology”** or “CPT<sup>®</sup>” means the Current Procedural Terminology codes and terminology published by the American Medical Association unless otherwise specified in these rules.

(12) **“Date stamp”** means to stamp or display the initial receipt date and the recipient’s name on a paper or electronic document, regardless of whether the document is printed or displayed electronically.

(13) **“Days”** means calendar days.

(14) **“Director”** means the director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services or the director’s designee.

(15) **“Division”** means the Workers’ Compensation Division of the Department of Consumer and Business Services.

(16) **“Enrolled”** means an eligible worker has received notification from the insurer that the worker is being required to receive treatment under the provisions of a managed care organization (MCO). However, a worker may not be enrolled who would otherwise be subject to an MCO contract if the worker’s primary residence is more than 100 miles outside the MCO’s certified geographical service area.

(17) **“Fee discount agreement”** means a direct contract entered into between a medical service provider or clinic and an insurer to discount fees to the medical service provider or clinic under OAR 436-009-0018.

(18) **“Good Cause”** means circumstances that are outside the control of a party or circumstances that are considered to be extenuating by the division.

(19) **“Hospital”** means an institution licensed by the State of Oregon as a hospital.

(a) **“Inpatient”** means a patient who is admitted to a hospital prior to and extending past midnight for treatment and lodging.

(b) **“Outpatient”** means a patient not admitted to a hospital prior to and extending past midnight for treatment and lodging. Medical services provided by a health care provider such as emergency room services, observation room, or short stay surgical treatments that do not result in admission are also considered outpatient services.

(20) **“Initial claim”** means the first open period on the claim immediately following the original filing of the occupational injury or disease claim until the worker is first declared to be medically stationary by an attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner. For nondisabling claims, the “initial claim” means the first period of medical treatment

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immediately following the original filing of the occupational injury or disease claim ending when the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner does not anticipate further improvement or need for medical treatment, or there is an absence of treatment for an extended period.

(21) **“Insurer”** means the State Accident Insurance Fund Corporation; an insurer authorized under ORS chapter 731 to transact workers’ compensation insurance in the state; or, an employer or employer group that has been certified under ORS 656.430 and meets the qualifications of a self-insured employer under ORS 656.407.

(22) **“Interim medical benefits”** means those services provided under ORS 656.247 on initial claims with dates of injury on or after January 1, 2002, that are not denied within 14 days of the employer’s notice of the claim.

(23) **“Interpreter”** means a person who:

(a) Provides oral or sign language translation; and

(b) Owns, operates, or works for a business that receives income for providing oral or sign language translation. It does not include a medical provider, medical provider’s employee, or a family member or friend of the [patient worker](#).

(24) **“Interpreter services”** means the act of orally translating between a medical provider and a [patient worker](#) who speak different languages, including sign language. It includes reasonable time spent waiting at the location for the medical provider to examine or treat the [patient worker](#) as well as reasonable time spent on necessary paperwork for the provider’s office.

(25) **“Legal holidays”** means holidays listed in ORS 187.010 and 187.020.

(26) **“Mailed or mailing date”** means the date a document is postmarked. Requests submitted by facsimile or “fax” are considered mailed as of the date printed on the banner automatically produced by the transmitting fax machine. Hand-delivered requests will be considered mailed as of the date stamped by the division. Phone or in-person requests, where allowed under these rules, will be considered mailed as of the date of the request.

(27) **“Managed care organization”** or “MCO” means an organization formed to provide medical services and certified in accordance with OAR chapter 436, division 015.

(28) **“Medical provider”** means a medical service provider, a hospital, a medical clinic, or a vendor of medical services.

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**(29) “Medical service”** means any medical treatment or any medical, surgical, diagnostic, chiropractic, dental, hospital, nursing, ambulances, and other related services, and drugs, medicine, crutches and prosthetic appliances, braces and supports and where necessary, physical restorative services.

**(30) “Medical service provider”** means a person duly licensed to practice one or more of the healing arts.

**(31) “Medical treatment”** means the management and care of a patient for the purpose of combating disease, injury, or disorder. Restrictions on activities are not considered treatment unless the primary purpose of the restrictions is to improve the worker’s condition through conservative care.

**(32) “Parties”** mean the worker, insurer, MCO, attending physician, and other medical provider, unless a specific limitation or exception is expressly provided for in the statute.

**(33) “Patient”** means the same as worker as defined in ORS 656.005(28).

**(34) “Physical capacity evaluation”** means an objective, directly observed, measurement of a patient’s ability to perform a variety of physical tasks combined with subjective analyses of abilities by patient and evaluator. Physical tolerance screening, Blankenship’s Functional Capacity Evaluation, and Functional Capacity Assessment have the same meaning as Physical Capacity Evaluation.

**(35) “Provider network”** means a health service intermediary other than an MCO that facilitates transactions between medical providers and insurers through a series of contractual arrangements.

**(36) “Report”** means medical information transmitted in written form containing relevant subjective or objective findings. Reports may take the form of brief or complete narrative reports, a treatment plan, a closing examination report, or any forms as prescribed by the director.

**(37) “Residual functional capacity”** means a patient’s remaining ability to perform work-related activities. A residual functional capacity evaluation includes, but is not limited to, capability for lifting, carrying, pushing, pulling, standing, walking, sitting, climbing, balancing, bending/stooping, twisting, kneeling, crouching, crawling, and reaching, and the number of hours per day the patient can perform each activity.

**(38) “Specialist physician”** means a licensed physician who qualifies as an attending physician and who examines a patient at the request of the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner to aid in evaluation of disability, diagnosis, or provide temporary



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specialized treatment. A specialist physician may provide specialized treatment for the compensable injury or illness and give advice or an opinion regarding the treatment being rendered, or considered, for a patient's compensable injury.

**(39) "Type A attending physician"** means an attending physician under ORS 656.005(12)(b)(A). See Appendix A, "Matrix for Health Care Provider Types."

**(40) "Type B attending physician"** means an attending physician under ORS 656.005(12)(b)(B). See Appendix A, "Matrix for Health Care Provider Types."

**(41) "Usual fee"** means the medical provider's fee charged to the general public for a given service.

**(42) "Work capacity evaluation"** means a physical capacity evaluation with special emphasis on the ability to perform a variety of vocationally oriented tasks based on specific job demands. Work Tolerance Screening has the same meaning as Work Capacity Evaluation.

**(43) "Work hardening"** means an individualized, medically prescribed and monitored, work-oriented treatment process. The process involves the patient participating in simulated or actual work tasks that are structured and graded to progressively increase physical tolerances, stamina, endurance, and productivity to return the patient to a specific job.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.726(4); Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.000 et seq.; 656.005; 656.726(4)

Hist: Amended 3/11/19 as Admin. Order 19-051, eff. 4/1/19

Amended 3/2/22 as Admin. Order 22-050, eff. 4/1/22

Amended 11/7/23 as Admin. Order 23-054, eff. 1/1/24

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-009-0008 Request for Review before the Director**

### **(1) General.**

**(a)** Except as otherwise provided in ORS 656.704, the director has exclusive jurisdiction to resolve all disputes concerning medical fees, nonpayment of compensable medical bills, and medical service and treatment disputes arising under ORS 656.245, 656.247, 656.248, 656.260, 656.325, and 656.327. Disputes about whether a medical service provided after a worker is medically stationary is compensable within the meaning of ORS 656.245(1)(c), or whether a medical treatment is unscientific, unproven, outmoded, or experimental under ORS 656.245(3), are subject to administrative review before the director.

**(b)** As provided in ORS 656.704(3)(b), the following disputes are in the jurisdiction of the board and will be transferred:

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- (A) A dispute that requires a determination of the compensability of the medical condition for which medical services are proposed; and
- (B) A dispute that requires a determination of whether a sufficient causal relationship exists between medical services and an accepted claim.
- (c) A party does not need to be represented to participate in the administrative review before the director.
- (d) Any party may request that the director provide voluntary mediation or alternative dispute resolution after a request for administrative review or hearing is filed.
- (e) A request for administrative review under this rule may also be filed as prescribed in OAR 438-005.

## **(2) Time Frames and Conditions.**

The following time frames and conditions apply to requests for administrative review before the director under this rule:

(a) For MCO-enrolled claims, a party that disagrees with an action or decision of the MCO must first use the MCO's dispute resolution process. If the party does not appeal the MCO's decision using the MCO's dispute resolution process, in writing and within 30 days of the mailing date of the decision, the party will lose all rights to further appeal the decision absent a showing of good cause. When the aggrieved party is a represented worker, and the worker's attorney has given written notice of representation to the insurer, the 30-day time frame begins when the attorney receives written notice or has actual knowledge of the MCO decision.

When a party mistakenly sends an appeal of an MCO action or decision to the division, the division will forward the appeal to the MCO. The MCO must use the original mailing date of the appeal mistakenly sent to the division when determining timeliness of the appeal.

(b) For MCO-enrolled claims, if a party disagrees with the final action or decision of the MCO, the aggrieved party must request administrative review before the director within 60 days of the MCO's final decision. When the aggrieved party is a represented worker and the worker's attorney had given written notice of representation to the insurer at the time the MCO issued its decision, the 60-day time frame begins when the MCO issues its final decision to the attorney. If a party has been denied access to the MCO dispute resolution process, or the process has not been completed for reasons beyond a party's control, the party may request director review within 60 days of the failure of the MCO process. If the MCO does not have a process for resolving a particular type of dispute, the insurer or the MCO must advise the medical provider or worker that they may request review before the director.

(c) For claims not enrolled in an MCO, or for disputes that do not involve an action or decision of an MCO:

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- (A) A worker must request administrative review before the director within 90 days of the date the worker knew, or should have known, there was a dispute over the provision of medical services. If the worker is represented, and the worker's attorney has given notice of representation to the insurer, the 90-day time frame begins when the attorney receives written notice or has actual knowledge of the dispute.
- (B) A medical provider must request administrative review within 90 days of the mailing date of the most recent explanation of benefits or a similar notification the provider received regarding the disputed service or fee. Rebillings without any relevant changes will not provide a new 90-day period to request administrative review.
- (C) An insurer must request administrative review within 90 days of the date action on the bill was due under OAR 436-009-0030.
- (D) For disputes regarding interim medical benefits on denied claims, the date the insurer should have known of the dispute is no later than one year from the claim denial, or 45 days after the bill is perfected, whichever occurs last.
- (d) Within 180 days of the date a bill is paid, an insurer may request a refund from a provider for any amount it determines was overpaid for a compensable medical service. If the provider does not respond to the request, or disagrees that a service was overpaid, the insurer may request director review within 90 days of requesting the refund.
- (e) Medical provider bills for treatment or services that are under review before the director are not payable during the review.

### **(3) Form and Required Information.**

(a) Requests for administrative review before the director should be made on [Form 2842](#) as described in [Bulletin 293](#). When an insurer or a worker's representative submits a request without the required information, the director may dismiss the request or hold initiation of the administrative review until the required information is submitted. Unrepresented workers may ask the director for help in meeting the filing requirements.

(A) The requesting party must simultaneously notify all other interested parties and their representatives, if known, of the dispute. The notice must:

- (i) Identify the worker's name, date of injury, insurer, and claim number;
- (ii) Specify the issues in dispute and the relief sought; and
- (iii) Provide the specific dates of the unpaid disputed treatment or services.

(B) If the request for review is submitted by either the insurer or the medical provider, it must state specific codes of services in dispute and include enough documentation to support the request, including copies of original bills, chart notes, bill analyses, operative reports, any correspondence between the parties regarding the dispute, and any other documentation necessary to review the dispute. The insurer or medical provider requesting review must provide all involved parties a copy of:

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- (i) The request for review;
- (ii) Any attached supporting documentation; and
- (iii) If known, an indication of whether or not there is an issue of causation or compensability under subsection (1)(b) of this rule.

(b) In addition to medical evidence relating to the dispute, all parties may submit other relevant information, including written factual information, sworn affidavits, or legal argument for incorporation into the record. Such information may also include timely written responses and other evidence to rebut the documentation and arguments of an opposing party. The director may take or obtain additional evidence consistent with statute, such as pertinent medical treatment and payment records. The director may also interview parties to the dispute or consult with an appropriate committee of the medical provider's peers. When a party receives a written request for additional information from the director, the party must respond within 14 days.

(c) When a request for administrative review is filed under ORS 656.247, the insurer must provide a record packet, at no charge, to the director and all other parties or their representatives as follows:

(A) The packet must include a complete copy of the worker's medical record and other documents that are arguably related to the medical dispute, arranged in chronological order, with oldest documents on top. The packet must include the following notice in bold type:

**We hereby notify you that the director is being asked to review the medical care of this worker. The director may issue an order that could affect reimbursement for the disputed medical service(s).**

(B) If the insurer requests review, the packet must accompany the request with copies sent simultaneously to the other parties.

(C) If the requesting party is other than the insurer or if the director has initiated the review, the director will request the record from the insurer. The insurer must provide the record within 14 days of the director's request as described in this rule.

(D) If the insurer fails to submit the record in the time and format specified in this rule, the director may sanction the insurer under OAR 436-010-0340.

**(4) Dispute Resolution by Agreement (Alternative Dispute Resolution).**

(a) A dispute may be resolved by agreement between the parties to the dispute. The agreement must be in writing and approved by the director. The director may issue a letter of agreement instead of an administrative order, which will become final on the 10th day after the letter of agreement is issued unless the agreement specifies otherwise. Once the agreement becomes final, the director may revise the agreement or reinstate the review only under one or more of the following conditions:

(A) A party fails to honor the agreement;

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- (B) The agreement was based on misrepresentation;
- (C) Implementation of the agreement is not feasible because of unforeseen circumstances; or
- (D) All parties request revision or reinstatement of the dispute.

(b) Any mediated agreement may include an agreement on attorney fees, if any, to be paid to the worker's attorney.

**(5) Director Order and Reconsideration.**

(a) The director may, on the director's own motion, reconsider or withdraw any order that has not become final by operation of law. A party also may request reconsideration of an administrative order upon an allegation of error, omission, misapplication of law, incomplete record, or the discovery of new information that could not reasonably have been discovered and produced during the review. The director may grant or deny a request for reconsideration at the director's sole discretion. A request must be received by the director before the administrative order becomes final.

(b) During any reconsideration of the administrative order, the parties may submit new material evidence consistent with this rule and may respond to such evidence submitted by others.

(c) Any party requesting reconsideration or responding to a reconsideration request must simultaneously notify all other interested parties of its contentions and provide them with copies of all additional information presented.

(d) Attorney fees in administrative review will be awarded as provided in ORS 656.385(1) and OAR 436-001-0400 through 436-001-0440.

**(6) Hearings.**

(a) Any party that disagrees with an action or administrative order under these rules may obtain review of the action or order by filing a request for hearing as provided in OAR 436-001-0019 within 30 days of the mailing date of the order under ORS 656.245, 656.248, 656.260, or 656.327, or within 60 days of the mailing date of an order under ORS 656.247. OAR 436-001 applies to the hearing.

(b) In the review of orders issued under ORS 656.245(3) or 656.247, no new medical evidence or issues will be admitted at hearing. In these reviews, an administrative order may be modified at hearing only if it is not supported by substantial evidence in the record or if it reflects an error of law.

(c) Contested case hearings of sanctions and civil penalties: Under ORS 656.740, any party that disagrees with a proposed order or proposed assessment of a civil penalty

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issued by the director under ORS 656.254 or 656.745 may request a hearing by the board as follows:

- (A) A written request for a hearing must be mailed or submitted to the division. The request must specify the grounds upon which the proposed order or assessment is contested.
- (B) The request must be mailed or submitted to the division within 60 days after the mailing date of the order or notice of assessment.
- (C) The division will forward the request and other pertinent information to the board.

**(7) Other Proceedings.**

- (a) Director's administrative review of other actions not covered under sections (1) through (6) of this rule: Any party seeking an action or decision by the director, or any party aggrieved by an action taken by another party, may request administrative review before the director. Any party may request administrative review as follows:
  - (b) A written request for review must be sent to the division within 90 days of the disputed action and must specify the grounds upon which the action is contested.
  - (c) The division may require and allow such input and information as it deems appropriate to complete the review.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.704, 656.726(4); Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.704

Hist: Amended 3/11/19 as Admin. Order 19-051, eff. 4/1/19

Amended 12/17/19 as Admin. Order 19-060, eff. 1/1/20

See also the Index to Rule History: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf)

## **436-009-0010 Medical Billing and Payment (*temporary rule*)**

### **(1) General.**

(a) Only treatment that falls within the scope and field of the medical provider's license to practice will be paid under a workers' compensation claim.

Except for emergency services or as otherwise provided for by statute or these rules, treatments and medical services are only payable if approved by the worker's attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner.

Fees for services by more than one physician at the same time are payable only when the services are sufficiently different that separate medical skills are needed for proper care.

(b) All billings must include the patient's full name, date of injury, and the employer's name. If available, billings must also include the insurer's claim number and the provider's NPI. If the provider does not have an NPI, then the provider must provide its license number and the billing provider's FEIN. For provider types not licensed by the state, "99999" must be used in place of the state license number. Bills must not contain a combination of ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes.

(c) The medical provider must bill their usual fee charged to the general public. The submission of the bill by the medical provider is a warrant that the fee submitted is the usual fee of the medical provider for the services rendered. The director may require documentation from the medical provider establishing that the fee under question is the medical provider's usual fee charged to the general public. For purposes of this rule, "general public" means any person who receives medical services, except those persons who receive medical services subject to specific billing arrangements allowed under the law that require providers to bill other than their usual fee.

(d) Medical providers must not submit false or fraudulent billings, including billing for services not provided. As used in this section, "false or fraudulent" means an intentional deception or misrepresentation with the knowledge that the deception could result in unauthorized benefit to the provider or some other person. A request for pre-payment for a deposition is not considered false or fraudulent.

(e) When a provider treats a patient with two or more compensable claims, the provider must bill individual medical services for each claim separately.

(f) When rebilling, medical providers must indicate that the charges have been previously billed.

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(g) If a patient requests copies of medical bills in writing, medical providers must provide copies within 30 days of the request, and provide any copies of future bills during the regular billing cycle.

**(2) Billing Timelines.** (For payment timelines see OAR 436-009-0030.)

(a) Medical providers must bill within:

(A) 60 days of the date of service;

(B) 60 days after the medical provider has received notice or knowledge of the responsible workers' compensation insurer or processing agent; or

(C) 60 days after any litigation affecting the compensability of the service is final, if the provider receives written notice of the final litigation from the insurer.

(b) If the provider bills past the timelines outlined in subsection (a) of this section, the provider may be subject to civil penalties as provided in ORS 656.254 and OAR 436-010-0340.

(c) When submitting a bill later than outlined in subsection (a) of this section, a medical provider must establish good cause.

(d) When a provider submits a bill within 12 months of the date of service, the insurer may not reduce payment due to late billing.

(e) When a provider submits a bill more than 12 months after the date of service, the bill is not payable, except when a provision of subsection (2)(a) is the reason the billing was submitted after 12 months.

**(3) Billing Forms.**

(a) All medical providers must submit bills to the insurer unless a contract directs the provider to bill the managed care organization (MCO).

(b) Medical providers must submit bills on a completed current UB-04 (CMS 1450) or CMS 1500 except for:

(A) Dental billings, which must be submitted on American Dental Association dental claim forms;

(B) Pharmacy billings, which must be submitted on a current National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP) form; or

(C) Electronic billing transmissions of medical bills (see OAR 436-008).

(c) Notwithstanding subsection (3)(b) of this rule, a medical service provider doing an IME may submit a bill in the form or format agreed to by the insurer and medical service provider.



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(d) Medical providers may use computer-generated reproductions of the appropriate forms.

(e) Unless different instructions are provided in the table below, the provider should use the instructions provided in the National Uniform Claim Committee 1500 Claim Form Reference Instruction Manual.

Box Reference Number	Instruction
10d	May be left blank
11a, 11b, and 11c	May be left blank
17a	May be left blank if box 17b contains the referring provider's NPI
21	For dates of service prior to Oct. 1, 2015, use ICD-9-CM codes, and for dates of service on and after Oct. 1, 2015, use ICD-10-CM codes.
22	May be left blank
23	May be left blank
24D	<p>The provider must use the following codes to accurately describe the services rendered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CPT<sup>®</sup> codes listed in CPT<sup>®</sup> 2023 <a href="#">or CPT<sup>®</sup> 2024</a>;</li> <li>• Oregon Specific Codes (OSCs); or</li> <li>• HCPCS codes, only if there is no specific CPT<sup>®</sup> or OSC.</li> </ul> <p>If there is no specific code for the medical service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The provider should use an appropriate unlisted code from CPT<sup>®</sup> 2023, <a href="#">CPT<sup>®</sup> 2024</a> (e.g., CPT<sup>®</sup> code 21299), or an unlisted code from HCPCS (e.g., HCPCS code E1399); and</li> <li>• The provider should describe the service provided.</li> </ul> <p>Nurse practitioners and physician assistants must use modifier "81" when billing as the surgical assistant during surgery.</p>
24I (shaded area)	See under box 24J shaded area.
24J (nonshaded area)	The rendering provider's NPI.
24J (shaded area)	<p>If the bill includes the rendering provider's NPI in the nonshaded area of box 24J, the shaded area of box 24I and 24J may be left blank.</p> <p>If the rendering provider does not have an NPI, then include the rendering provider's state license number and use the qualifier "0B" in box 24I.</p>
32	If the facility name and address are different than the billing provider's name and address in box 33, fill in box 32.
32a	If there is a name and address in box 32, box 32a must be filled in even if the NPI is the same as box 33a.

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**(4) Billing Codes.**

(a) When billing for medical services, a medical provider must use codes listed in CPT<sup>®</sup> 2023, [CPT<sup>®</sup> 2024](#), or Oregon specific codes (OSC) listed in OAR 436-009-0060 that accurately describe the service.

If there is no specific CPT<sup>®</sup> code or OSC, a medical provider must use the appropriate HCPCS or dental code, if available, to identify the medical supply or service.

If there is no specific code for the medical service, the medical provider must use the unlisted code at the end of each medical service section of CPT<sup>®</sup> 2023, [CPT<sup>®</sup> 2024](#), or the appropriate unlisted HCPCS code, and provide a description of the service provided.

A medical provider must include the National Drug Code (NDC) to identify the drug or biological when billing for pharmaceuticals.

(b) Only one office visit code may be used for each visit except for those code numbers relating specifically to additional time.

**(5) Modifiers.**

(a) When billing, unless otherwise provided by these rules, medical providers must use the appropriate modifiers found in CPT<sup>®</sup> 2023, [CPT<sup>®</sup> 2024](#), HCPCS' level II national modifiers, or anesthesia modifiers, when applicable.

(b) Modifier 22 identifies a service provided by a medical service provider that requires significantly greater effort than typically required. Modifier 22 may only be reported with surgical procedure codes with a global period of 0, 10, or 90 days as listed in Appendix B. The bill must include documentation describing the additional work. It is not sufficient to simply document the extent of the patient's comorbid condition that caused the additional work. When a medical service provider appropriately bills for an eligible procedure with modifier 22, the payment rate is 125% of the fee published in Appendix B, or the fee billed, whichever is less. For all services identified by modifier 22, two or more of the following factors must be present:

(A) Unusually lengthy procedure;

(B) Excessive blood loss during the procedure;

(C) Presence of an excessively large surgical specimen (especially in abdominal surgery);

(D) Trauma extensive enough to complicate the procedure and not billed as separate procedure codes;

(E) Other pathologies, tumors, malformations (genetic, traumatic, or surgical) that directly interfere with the procedure but are not billed as separate procedure codes; or

(F) The services rendered are significantly more complex than described for the submitted CPT<sup>®</sup>.

**(6) Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners.**

Physician assistants and nurse practitioners must document in the chart notes that they provided the medical service. If physician assistants or nurse practitioners provide services as surgical assistants during surgery, they must bill using modifier "81."

**(7) Chart Notes.**

- (a) All original medical provider billings must be accompanied by legible chart notes. The chart notes must document the services that have been billed and identify the person performing the service.
- (b) Chart notes must not be kept in a coded or semi-coded manner unless a legend is provided with each set of records.
- (c) When processing electronic bills, the insurer may waive the requirement that bills be accompanied by chart notes. The insurer remains responsible for payment of only compensable medical services. Medical providers may submit their chart notes separately or at regular intervals as agreed with the insurer.

**(8) Challenging the Provider's Bill.**

For services where the fee schedule does not establish a fixed dollar amount, an insurer may challenge the reasonableness of a provider's bill on a case by case basis by asking the director to review the bill under OAR 436-009-0008. If the director determines the amount billed is unreasonable, the director may establish a different fee to be paid to the provider based on at least one of, but not limited to, the following: reasonableness, the usual fees of similar providers, fees for similar services in similar geographic regions, or any extenuating circumstances.

**(9) Billing the Patient and Patient Liability.**

- (a) A patient is not liable to pay for any medical service related to an accepted compensable injury or illness or any amount reduced by the insurer according to OAR chapter 436, and a medical provider must not attempt to collect payment for any medical service from a patient, except as follows:
  - (A) If the patient seeks treatment for conditions not related to the accepted compensable injury or illness;
  - (B) If the patient seeks treatment for a service that has not been prescribed by the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner, or a specialist physician upon referral of the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner. This would include, but is not limited to, ongoing treatment by nonattending physicians in excess of the 30-day/12-visit period or by nurse practitioners in excess of the 180-day period, as set forth in ORS 656.245 and OAR 436-010-0210;

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- (C) If the insurer notifies the patient that they are medically stationary and the patient seeks palliative care that is not authorized by the insurer or the director under OAR 436-010-0290;
- (D) If an MCO-enrolled patient seeks treatment from the provider outside the provisions of a governing MCO contract; or
- (E) If the patient seeks treatment listed in section (12) of this rule after the patient has been notified that such treatment is unscientific, unproven, outmoded, or experimental.
- (b) If the director issues an order declaring an already rendered medical service or treatment inappropriate, or otherwise in violation of the statute or administrative rules, the worker is not liable for such services.
- (c) A provider may bill a patient for a missed appointment under section (13) of this rule.

**(10) Disputed Claim Settlement (DCS).**

The insurer must pay a medical provider for any bill related to the claimed condition received by the insurer on or before the date the terms of a DCS were agreed on, but was either not listed in the approved DCS or was not paid to the medical provider as set forth in the approved DCS. Payment must be made by the insurer as prescribed by ORS 656.313(4)(d) and OAR 438-009-0010(2)(g) as if the bill had been listed in the approved settlement or as set forth in the approved DCS, except, if the DCS payments have already been made, the payment must not be deducted from the settlement proceeds. Payment must be made within 45 days of the insurer's knowledge of the outstanding bill.

**(11) Payment Limitations.**

- (a) Insurers do not have to pay providers for the following:
- (A) Completing forms [827](#) and [4909](#);
  - (B) Providing chart notes with the original bill;
  - (C) Preparing a written treatment plan;
  - (D) Supplying progress notes that document the services billed;
  - (E) Completing a work release form or completion of a PCE form, when no tests are performed;
  - (F) A missed appointment "no show" (see exceptions below under section (13) Missed Appointment "No Show"); or
  - (G) More than three mechanical muscle testing sessions per treatment program or when not prescribed and approved by the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner.

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**(b)** Mechanical muscle testing includes a copy of the computer printout from the machine, written interpretation of the results, and documentation of time spent with the patient. Additional mechanical muscle testing may be paid for only when authorized in writing by the insurer prior to the testing.

**(c)** Dietary supplements including, but not limited to, minerals, vitamins, and amino acids are not reimbursable unless a specific compensable dietary deficiency has been clinically established in the patient.

**(d)** Vitamin B-12 injections are not reimbursable unless necessary for a specific dietary deficiency of malabsorption resulting from a compensable gastrointestinal condition.

**(12) Excluded Treatment.**

The following medical treatments (or treatment of side effects) are not compensable and insurers do not have to pay for:

**(a)** Dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), except for treatment of compensable interstitial cystitis;

**(b)** Intradiscal electrothermal therapy (IDET);

**(c)** Surface electromyography (EMG) tests;

**(d)** Rolfing;

**(e)** Prolotherapy;

**(f)** Thermography;

**(g)** Lumbar artificial disc replacement, unless it is a single level replacement with an unconstrained or semi-constrained metal on polymer device and:

**(A)** The single level artificial disc replacement is between L3 and S1;

**(B)** The patient is 16 to 60 years old;

**(C)** The patient underwent a minimum of six months unsuccessful exercise based rehabilitation; and

**(D)** The procedure is not found inappropriate under OAR 436-010-0230;

**(h)** Cervical artificial disc replacement, unless the procedure is a single level or a two level contiguous cervical artificial disc replacement with a device that has Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval for the procedure; and

**(i)** Platelet rich plasma (PRP) injections.

**(13) Missed Appointment (No Show).**

(a) In general, the insurer does not have to pay for “no show” appointments. However, insurers must pay for “no show” appointments for arbiter exams, director required medical exams, independent medical exams, worker requested medical exams, and closing exams. If the patient does not give 48 hours notice, the insurer must pay the provider 50 percent of the exam or testing fee and 100 percent for any review of the file that was completed prior to cancellation or missed appointment.

(b) Other than missed appointments for arbiter exams, director required medical exams, independent medical exams, worker requested medical exams, and closing exams, a provider may bill a patient for a missed appointment if:

(A) The provider has a written missed-appointment policy that applies not only to workers' compensation patients, but to all patients;

(B) The provider routinely notifies all patients of the missed-appointment policy;

(C) The provider's written missed-appointment policy shows the cost to the patient; and

(D) The patient has signed the missed-appointment policy.

(c) The implementation and enforcement of subsection (b) of this section is a matter between the provider and the patient. The division is not responsible for the implementation or enforcement of the provider's policy.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.726(4), 656.245, 656.248, 656.252, 656.254

Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.245, 656.248, 656.252, 656.254

Hist: Amended 3/2/22 as Admin. Order 22-050, eff. 4/1/22

Amended 6/13/22 as Admin. Order 22-053, eff. 7/1/22

Amended 12/19/22 as Admin. Order 22-066, eff. 1/1/23 Temp

Amended 3/9/23 as Admin. Order 23-050, eff. 4/1/23

[Amended 12/26/23 as Admin. Order 23-057, eff. 1/1/24](#)

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

**436-009-0012      Telehealth (*temporary rule*)**

**(1) Definitions.**

(a) For the purpose of this rule, “**telehealth**” means providing healthcare remotely by means of telecommunications technology, including but not limited to telemedicine and telephonic or online digital services.

(b) For the purpose of this rule, “**telemedicine**” means synchronous medical services provided via a real-time interactive audio and video telecommunications system between a patient at an originating site and a provider at a distant site.

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(c) “**Distant site**” means the place where the provider providing medical services to a patient through telehealth is located.

(d) “**Originating site**” means the place where the patient receiving medical services through telehealth is located.

**(2) Scope of services.**

(a) All services must be appropriate, and the form of communication must be appropriate for the service provided.

(b) Notwithstanding OAR 436-009-0004, medical services that may be provided through telemedicine are not limited to those listed in Appendix P of CPT<sup>®</sup> 2023 [or CPT<sup>®</sup> 2024](#).

**(3) Distant site provider billing.**

(a) When billing for telemedicine services, the distant site provider must:

(A) Use the place of service (POS) code “02” (Telehealth Provided Other than in Patient’s Home) or “10” (Telehealth Provided in Patient’s Home); and

(B) Use modifier 95 to identify the service as a synchronous medical service rendered via a real-time interactive audio and video telecommunications system.

(b) When billing for telehealth services other than telemedicine services, the distant site provider:

(A) Must use the POS code “02” (Telehealth Provided Other than in Patient’s Home) or “10” (Telehealth Provided in Patient’s Home); and

(B) May not use modifier 95.

**(4) Originating site billing.**

When billing for telehealth services, the originating site may charge a facility fee using HCPCS code Q3014, if the site is:

(a) The office of a physician or practitioner; or

(b) A health care facility including but not limited to a hospital, rural health clinic, skilled nursing facility, or community mental health center.

**(5) Payment.**

(a) Insurers must pay distant site providers at the non-facility rate.

(b) Equipment or supplies at the distant site are not separately payable.

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- (c) The payment amount for code Q3014 is \$35.70 per unit or the provider's usual fee, whichever is lower. In calculating the units of time, 15 minutes, or any portion of 15 minutes, equals one unit.
- (d) Professional fees of supporting providers at the originating site are not separately payable.
- (e) Insurers are not required to pay a telehealth transmission fee (HCPCS code T1014).

Stat. Auth.: ORS 726(4), 656.245, 656.248, 656.252, 656.254  
Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.245, 656.248, 656.252, 656.254  
Hist: Amended 3/2/22 as Admin. Order 22-050, eff. 4/1/22  
Amended 12/19/22 as Admin. Order 22-066, eff. 1/1/23 Temp  
Amended 3/9/23 as Admin. Order 23-050, eff. 4/1/23

[Amended 12/26/23 as Admin. Order 23-057, eff. 1/1/24](#)

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-009-0018      Discounts and Contracts**

### **(1) Discounts.**

(a) An insurer may only apply the following discounts to a medical service provider's or clinic's fee:

(A) A fee agreed to under a fee discount agreement that conforms to this rule and has been reported to the director; or

(B) A fee agreed to by the medical service provider or clinic under an MCO contract to cover services provided to a worker enrolled in the MCO.

(b) If the insurer has multiple contracts with a medical service provider or clinic, and one of the contracts is through an MCO for services provided to an enrolled worker, the insurer may only apply the discount under the MCO's contract.

(c) Any discount under a fee discount agreement cannot be more than 10 percent of the fee schedule amount.

(d) An insurer may not apply a fee discount until the medical service provider or clinic and the insurer have signed the fee discount agreement.

### **(2) Fee Discount Agreements.**

(a) The fee discount agreement between the parties must be on the provider's letterhead and contain all the information listed on [Form 3659](#). [Bulletin 352](#) provides further information. The agreement must include the following:

(A) A statement that the medical service provider or clinic understands and voluntarily agrees with the terms of the fee discount agreement;

(B) The effective and end dates of the agreement;

(C) The discount rate or rates under the agreement;



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- (D) A statement that the insurer or employer may not direct patients to the provider or clinic, and that the insurer or employer may not direct or manage the care a patient receives;
  - (E) A statement that the agreement only applies to patients who are being treated for Oregon workers' compensation claims;
  - (F) A statement that the fee discount agreement may not be amended. A new fee discount agreement must be executed to change the terms between the parties;
  - (G) A statement that either party may terminate the agreement by providing the other party with 30 days written notice;
  - (H) The name and address of the singular insurer or self-insured employer that will apply the discounts;
  - (I) The national provider identifier (NPI) for the provider or clinic; and
  - (J) Other terms and conditions to which the medical service provider or clinic and the insurer agree and that are consistent with these rules.
- (b) Once the fee discount agreement has been signed by the insurer and medical service provider or clinic, the insurer must report the fee discount agreement to the director by completing the director's online form. The following information must be included:
- (A) The insurer's name that will apply the discounts under the fee discount agreement;
  - (B) The medical service provider's or clinic's name;
  - (C) The effective date of the agreement;
  - (D) The end date of the agreement;
  - (E) The discount rate under the agreement; and
  - (F) An indication that all the terms required under section (2)(a) of this rule are included in the signed fee discount agreement.

**(3) Fee Discount Agreement Modifications and Terminations.**

- (a) When the medical service provider or clinic and the insurer agree to modify an existing fee discount agreement, the parties must enter into a new fee discount agreement.
- (b) Either party to the fee discount agreement may terminate the agreement by providing 30 days written notice to the other party. The insurer must report the termination to the director prior to the termination taking effect by completing the director's online form. The following information must be reported:
  - (A) The insurer's name;
  - (B) The medical service provider's or clinic's name; and
  - (C) The termination date of the agreement.

**(4) Other Medical Providers.**

- (a) For the purpose of this rule, “other medical providers” means providers such as hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, or vendors of medical services and does not include medical service providers or clinics.
- (b) The insurer may apply a discount to the medical provider’s fee if a written or verbal contract exists.
- (c) If the insurer and the medical provider have multiple contracts, only one discount may be applied.
- (d) If the insurer has multiple contracts with a provider and one of the contracts is through an MCO for services provided to an enrolled worker, the insurer may only apply the discount under the MCO’s contract.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.726(4); Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.248  
Hist: Amended 3/12/14 as Admin. Order 14-052, eff. 4/1/14  
Amended 3/12/15 as Admin. Order 15-058, eff. 4/1/15  
Amended 3/11/19 as Admin. Order 19-051, eff. 4/1/19  
See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-009-0020      Hospitals**

**(1) Inpatient.**

- (a) For the purposes of this rule, hospital inpatient services are those services that are billed with codes "0111" through "0118" in form locator #4 on the UB-04 billing form.
- (b) Hospital inpatient bills must include:
  - (A) For dates of service prior to Oct. 1, 2015, ICD-9-CM codes, and for dates of service on and after Oct. 1, 2015, ICD-10-CM codes;
  - (B) When applicable, procedural codes;
  - (C) The hospital’s NPI; and
  - (D) The Medicare Severity Diagnosis Related Group (MS-DRG) code, except for:
    - (i) Bills from critical access hospitals, (See [Bulletin 290](#)); or
    - (ii) Bills containing revenue code 002x.
- (c) Unless otherwise provided by contract, the insurer must pay the audited bill for hospital inpatient services by multiplying the amount charged by the hospital’s adjusted cost-to-charge ratio (See [Bulletin 290](#)). The insurer must pay in-state hospitals not listed in Bulletin 290 at 80 percent of billed charges for inpatient services.

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**(2) Outpatient.**

(a) For the purposes of this rule, hospital outpatient services are those services that are billed with codes "0131" through "0138" in form locator #4 on the UB-04 billing form.

(b) Hospital outpatient bills must, when applicable, include the following:

(A) Revenue codes;

(B) For dates of service prior to Oct. 1, 2015, ICD-9-CM codes, and for dates of service on and after Oct. 1, 2015, ICD-10-CM codes,

(C) CPT® codes and HCPCS codes; and

(D) The hospital's NPI.

(c) Unless otherwise provided by contract, the insurer must pay for hospital outpatient services as follows:

Revenue Code	Pay Amount:	
0320-0359 0400-0409 0420-0449 0610-0619	Lesser of:	Non-facility column in Appendix B or
		The amount billed
0960-0989	Lesser of:	Facility column in Appendix B or
		The amount billed
All other revenue codes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For hospitals listed in <a href="#">Bulletin 290</a>, the amount billed multiplied by the cost-to-charge ratio.</li> <li>• For in-state hospitals not listed in Bulletin 290, 80% of the amount billed.</li> <li>• For out-of-state hospitals, the amount billed multiplied by a cost-to-charge ratio of 1.000.</li> </ul>	

**(3) Specific Circumstances.**

When a patient is seen initially in an emergency department and is then admitted to the hospital for inpatient treatment, the services provided immediately prior to admission are considered part of the inpatient treatment. Diagnostic testing done prior to inpatient treatment is considered part of the hospital services subject to the hospital inpatient fee schedule.

**(4) Out-of-State Hospitals.**

- (a) Unless otherwise agreed upon by the hospital and the insurer, insurers must pay an out-of-state hospital for inpatient services as outlined in subsection (1)(c) of this rule and for outpatient services as outlined in subsection (2)(c) of this rule.
- (b) The payment to out-of-state hospitals may be negotiated between the insurer and the hospital.
- (c) Any agreement for payment less than the Oregon fee schedule amount must be in writing and signed by the hospital and insurer representative.
- (d) The agreement must include language that the hospital will not bill the patient any remaining balance and that the negotiated amount is considered payment in full.
- (e) Notwithstanding OAR 436-009-0010(8), if the insurer and the hospital are unable to reach an agreement within 45 days of the insurer's receipt of the bill, the insurer must pay an out-of-state hospital for inpatient services as outlined in subsection (1)(c) of this rule and for outpatient services as outlined in subsection (2)(c) of this rule.

**(5) Calculation of Cost-to-Charge Ratio Published in [Bulletin 290](#).**

- (a) Each hospital's CMS 2552 form and financial statement is the basis for determining its adjusted cost-to-charge ratio. If a current form 2552 is not available, then financial statements may be used to develop estimated data. If the adjusted cost-to-charge ratio is determined from estimated data, the hospital will receive the lower ratio of either the hospital's last published cost-to-charge ratio or the hospital's cost-to-charge ratio based on estimated data.
- (b) The basic cost-to-charge ratio is developed by dividing the total net expenses for allocation shown on Worksheet A, and as modified in subsection (c), by the total patient revenues from Worksheet G-2.
- (c) The net expenses for allocation derived from Worksheet A is modified by adding, from Worksheet A-8, the expenses for:
  - (A) Provider-based physician adjustment;
  - (B) Patient expenses such as telephone, television, radio service, and other expenses determined by the director to be patient-related expenses; and
  - (C) Expenses identified as for physician recruitment.
- (d) The basic cost-to-charge ratio is further modified to allow a factor for bad debt and the charity care provided by each hospital. The adjustment for bad debt and charity care is calculated in two steps. Step one: Add the dollar amount for net bad debt to the dollar amount for charity care. Divide this sum by the dollar amount of the total patient revenues, from Worksheet G-2, to compute the bad debt and charity ratio. Step two:

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Multiply the bad debt and charity ratio by the basic cost-to-charge ratio calculated in subsection (5)(b) to obtain the factor for bad debt and charity care.

(e) The basic cost-to-charge ratio is further modified to allow an adequate return on assets. The director will determine a historic real growth rate in the gross fixed assets of Oregon hospitals from the audited financial statements. This real growth rate and the projected growth in a national fixed weight price deflator will be added together to form a growth factor. This growth factor will be multiplied by the total fund balance, from Worksheet G of each hospital's CMS 2552 to produce a fund balance amount. The fund balance amount is then divided by the total patient revenues from Worksheet G-2, to compute the fund balance factor.

(f) The factors resulting from subsections (5)(d) and (5)(e) of this rule are added to the ratio calculated in subsection (5)(b) of this rule to obtain the adjusted cost-to-charge ratio. In no event will the adjusted cost-to-charge ratio exceed 1.00.

(g) The adjusted cost-to-charge ratio for each hospital will be revised annually, at a time based on their fiscal year, as described by bulletin. Each hospital must submit a copy of its CMS 2552 and financial statements each year within 150 days of the end of the hospital's fiscal year to the Information Technology and Research Section, Department of Consumer and Business Services. The adjusted cost-to-charge ratio schedule will be published by bulletin yearly.

(h) For newly formed or established hospitals for which no CMS 2552 has been filed or for which there is insufficient data, or for those hospitals that do not file Worksheet G-2 with the submission of their CMS 2552, the division determines an adjusted cost-to-charge ratio for the hospital based upon the adjusted cost to charge ratios of a group of hospitals of similar size or geographic location.

(i) If the financial circumstances of a hospital unexpectedly or dramatically change, the division may revise the hospital's adjusted cost-to-charge ratio to allow equitable payment.

(j) If audit of a hospital's CMS 2552 by the CMS produces significantly different data from that obtained from the initial filing, the division may revise the hospital's adjusted cost-to-charge ratio to reflect the data developed subsequent to the initial calculation.

(k) Notwithstanding subsections (1)(c) and (2)(c) of this rule, the director may exclude rural hospitals from imposition of the adjusted cost-to-charge ratio based upon a determination of economic necessity. The rural hospital exclusion will be based on the financial health of the hospital reflected by its financial flexibility index. All rural hospitals having a financial flexibility index at or below the median for all Oregon critical access hospitals qualify for the rural exemption. Rural hospitals that are designated as critical access hospitals under the Oregon Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program are automatically exempt from imposition of the adjusted cost-to-charge ratio.

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Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.726(4), also see 656.012, 656.236(5), 656.327(2), 656.313(4)(d)  
Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.248; 656.252; 656.256  
Hist: Amended 3/4/20 as Admin. Order 20-053, eff. 4/1/20  
Amended 3/2/22 as Admin. Order 22-050, eff. 4/1/22  
Amended 3/9/23 as Admin. Order 23-050, eff. 4/1/23  
See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-009-0023    Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC)** ***(temporary rule)***

### **(1) Billing Form.**

(a) The ASC must submit bills on a completed, current CMS 1500 form (see OAR 436-009-0010 (3)) unless the ASC submits medical bills electronically. Computer-generated reproductions of the CMS 1500 form may also be used.

(b) The ASC must add a modifier “SG” in box 24D of the CMS 1500 form to identify the facility charges.

### **(2) ASC Facility Fee.**

(a) The following services are included in the ASC facility fee and the ASC may not receive separate payment for them:

- (A) Nursing, technical, and related services;
- (B) Use of the facility where the surgical procedure is performed;
- (C) Drugs and biologicals designated as packaged in Appendix D, surgical dressings, supplies, splints, casts, appliances, and equipment directly related to the provision of the surgical procedure;
- (D) Radiology services designated as packaged in Appendix D;
- (E) Administrative, record-keeping, and housekeeping items and services;
- (F) Materials for anesthesia;
- (G) Supervision of the services of an anesthetist by the operating surgeon; and
- (H) Packaged services identified in Appendix C or D.

(b) The payment for the surgical procedure (i.e., the ASC facility fee) does not include physician’s services, laboratory, X-ray, or diagnostic procedures not directly related to the surgical procedures, prosthetic devices, orthotic devices, durable medical equipment (DME), or anesthetists’ services.

### **(3) ASC Billing.**

(a) The ASC should not bill for packaged codes as separate line-item charges when the payment amount says “packaged” in Appendices C or D.

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**(b)** When the ASC provides packaged services (see Appendices C and D) with a surgical procedure, the billed amount should include the charges for the packaged services.

**(c)** For the purpose of this rule, an implant is an object or material inserted or grafted into the body. When the ASC's cost for an implant is \$100 or more, the ASC may bill for the implant as a separate line item. The ASC must provide the insurer a receipt of sale showing the ASC's cost of the implant.

**(4) ASC Payment.**

**(a)** Unless otherwise provided by contract, insurers must pay ASCs for services according to this rule.

**(b)** Insurers must pay for surgical procedures (i.e., ASC facility fee) and ancillary services the lesser of:

**(A)** The maximum allowable payment amount for the HCPCS code found in Appendix C for surgical procedures, and in Appendix D for ancillary services integral to a surgical procedure; or

**(B)** The ASC's usual fee for surgical procedures and ancillary services.

**(c)** When more than one procedure is performed in a single operative session, insurers must pay the principal procedure at 100 percent of the maximum allowable fee, and the secondary and all subsequent procedures at 50 percent of the maximum allowable fee.

A diagnostic arthroscopic procedure performed preliminary to an open operation is considered a secondary procedure and should be paid accordingly.

The multiple surgery discount described in this section does not apply to codes listed in Appendix C with an "N" in the "Subject to Multiple Procedure Discounting" column.

**(d)** The table below lists packaged surgical codes that ASCs may perform without any other surgical procedure. In this case do not use Appendix C to calculate payment, use the rates listed below instead.

CPT® Code	Maximum Payment Amount		CPT® Code	Maximum Payment Amount
23350	\$235.12		36410	\$19.94
25246	\$220.99		36416	80% of billed
27093	\$304.90		36620	80% of billed
27648	\$274.16		62284	\$282.47
36000	\$39.05		62290	\$417.89

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(e) When the ASC's cost of an implant is \$100 or more, insurers must pay for the implants at 110 percent of the ASC's actual cost documented on a receipt of sale and not according to Appendix D or E.

(f) When the ASC's cost of an implant is less than \$100, insurers are not required to pay separately for the implant. An implant may consist of several separately billable components, some of which may cost less than \$100. For payment purposes, insurers must add the costs of all the components for the entire implant and use that total amount to calculate payment for the implant.

(g) The insurer does not have to pay the ASC when the ASC provides services to a patient who is enrolled in a managed care organization (MCO) and:

- (A) The ASC is not a contracted facility for the MCO;
- (B) The MCO has not pre-certified the service provided; or
- (C) The surgeon is not an MCO panel provider.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.726(4)

Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.245; 656.248; 656.252

Hist: Amended 3/2/22 as Admin. Order 22-050, eff. 4/1/22

Amended 12/19/22 as Admin. Order 22-066, eff. 1/1/23 Temp

Amended 3/9/23 as Admin. Order 23-050, eff. 4/1/23

Amended 12/26/23 as Admin. Order 23-057, eff. 1/1/24

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-009-0025 Worker Reimbursement**

### **(1) General.**

(a) When the insurer accepts the claim the insurer must notify the worker in writing that:

- (A) The insurer will reimburse claim-related services paid by the worker; and
- (B) The worker has two years to request reimbursement.

(b) The worker must request reimbursement from the insurer in writing. The insurer may require reasonable documentation such as a sales slip, receipt, or other evidence to support the request. The worker may use [Form 3921 – Request for Reimbursement of Expenses](#).

(c) Insurers must date stamp requests for reimbursement on the date received.

(d) The insurer or its representative must provide a written explanation to the worker for each type of out-of-pocket expense (mileage, lodging, medication, etc.) being paid or denied.

(e) The explanation to the worker must be in 10 point size font or larger and must include:



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- (A) The amount of reimbursement for each type of out-of-pocket expense requested.
- (B) The specific reason for nonpayment, reduced payment, or discounted payment for each itemized out-of-pocket expense the worker submitted for reimbursement;
- (C) An Oregon or toll-free phone number for the insurer or its representative, and a statement that the insurer or its representative must respond to a worker's reimbursement question within two days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays;
- (D) The following notice, Web link, and phone number:  
 "To access [Bulletin 112](#) with information about reimbursement amounts for travel, food, and lodging costs visit [wcd.oregon.gov](http://wcd.oregon.gov) or call 503-947-7606.";
- (E) Space for the worker's signature and date; and
- (F) A notice of right to administrative review as follows:

**"If you disagree with this decision about this payment, please contact {the insurer or its representative} first. If you are not satisfied with the response you receive, you may request administrative review by the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services. Your request for review must be made within 90 days of the mailing date of this explanation. To request review, sign and date in the space provided, indicate what you believe is incorrect about the payment, and mail this document with the required supporting documentation to the Workers' Compensation Division, Medical Resolution Team, PO Box 14480, Salem, OR 97309-0405. Or you may fax the request to the director at 503-947-7629. You must also send a copy of the request to the insurer. You should keep a copy of this document for your records."**

(f) According to ORS 656.325(1)(f) and OAR 436-060-0095(4), when a worker attends an independent medical examination (IME), the insurer must reimburse the worker for related costs regardless of claim acceptance, deferral, or denial.

## **(2) Timeframes.**

- (a) The worker must submit a request for reimbursement of claim-related costs by whichever date is later:
  - (A) Two years from the date the costs were incurred or
  - (B) Two years from the date the claim or medical condition is finally determined compensable.
- (b) The insurer may disapprove the reimbursement request if the worker requests reimbursement after two years as listed in subsection (a).
- (c) On accepted claims the insurer must, within 30 days of receiving the reimbursement request, reimburse the worker if the request shows the costs are related to the accepted

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claim or disapprove the request if unreasonable or if the costs are not related to the accepted claim.

(A) The insurer may request additional information from the worker to determine if costs are related to the accepted claim within 30 days of receiving the reimbursement request.

(B) If additional information is needed, the time needed to obtain the information is not counted in the 30-day time frame for the insurer to issue reimbursement or disapprove the request.

(d) When the insurer receives a reimbursement request before claim acceptance, and the claim is ultimately accepted, the insurer must, within 30 days of receiving the reimbursement request or 14 days of claim acceptance, whichever is later, reimburse the worker if the request shows the costs are related to the accepted claim or disapprove the request if unreasonable or if the costs are not related to the accepted claim.

(A) The insurer may request additional information from the worker to determine if costs are related to the accepted claim within 30 days of receiving the reimbursement request or 14 days of claim acceptance, whichever is later.

(B) If additional information is needed, the time needed to obtain the information is not counted in the 30-day or 14-day time frame for the insurer to issue reimbursement or disapprove the request.

(e) When any action, other than those listed in subsections (c) and (d) of this section, causes the reimbursement request to be payable, the insurer must reimburse the worker within 14 days of the action.

(f) In a claim for aggravation or a new medical condition, reimbursement requests are not due and payable until the aggravation or new medical condition is accepted.

(g) If the claim is denied, requests for reimbursement must be returned to the worker within 14 days, and the insurer must retain a copy.

### **(3) Meal and Lodging Reimbursement.**

(a) Meal reimbursement is based on whether a meal is reasonably required by necessary travel to a claim-related appointment.

(b) Lodging reimbursement is based on the need for an overnight stay to attend an appointment.

(c) Meals and lodging are reimbursed at the actual cost or the rate published in [Bulletin 112](#), whichever is less. Lodging reimbursement may exceed the maximum rate published in Bulletin 112 when special lodging is required or when the worker is unable to find lodging at or below the maximum rate within 10 miles of the appointment location. The

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reimbursement rates for meals and lodging expenses listed in Bulletin 112 are based on the rates published by the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA).

**(4) Travel Reimbursement.**

(a) Insurers must reimburse workers for actual and reasonable costs for travel to medical providers paid by the worker under ORS 656.245(1)(e), 656.325, and 656.327.

(b) The insurer may limit worker reimbursement for travel to an attending physician if the insurer provides a prior written explanation and a written list of attending physicians that are closer for the worker, of the same specialty, and who are able and willing to provide similar medical services to the worker.

The insurer may limit worker reimbursement for travel to an authorized nurse practitioner if the insurer provides a prior written explanation and a written list of authorized nurse practitioners that are closer for the worker, of the same specialty, and who are able and willing to provide similar medical services to the worker.

The insurer must inform the worker that the worker may continue treating with the established attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner; however, reimbursement of transportation costs may be limited to the distance from the worker's home to a provider on the written list.

(c) Within a metropolitan area the insurer may not limit worker reimbursement for travel to an attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner even if there are medical providers closer to the worker.

(d) Travel reimbursement dispute decisions will be based on principles of reasonableness and fairness within the context of the specific case circumstances as well as the spirit and intent of the law.

(e) Personal vehicle mileage is the reasonable actual distance based on the beginning and ending addresses. The mileage reimbursement is limited to the rate published in Bulletin 112. The reimbursement rates for mileage expenses listed in Bulletin 112 are based on the rates published by the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA).

(f) Public transportation or, if required, special transportation will be reimbursed based on actual cost.

**(5) Other Reimbursements.**

(a) The insurer must reimburse the worker for other claim-related expenses based on actual cost. However, reimbursement for hearing aids is limited to the amounts listed in OAR 436-009-0080.

(b) For prescription medications, the insurer must reimburse the worker based on actual cost. When a provider prescribes a brand-name drug, pharmacies must dispense the

generic drug (if available), according to ORS 689.515.

When a worker insists on receiving the brand-name drug, and the prescribing provider has not prohibited substitution, the worker must either pay the total cost of the brand-name drug out of pocket or pay the difference between the cost of the brand-name drug and generic to the pharmacy. The worker may then request reimbursement from the insurer. However, if the insurer has previously notified the worker in writing that the worker is liable for the difference between the generic and brand-name drug, the insurer only has to reimburse the worker the generic price of the drug.

(c) For IMEs, child care costs are reimbursed at the rate prescribed by the State of Oregon Department of Human Services.

(d) Home health care provided by a worker's family member is not required to be under the direct control and supervision of the attending physician. A worker may receive reimbursement for such home health care services only if the family member demonstrates competency to the satisfaction of the worker's attending physician.

## **(6) Advancement Request.**

If necessary to attend a medical appointment, the worker may request an advance for transportation and lodging expenses. Such a request must be made to the insurer in sufficient time to allow the insurer to process the request.

Stat. Auth: ORS 656.245, 656.325, 656.704, and 656.726(4); Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.245, 656.704, and 656.726(4)  
Hist: Amended 3/2/22 as Admin. Order 22-050, eff. 4/1/22  
Amended 6/13/22 as Admin. Order 22-053, eff. 7/1/22  
Amended 3/9/23 as Admin. Order 23-050, eff. 4/1/23  
See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-009-0030 Insurer's Duties and Responsibilities**

### **(1) General.**

(a) The insurer must pay for medical services related to a compensable injury claim, except as provided by OAR 436-060-0055.

(b) The insurer, or its designated agent, may request from the medical provider any and all necessary records needed to review accuracy of billings. The medical provider may charge an appropriate fee for copying documents under OAR 436-009-0060. If the evaluation of the records must be conducted on-site, the provider must furnish a reasonable work-site for the records to be reviewed at no cost. These records must be provided or made available for review within 14 days of a request.

(c) The insurer must establish an audit program for bills for all medical services to determine that the bill reflects the services provided, that appropriate prescriptions and treatment plans are completed in a timely manner, that payments do not exceed the

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maximum fees adopted by the director, and that bills are submitted in a timely manner. The audit must be continuous and must include no fewer than 10 percent of medical bills.

The insurer must provide upon the director's request documentation establishing that the insurer is conducting a continuous audit of medical bills. This documentation must include, but not be limited to, medical bills, internal audit forms, and any medical charge summaries prepared by private medical audit companies.

**(2) Bill Processing.**

(a) Insurers must date stamp medical bills, chart notes, and other documentation upon receipt. Bills not submitted according to OAR 436-009-0010(1)(b), (3), and (7) must be returned to the medical provider within 20 days of receipt of the bill with a written explanation describing why the bill was returned and what needs to be corrected. A request for chart notes on EDI billings must be made to the medical provider within 20 days of the receipt of the bill.

The number of days between the date the insurer returns the bill or requests chart notes and the date the insurer receives the corrected bill or chart notes, does not count toward the 45 days within which the insurer is required to make payment.

(b) The insurer must retain a copy of each medical provider's bill received by the insurer or must be able to reproduce upon request data relevant to the bill, including but not limited to, provider name, date of service, date the insurer received the bill, type of service, billed amount, coding submitted by the medical provider as described in OAR 436-009-0010(1)(b) and (3)(b), and insurer action, for any nonpayment or fee reduction. This includes all bills submitted to the insurer even when the insurer determines no payment is due.

(c) Any service billed with a code number commanding a higher fee than the services provided must be returned to the medical provider for correction or paid at the value of the service provided.

**(3) Payment Requirements.**

(a) Insurers must pay bills for medical services on accepted claims within 45 days of receipt of the bill, if the bill is submitted in proper form according to OAR 436-009-0010(1)(b), (3)(a) through (7)(c), and clearly shows that the treatment is related to the accepted compensable injury or disease.

(b) The insurer or its representative must provide a written explanation of benefits (EOB) of the services being paid or denied within 45 days of receipt of the bill. If the billing is done electronically, the insurer or its representative may provide this explanation electronically. The insurer or its representative must send the explanation to the medical provider that billed for the services. For the purpose of this rule an EOB has the same meaning as an explanation of review (EOR).

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(c) The written EOB must be in 10 point size font or larger. Electronic and written explanations must include:

(A) The amount of payment for each service billed. When the payment covers multiple patients, the explanation must clearly separate and identify payments for each patient;

(B) The specific reason for nonpayment, reduced payment, or discounted payment for each service billed;

(C) An Oregon or toll-free phone number for the insurer or its representative, and a statement that the insurer or its representative must respond to a medical provider's payment question within two days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays;

(D) The following notice, Web link, and phone number:

"To access information about Oregon's Medical Fee and Payment Rules, visit [www.oregonwcdoc.info](http://www.oregonwcdoc.info) or call 503-947-7606.";

(E) Space for the provider's signature and date; and

(F) A notice of right to administrative review as follows:

**"If you disagree with this decision about this payment, please contact {the insurer or its representative} first. If you are not satisfied with the response you receive, you may request administrative review by the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services. Your request for review must be made within 90 days of the mailing date of this explanation. To request review, sign and date in the space provided, indicate what you believe is incorrect about the payment, and mail this document with the required supporting documentation to the Workers' Compensation Division, Medical Resolution Team, PO Box 14480, Salem, OR 97309-0405. Or you may fax the request to the director at 503-947-7629. You must also send a copy of the request to the insurer. You should keep a copy of this document for your records."**

(d) Payment of medical bills is required within 14 days of any action causing the service to be payable, or within 45 days of the insurer's receipt of the bill, whichever is later.

(e) Failure to pay for medical services timely may render the insurer liable to pay a reasonable monthly service charge for the period payment was delayed, if the provider customarily applies such a service charge to the general public.

(f) When there is a dispute over the amount of a bill or the appropriateness of services rendered, the insurer must, within 45 days, pay the undisputed portion of the bill and at the same time provide specific reasons for nonpayment or reduction of each medical service code.

(g) Bills for medical services rendered at the request of the insurer and bills for information submitted at the request of the insurer, which are in addition to those

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required in OAR 436-010-0240 must be paid within 45 days of receipt by the insurer even if the claim is denied.

(h) If an insurer determines that it has made an overpayment to a provider for medical services, the insurer may request a refund from the provider. The insurer must make the request within 180 days of the payment date. Resolution of overpayment disputes must be made under OAR 436-009-0008.

**(4) Electronic Payment.**

(a) An insurer may pay a provider through a direct deposit system, automated teller machine card or debit card, or other means of electronic transfer if the provider voluntarily consents.

(A) The provider's consent must be obtained before initiating electronic payments.

(B) The consent may be written or verbal. The insurer must send the provider a written confirmation when consent is obtained verbally.

(C) The provider may discontinue receiving electronic payments by notifying the insurer in writing.

**(b) Cardholder agreement for ATM or debit cards.**

The provider must receive a copy of the cardholder agreement outlining the terms and conditions under which an automated teller machine card or debit card has been issued before or at the time the initial electronic payment is made.

**(c) Instrument of payment.**

The instrument of payment must be negotiable and payable to the provider for the full amount of the benefit paid, without cost to the provider.

**(5) Communication with Providers.**

(a) The insurer or its representative must respond to a medical provider's inquiry about a medical payment within two days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. The insurer or its representative may not refer the medical provider to another entity to obtain an answer.

(b) An insurer or its representative and a medical provider may agree to send and receive payment information by email or other electronic means. Electronic records sent are subject to the Oregon Consumer Identity Theft Protection Act under ORS 646A.600 to 646A.628 and federal law.

## **(6) EDI Reporting.**

For medical bill reporting requirements, see OAR 436-160 Electronic Data Interchange Medical Bill Data rules.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.726(4)  
Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.245, 656.248, 656.252, 656.260, 656.264, 656.325  
Hist: Amended 3/6/17 as Admin. Order 17-050, eff. 4/1/17  
Amended 3/4/20 as Admin. Order 20-053, eff. 4/1/20  
Amended 3/2/22 as Admin. Order 22-050, eff. 4/1/22  
See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-009-0035 Interim Medical Benefits**

### **(1) General.**

(a) Interim medical benefits under ORS 656.247 only apply to initial claims when the patient has a health benefit plan, i.e., the patient's private health insurance. For the purpose of this rule the Oregon Health Plan is not a health benefit plan.

(b) Interim medical benefits are not due on claims:

(A) When the patient is enrolled in an MCO prior to claim acceptance or denial under ORS 656.245(4)(b)(B); or

(B) When the insurer denies the claim within 14 days of the employer's notice of the claim.

(c) Interim medical benefits cover services provided from the date of employer's notice or knowledge of the claim to the date the insurer accepts or denies the claim. Interim medical benefits do not include treatments excluded under OAR 436-009-0010(12).

(d) When billing for interim medical benefits, the medical provider must bill the workers' compensation insurer according to these rules, and the health benefit plan according to the plan's requirements. The provider may submit a pre-authorization request to the health benefit plan prior to claim acceptance or denial.

(e) If the medical provider knows that the patient filed a work-related claim, the medical provider may not collect any health benefit plan co-pay, co-insurance, or deductible from the patient during the interim period.

### **(2) Claim Acceptance.**

If the insurer accepts the claim:

(a) The insurer must pay medical providers for services according to these rules; and



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(b) The provider, after receiving payment from the insurer, must reimburse the worker and the health benefit plan for any medical expenses, co-pays, co-insurance, or deductibles, paid by the worker or the health benefit plan.

**(3) Claim Denial.**

If the insurer denies the claim:

(a) The insurer must notify the medical provider as provided in OAR 436-060-0140 that an initial claim has been denied; and

(b) The medical provider must bill the health benefit plan, unless the medical provider has previously billed the health benefit plan. The provider must forward a copy of the workers' compensation denial letter to the health benefit plan.

Stat. Auth: ORS 656.245, 656.704, and 656.726(4)  
 Stat. Implemented: ORS 656.247  
 Hist: Amended 10/17/14 as Admin. Order 14-060, eff. 1/1/15  
 Amended 3/12/15 as Admin. Order 15-058, eff. 4/1/15  
 See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

**436-009-0040 Fee Schedule (*temporary rule*)**

**(1) Fee Schedule Table.**

(a) Unless otherwise provided by contract or fee discount agreement allowed by these rules, insurers must pay according to the following table:

Services	Codes	Payment Amount:	
Services billed with CPT® codes, HCPCS codes, or Oregon Specific Codes (OSC):	Listed in Appendix B and performed in medical service provider's office	Lesser of:	Amount in non-facility column in Appendix B, or
			Provider's usual fee
	Listed in Appendix B and <b>not</b> performed in medical service provider's office	Lesser of:	Amount in facility column in Appendix B*, or
			Provider's usual fee
Dental Services billed with dental procedure codes:	D0000 through D9999	90% of provider's usual fee	
Ambulance Services billed with HCPCS codes:	A0425, A0426, A0427, A0428, A0429, A0433, and A0434	100% of provider's usual fee	

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Services billed with HCPCS codes:	Not listed in the fee schedule	80% of provider's usual fee
Services not described above:		80% of provider's usual fee
* However, for all outpatient therapy services (physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech language pathology), use the Non-Facility Maximum column.		

(b) The global period is listed in the column 'Global Days' of Appendix B.

**(2) Anesthesia.**

(a) When using the American Society of Anesthesiologists Relative Value Guide, a basic unit value is determined by reference to the appropriate anesthesia code. The total anesthesia value is made up of a basic unit value and, when applicable, time and modifying units.

(b) Physicians or certified nurse anesthetists may use basic unit values only when they personally administer the general anesthesia and remain in constant attendance during the procedure for the sole purpose of providing the general anesthesia.

(c) Attending surgeons may not add time units to the basic unit value when administering local or regional block for anesthesia during a procedure. The modifier 'NT' (no time) must be on the bill.

(d) Local infiltration, digital block, or topical anesthesia administered by the operating surgeon is included in the payment for the surgical procedure.

(e) In calculating the units of time, use 15 minutes per unit. If a medical provider bills for a portion of 15 minutes, round the time up to the next 15 minutes and pay one unit for the portion of time.

(f) The maximum allowable payment amount for anesthesia codes is determined by multiplying the anesthesia value by a conversion factor of \$60.93.

Unless otherwise provided by contract or fee discount agreement permitted by these rules, the insurer must pay the lesser of:

- (A) The maximum allowable payment amount for anesthesia codes; or
- (B) The provider's usual fee.

(g) When the anesthesia code is designated by IC (individual consideration), unless otherwise provided by a contract or fee discount agreement, the insurer must pay 80 percent of the provider's usual fee.

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(h) Payment for services billed with modifiers QY, QK, or QX is at 50 percent of the applicable fee schedule amount.

**(3) Surgery.**

Unless otherwise provided by contract or fee discount agreement permitted by these rules, insurers must pay multiple surgical procedures performed in the same session according to the following:

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**(a) One surgeon**

Procedures	Appendix B lists:	The payment amount is:	
Principal procedure	A dollar amount	The lesser of:	The amount in Appendix B; or
			The billed amount
	80% of billed amount	80% of billed amount	
Any additional procedures* including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• diagnostic arthroscopy performed prior to open surgery</li><li>• the second side of a bilateral procedure</li></ul>	A dollar amount	The lesser of:	50% of the amount in Appendix B; or
			The billed amount
	80% of billed amount	40% of the billed amount (unless the 50% additional procedure discount has already been applied by the surgeon, then payment is 80% of the billed amount)	
*The multiple surgery discount does not apply to add-on codes listed in Appendix B with a global period indicator of ZZZ.			

**(b) Two or more surgeons**

Procedures	Appendix B lists:	The payment amount for each surgeon is:	
Each surgeon performs a principal procedure (and any additional procedures) Any additional procedures including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• diagnostic arthroscopy performed prior to open surgery</li><li>• the second side of a bilateral procedure</li></ul>	A dollar amount	The lesser of:	75% of the amount in Appendix B for the principal procedures (and 37.5% of the amount in Appendix B for any additional procedures*); or
			The billed amount
	80% of billed amount	60% of the billed amount (and 30% of the billed amount for any additional procedures*) (unless the 50% additional procedure discount has already been applied by the surgeon, then payment is 60% of the billed amount)	
*The multiple surgery discount does not apply to add-on codes listed in Appendix B with a global period indicator of ZZZ.			

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**(c) Assistant surgeons**

<b>Procedures</b>	<b>Appendix B lists:</b>	<b>The payment amount is:</b>	
One or more surgical procedures	A dollar amount	The lesser of:	20% of the surgeon(s) fee calculated in subsections (a) or (b); or
			The billed amount
	80% of billed amount		20% of the surgeon(s) fee calculated in subsections (a) or (b)

**(d) Nurse practitioners or physician assistants**

<b>Procedures</b>	<b>Appendix B lists:</b>	<b>The payment amount is:</b>	
One or more surgical procedures as the primary surgical provider, billed without modifier "81."	A dollar amount	The lesser of:	85% of the surgeon(s) fee calculated in subsections (a) or (b); or
			The billed amount
	80% of billed amount		85% of the surgeon(s) fee calculated in subsections (a) or (b)
One or more surgical procedures as the surgical assistant*	A dollar amount	The lesser of:	15% of the surgeon(s) fee calculated in subsections (a) or (b); or
			The billed amount
	80% of billed amount		15% of the surgeon(s) fee calculated in subsections (a) or (b)
*Physician assistants and nurse practitioners must mark their bills with a modifier "81." Chart notes must document when medical services have been provided by a physician assistant or nurse practitioner.			

**(e) Self-employed surgical assistants who work under the direct control and supervision of a physician**

<b>Procedures</b>	<b>Appendix B lists:</b>	<b>The payment amount is:</b>	
One or more surgical procedures	A dollar amount	The lesser of:	10% of the surgeon(s) fee calculated in subsections (a) or (b); or
			The billed amount
	80% of billed amount		10% of the surgeon(s) fee calculated in subsections (a) or (b)

**(f)** When a surgeon performs surgery following severe trauma, and the surgeon does not think the fees should be reduced under the multiple surgery rule, the surgeon may request special consideration by the insurer. The surgeon must provide written documentation

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and justification. Based on the documentation, the insurer may pay for each procedure at 100 percent.

(g) If the surgery is nonelective, the physician is entitled to payment for the initial evaluation of the patient in addition to the global fee for the surgical procedure(s) performed. However, the pre-operative visit for elective surgery is included in the listed global value of the surgical procedure, even if the pre-operative visit is more than one day before surgery.

**(4) Radiology Services.**

(a) Insurers only have to pay for X-ray films of diagnostic quality that include a report of the findings. Insurers will not pay for 14" x 36" lateral views.

(b) When multiple contiguous areas are examined by computerized axial tomography (CAT) scan, computerized tomography angiography (CTA), magnetic resonance angiography (MRA), or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), then the technical component must be paid 100 percent for the first area examined and 75 percent for all subsequent areas. These reductions do not apply to the professional component.

The reductions apply to multiple studies done within two days, unless the ordering provider provides a reasonable explanation of why the studies needed to be done on separate days.

**(5) Pathology and Laboratory Services.**

(a) The payment amounts in Appendix B apply only when there is direct physician involvement.

(b) Laboratory fees must be billed in accordance with ORS 676.310. If a physician submits a bill for laboratory services that were performed in an independent laboratory, the bill must show the amount charged by the laboratory and any service fee that the physician charges.

**(6) Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Services.**

(a) Time-based CPT<sup>®</sup> codes must be billed and paid per code according to this table:

<b>Treatment Time Per Code</b>	<b>Bill and Pay As</b>
0 to 7 minutes	0
8 to 22 minutes	1 unit
23 to 37 minutes	2 units
38 to 52 minutes	3 units
53 to 67 minutes	4 units
68 to 82 minutes	5 units

(b) Except for CPT<sup>®</sup> codes 97161, 97162, 97163, 97164, 97165, 97166, 97167, or 97168, payment for modalities and therapeutic procedures is limited to a total of three separate CPT<sup>®</sup>-coded services per day for each provider, identified by their federal tax ID number. An additional unit of time for the same CPT<sup>®</sup> code does not count as a separate code. When a provider bills for more than three separate CPT<sup>®</sup>-coded services per day, the insurer is required to pay the codes that result in the highest payment to the provider.

(c) For all time-based modalities and therapeutic procedures that require constant attendance, the chart notes must clearly indicate the time each modality or procedure begins and the time each modality or procedure ends or the amount of time spent providing each modality or procedure.

(d) CPT<sup>®</sup> codes 97010 through 97028 are not payable unless they are performed in conjunction with other procedures or modalities that require constant attendance or knowledge and skill of the licensed medical provider.

(e) When multiple treatments are provided simultaneously by one machine, device, or table there must be a notation on the bill that treatments were provided simultaneously by one machine, device, or table and there must be only one charge.

**(7) Reports.**

(a) Except as otherwise provided in OAR 436-009-0060, when another medical provider, or an insurer or its representative asks a medical provider to prepare a report, or review records or reports, the medical provider should bill the insurer for their report or review of the records using CPT<sup>®</sup> codes such as 99080. The bill should include documentation of time spent reviewing the records or reports.

(b) If the insurer asks the medical service provider to review the IME report and respond, the medical service provider must bill for the time spent reviewing and responding using OSC D0019. The bill should include documentation of time spent.

**(8) Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants.**

Services provided by authorized nurse practitioners, physician assistants, or out-of-state nurse practitioners must be paid at 85 percent of the amount calculated in section (1) of this rule.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.726(4); Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.248  
 Hist: Amended 3/2/22 as Admin. Order 22-050, eff. 4/1/22  
 Amended 12/19/22 as Admin. Order 22-066, eff. 1/1/23 Temp  
 Amended 3/9/23 as Admin. Order 23-050, eff. 4/1/23  
 Amended 12/26/23 as Admin. Order 23-057, eff. 1/1/24  
 See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

**436-009-0060 Oregon Specific Codes**

**(1) Multidisciplinary Services.**

(a) Services provided by multidisciplinary programs not otherwise described by CPT® codes must be billed under Oregon specific codes.

(b) Bills using the multidisciplinary codes must include copies of the treatment record that specifies:

- (A) The type of service rendered,
- (B) The medical provider who provided the service,
- (C) Whether treatment was individualized or provided in a group session, and
- (D) The amount of time treatment was rendered for each service billed.

**(2) Table of all Oregon Specific Codes (For OSC fees, [see Appendix B.](#))**

Service	OSC
<b>Addictionologist consultant services:</b> Services requested by a managed care organization consisting of an extensive records review, a physical exam, reports, responses to letters, and urine drug screening.	D0091
<b>Arbiter exam - level 1:</b> A basic medical exam with no complicating factors.	AR001
<b>Arbiter exam - level 2:</b> A moderately complex exam that may have complicating factors.	AR002
<b>Arbiter exam - level 3:</b> A very complex exam that may have several complicating factors.	AR003
<b>Arbiter exam – limited:</b> A limited exam that may involve a newly accepted condition, or a partial exam.	AR004



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Service	OSC
<b>Arbiter file review - level 1:</b> A file review of a limited record.	AR021
<b>Arbiter file review - level 2:</b> A file review of an average record.	AR022
<b>Arbiter file review - level 3:</b> A file review of a large record or a disability evaluation without an exam.	AR023
<b>Arbiter file review - level 4:</b> A file review of an extensive record.	AR024
<b>Arbiter file review - level 5:</b> A file review of an extensive record with unique factors.	AR025
<b>Arbiter report - level 1:</b> A report that answers standard questions.	AR011
<b>Arbiter report - level 2:</b> A report that answers standard questions and complicating factors.	AR012
<b>Arbiter report - level 3:</b> A report that answers standard questions and multiple complicating factors.	AR013
<b>Arbiter report - complex supplemental report:</b> A report to clarify information or to address additional issues.	AR032
<b>Arbiter report - limited supplemental report:</b> A report to clarify information or to address additional issues.	AR031
<b>Closing exam:</b> An exam to measure impairment after the worker's condition is medically stationary.	CE001
<b>Closing report:</b> A report that captures the findings of the closing exam.	CR001
<b>Consultation – attorney:</b> Time spent consulting with an insurer's attorney.	D0001
<b>Consultation – insurer:</b> Time spent consulting with an insurer.	D0030
<b>Copies of medical records:</b> Copies of medical records requested by the insurer or its representative – does not include chart notes sent with regular billing.	R0001
<b>Copies of medical records electronically:</b> Electronic copies of medical records provided on a disc or USB drive, uploaded to an insurer's secure website, or using secure email or e-fax, requested by the insurer or its representative – does not include chart notes sent with regular billing.	R0002
<b>Deposition time:</b> Time spent being deposed by insurer's attorney, includes time for preparation, travel, and deposition.	D0002

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Service	OSC
<b>Director required medical exam:</b> Services by a physician selected under ORS 656.327 to perform reasonable and appropriate tests, or examine the worker. Services must be paid at an hourly rate for exam (P0001) and record review (P0002) up to six hours combined.	P0001
<b>Director required file review time:</b> Time spent by a physician selected under ORS 656.327 to review the record. Services must be paid at an hourly rate for record review (P0002) and exam (P0001) up to six hours combined.	P0002
<b>Director required medical report:</b> Preparation and submission of the report.	P0003
<b>Director required review - complex case fee:</b> One time, flat fee pre-authorized by the director for an extensive review in a complex case.	P0004
<b>Ergonomic consultation - 1 hour (includes travel):</b> Must be preauthorized by insurer. Work station evaluation to identify the ergonomic characteristics relative to the worker, including recommendations for modifications.	97661
<b>IME (independent medical exam):</b> Report, addendum to a report, file review, or exam.	D0003
<b>IME – review and response:</b> Insurer-requested review and response by treating physician; document time spent.	D0019
<b>Interdisciplinary rehabilitation conference - 10 minutes:</b> A decision-making body composed of each discipline essential to establishing and accomplishing goals, processes, time frames, and expected benefits.	97655
<b>Interdisciplinary rehabilitation conferences – intermediate - 20 minutes:</b> A decision-making body composed of each discipline essential to establishing and accomplishing goals, processes, time frames, and expected benefits.	97656
<b>Interdisciplinary rehabilitation conferences – complex - 30 minutes:</b> A decision-making body composed of each discipline essential to establishing and accomplishing goals, processes, time frames, and expected benefits.	97657
<b>Interdisciplinary rehabilitation conferences – complex - each additional 15 minutes - up to 1 hour maximum:</b> Each additional 15 minutes complex conference - up to 1 hour maximum.	97658
<b>Interpreter mileage</b>	D0041
<b>Interpreter services</b> – provided by a noncertified interpreter, excluding American Sign Language	D0004

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Service	OSC
<b>Interpreter services – American Sign Language</b>	D0005
<b>Interpreter services</b> - provided by a health care interpreter certified by the Oregon Health Authority, excluding American Sign Language	D0006
<b>Job site visit - 1 hour (includes travel):</b> Must be preauthorized by insurer. A work site visit to identify characteristics and physical demands of specific jobs.	97659
<b>Job site visit - each additional 30 minutes</b>	97660
<b>Multidisciplinary conference – initial - up to 30 minutes</b>	97670
<b>Multidisciplinary conference - initial/complex - up to 60 minutes</b>	97671
<b>Narrative – brief:</b> Narrative by the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner, including a summary of treatment to date and current status and, if requested, brief answers to one to five questions related to the current or proposed treatment.	N0001
<b>Narrative – complex:</b> Narrative by the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner, may include past history, history of present illness, treatment to date, current status, impairment, prognosis, and medically stationary information.	N0002
<b>Nursing evaluation - 30 minutes:</b> Nursing assessment of medical status and needs in relationship to rehabilitation.	97664
<b>Nursing evaluation - each additional 15 minutes</b>	97665
<b>Nutrition evaluation - 30 minutes:</b> Evaluation of eating habits, weight, and required modifications in relationship to rehabilitation.	97666
<b>Nutrition evaluation - each additional 15 minutes</b>	97667
<b>PCE (physical capacity evaluation) - first level:</b> This is a limited evaluation primarily to measure musculoskeletal components of a specific body part. These components include such tests as active range of motion, motor power using the 5/5 scale, and sensation. This level generally requires 30 to 45 minutes of actual patient contact. A first level PCE is paid under OSC 99196, which includes the evaluation and report. Additional 15-minute increments may be added if multiple body parts are reviewed and time exceeds 45 minutes. Each additional 15 minutes is paid under OSC 99193, which includes the evaluation and report.	99196

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Service	OSC
<b>PCE - second level:</b> This is a PCE to measure general residual functional capacity to perform work or provide other general evaluation information, including musculoskeletal evaluation. It may be used to establish residual functional capacities for claim closure. This level generally requires not less than two hours of actual patient contact. The second level PCE is paid under OSC 99197, which includes the evaluation and report. Additional 15 minute increments may be added to measure additional body parts, to establish endurance and to project tolerances. Each additional 15 minutes is paid under OSC 99193, which includes the evaluation and report.	99197
<b>PCE – each additional 15 minutes</b>	99193
<b>Physical conditioning - group - 1 hour:</b> Conditioning exercises and activities, graded and progressive.	97642
<b>Physical conditioning - group - each additional 30 minutes</b>	97643
<b>Physical conditioning – individual - 1 hour:</b> Conditioning exercises and activities, graded and progressive.	97644
<b>Physical conditioning – individual - each additional 30 minutes</b>	97645
<b>Professional case management – individual 15 minutes:</b> Evaluate and communicate progress, determine needs/services, coordinate counseling and crisis intervention dependent on needs and stated goals (other than done by physician).	97654
<b>Records review:</b> Review of medical records on an MCO-enrolled claim by a nontreating physician requested by an insurer or a managed care organization.	RECRW
<b>Social worker evaluation - 30 minutes:</b> Psychosocial evaluation to determine psychological strength and support system in relationship to successful outcome.	97668
<b>Social worker evaluation – each additional 15 minutes</b>	97669
<b>Therapeutic education – individual 30 minutes</b> Medical, psychosocial, nutritional, and vocational education dependent on needs and stated goals.	97650
<b>Therapeutic education – individual - each additional 15 minutes</b>	97651
<b>Therapeutic education - group 30 minutes:</b> Medical, psychosocial, nutritional, and vocational education dependent on needs and stated goals.	97652
<b>Therapeutic education - group - each additional 15 minutes</b>	97653
<b>Video Review:</b> Review of video requested by an insurer or a managed care organization.	VIDEO
<b>Vocational evaluation - 30 minutes:</b> Evaluation of work history, education, and transferable skills coupled with physical limitations in relationship to return-to-work options.	97662

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Service	OSC
<b>Vocational evaluation - each additional 15 minutes</b>	97663
<b>WCE (work capacity evaluation):</b> This is a residual functional capacity evaluation that generally requires not less than 4 hours of actual patient contact. The evaluation may include a musculoskeletal evaluation for a single body part. A WCE is paid under OSC 99198, which includes the evaluation and report. Additional 15 minute increments (per additional body part) may be added to determine endurance (e.g., cardiovascular) or to project tolerances (e.g., repetitive motion). Each additional 15 minutes must be paid under OSC 99193, which includes the evaluation and report. Special emphasis should be given to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ability to perform essential physical functions of the job based on a specific job;</li> <li>• Analysis as related to the accepted condition;</li> <li>• The ability to sustain activity over time; and</li> <li>• The reliability of the evaluation findings.</li> </ul>	99198
<b>WCE – each additional 15 minutes</b>	99193
<b>Work simulation - group 1 hour:</b> Real or simulated work activities addressing productivity, safety, physical tolerance, and work behaviors.	97646
<b>Work simulation - group - each additional 30 minutes</b>	97647
<b>Work simulation - individual 1 hour:</b> Real or simulated work activities addressing productivity, safety, physical tolerance, and work behaviors.	97648
<b>Work simulation - individual - each additional 30 minutes</b>	97649
<b>WRME (worker requested medical exam):</b> Exam and report.	W0001

**(3) CARF / JCAHO Accredited Programs.**

(a) Treatment in a chronic pain management program, physical rehabilitation program, work hardening program, or a substance abuse program will not be paid unless the program is accredited for that purpose by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) or the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).

(b) Organizations that have applied for CARF accreditation, but have not yet received accreditation, may receive payment for multidisciplinary programs upon providing evidence to the insurer that an application for accreditation has been filed with and acknowledged by CARF. The organizations may provide multidisciplinary services under this section for a period of up to six months from the date CARF provided notice to the organization that the accreditation process has been initiated, or until such time as CARF accreditation has been received or denied, whichever occurs first.

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(c) Notwithstanding OAR 436-009-0010(4)(a), program fees for services within a multidisciplinary program may be used based upon written pre-authorization from the insurer. Programs must identify the extent, frequency, and duration of services to be provided.

(d) All job site visits and ergonomic consultations must be preauthorized by the insurer.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.726(4) Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.248

Hist: Amended 3/4/20 as Admin. Order 20-053, eff. 4/1/20

Amended 3/2/22 as Admin. Order 22-050, eff. 4/1/22

Amended xx/xx/xx as Admin. Order 23-050, eff. 4/1/23

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-009-0080 Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) (*temporary rule*)**

(1) **Durable medical equipment (DME)**, such as Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS), Microcurrent Electrical Nerve Stimulation (MENS), home traction devices, heating pads, reusable hot/cold packs, etc., is equipment that:

(a) Is primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose,

(b) Can withstand repeated use,

(c) Could normally be rented and used by successive patients,

(d) Is appropriate for use in the home, and

(e) Is not generally useful to a person in the absence of an illness or injury.

(2) A **prosthetic** is an artificial substitute for a missing body part or any device aiding performance of a natural function. Examples: hearing aids, eye glasses, crutches, wheelchairs, scooters, artificial limbs, etc.

The insurer must pay for the repair or replacement of prosthetic appliances damaged as a result of a compensable injury, even if the worker received no other injury. If the appliance is not repairable, the insurer must replace the appliance with a new appliance comparable to the one damaged.

If the worker chooses to upgrade the prescribed prosthetic appliance, the worker may do so but must pay the difference in price.

(3) An **orthotic** is an orthopedic appliance or apparatus used to support, align, prevent or correct deformities, or to improve the function of a moveable body part. Examples: brace, splint, shoe insert or modification, etc.

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**(4) Supplies** are materials that may be reused multiple times by the same person, but a single supply is not intended to be used by more than one person, including, but not limited to incontinent pads, catheters, bandages, elastic stockings, irrigating kits, sheets, and bags.

**(5)** When billing for durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS), providers must use the following modifiers, when applicable:

- (a) NU for purchased, new equipment;
- (b) UE for purchased, used equipment; and
- (c) RR for rented equipment

**(6)** Unless otherwise provided by contract or sections (7) through (11) of this rule, insurers must pay for DMEPOS according to the following table:

<b>If DMEPOS is:</b>	<b>And HCPCS is:</b>	<b>Then payment amount is:</b>	
New	Listed in Appendix E	The lesser of	Amount in Appendix E; or Provider's usual fee
	Not listed in Appendix E	80% of provider's usual fee	
Used	Listed in Appendix E	The lesser of	75% of amount in Appendix E; or Provider's usual fee
	Not listed in Appendix E	80% of provider's usual fee	
Rented (monthly rate)	Listed in Appendix E	The lesser of	10% of amount in Appendix E; or Provider's usual fee
	Not listed in Appendix E	80% of provider's usual fee	

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(7) Unless a contract establishes a different rate, the table below lists maximum monthly rental rates for the codes listed (do not use Appendix E or section (6) to determine the rental rates for these codes):

<b>Code</b>	<b>Monthly Rate</b>		<b>Code</b>	<b>Monthly Rate</b>
E0163	\$26.33		E0849	\$98.40
E0165	\$30.24		E0900	\$93.68
E0168	\$27.28		E0935	\$996.97
E0194	\$3643.05		E0940	\$52.20
E0261	\$259.66		E0971	\$5.68
E0277	\$1135.64		E0990	\$25.52
E0434	\$35.31		E1800	\$262.29
E0441	\$86.85		E1815	\$276.15
E0650	\$1423.50		E2402	\$2487.86

(8) For items rented, unless otherwise provided by contract:

(a) The maximum daily rental rate is one thirtieth (1/30) of the monthly rate established in sections (6) and (7) of this rule.

(b) After a rental period of 13 months, the item is considered purchased, if the insurer so chooses.

(c) The insurer may purchase a rental item anytime within the 13-month rental period, with 75 percent of the rental amount paid applied towards the purchase.

(9) For items purchased, unless otherwise provided by contract, the insurer must pay for labor and reasonable expenses at the provider's usual rate for:

(a) Any labor and reasonable expenses directly related to any repairs or modifications subsequent to the initial set-up; or

(b) The provider may offer a service agreement at an additional cost.

(10) **Hearing aids** must be prescribed by the attending physician, authorized nurse practitioner, or specialist physician. Testing must be done by a licensed audiologist or an otolaryngologist.

The preferred types of hearing aids for most patients are programmable behind the ear (BTE), in the ear (ITE), and completely in the canal (CIC) multichannel. Any other types of hearing aids needed for medical conditions will be considered based on justification from the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner.



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Unless otherwise provided by contract, insurers must pay the provider's usual fee for **hearing services** billed with HCPCS codes V5000 through V5999. However, without approval from the insurer or director, the payment for hearing aids may not exceed \$7000 for a pair of hearing aids, or \$3500 for a single hearing aid.

If the worker chooses to upgrade the prescribed hearing aid, the worker may do so but must pay the difference in price.

**(11)** Unless otherwise provided by contract, insurers must pay the provider's usual fee for **vision services** billed with HCPCS codes V0000 through V2999.

**(12)** The worker may select the service provider. For claims enrolled in a managed care organization (MCO) the worker may be required to select a provider from a list specified by the MCO.

**(13)** Except as provided in section (10) of this rule, the payment amounts established by this rule do not apply to a worker's direct purchase of DMEPOS. Workers are entitled to reimbursement for actual out-of-pocket expenses under OAR 436-009-0025.

**(14)** DMEPOS dispensed by a hospital (inpatient or outpatient) must be billed and paid according to OAR 436-009-0020.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.726(4); Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.248

Hist: Amended 3/2/22 as Admin. Order 22-050, eff. 4/1/22

Amended 12/19/22 as Admin. Order 22-066, eff. 1/1/23 Temp

Amended 3/9/23 as Admin. Order 23-050, eff. 4/1/23

Amended 12/26/23 as Admin. Order 23-057, eff. 1/1/24

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-009-0090      Pharmaceutical**

### **(1) General.**

**(a)** Unless otherwise provided by an MCO contract, prescription medications do not require prior approval even after the patient is medically stationary.

**(b)** When a provider prescribes a brand-name drug, pharmacies must dispense the generic drug (if available), according to ORS 689.515. However, a patient may insist on receiving the brand-name drug and either pay the total cost of the brand-name drug out of pocket or pay the difference between the cost of the brand-name drug and generic to the pharmacy.

**(c)** Unless otherwise provided by MCO contract, the patient may select the pharmacy.

### **(2) Pharmaceutical Billing and Payment.**

**(a)** Pharmaceutical billings must contain the National Drug Code (NDC) to identify the drug or biological billed. This includes compounded drugs, which must be billed by

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ingredient, listing each ingredient's NDC. Ingredients without an NDC are not reimbursable.

(b) All bills from pharmacies must include the prescribing provider's NPI or license number.

(c) Unless otherwise provided by contract, insurers must pay medical providers for prescription medication, including injectable drugs, at the medical provider's usual fee, or the maximum allowable fee, whichever is less. However, drugs provided by a hospital (inpatient or outpatient) must be billed and paid according to OAR 436-009-0020.

(d) Unless directly purchased by the worker (see OAR 436-009-0025(5)), the maximum allowable fee for pharmaceuticals is calculated according to the following table:

<b>If the drug dispensed is:</b>	<b>Then the maximum allowable fee is:</b>
A generic drug	83.5 % of the dispensed drug's AWP plus a \$2.00 dispensing fee
A brand name drug without a generic equivalent or the prescribing provider has specified that the drug may not be substituted with a generic equivalent	83.5 % of the dispensed drug's AWP plus a \$2.00 dispensing fee
A brand name drug with a generic equivalent and the prescribing provider has not prohibited substitution	83.5 % of the average AWP for the class of generic drugs plus a \$2.00 dispensing fee
A compound drug	83.5 % of the AWP for each individual ingredient plus a single compounding fee of \$10.00 (The compounding fee includes the dispensing fee.)

**(Note: "AWP" means the Average Wholesale Price effective on the date the drug was dispensed.)**

(e) Insurers must use a nationally published prescription pricing guide for calculating payments to the provider, e.g., RED BOOK or Medi-Span.

**(3) Dispensing by Medical Service Providers.**

(a) Except in an emergency, prescription drugs for oral consumption dispensed by a physician's or authorized nurse practitioner's office are compensable only for the initial supply to treat the patient, up to a maximum of 10 days.

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(b) For dispensed over-the-counter medications, the insurer must pay the retail-based fee.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.726(4); Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.248, 656.252, 656.254

Hist: Amended 3/12/15 as Admin. Order 15-058, eff. 4/1/15

Amended 3/7/16 as Admin. Order 16-050, eff. 4/1/16

Amended xx/xx/xx as Admin. Order 23-050, eff. 4/1/23

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## 436-009-0110 Interpreters

### (1) Choosing an Interpreter.

(a) A [patient-worker](#) may choose a person to communicate with a medical provider when the [patient-worker](#) and the medical provider speak different languages, including sign language. The [patient-worker](#) may choose a family member, a friend, an employee of the medical provider, or an interpreter. However, [for signed language interpretation services, the worker may only choose an interpreter who is a medical sign language interpreter licensed under Oregon Laws 2023, chapter 414, section 6.a](#) A representative of the worker's employer may not provide interpreter services. The medical provider may disapprove of the [patient's-worker's](#) choice at any time the medical provider feels the interpreter services are not improving communication with the [patient-worker](#), or feels the interpretation is not complete or accurate.

(b) When a worker asks an insurer to arrange for interpreter services, the insurer must:

[\(A\) For interpretation services, other than signed language interpretation services,](#) use a certified or qualified health care interpreter listed on the Oregon Health Care Interpreter Registry of the Oregon Health Authority available at: <http://www.oregon.gov/OHA/OEI/Pages/HCI-Program.aspx>. The interpreter's certification or qualification must be in effect on the date the interpreter services are provided. If no certified or qualified health care interpreter is available, the insurer may schedule an interpreter of its choice subject to the limits in subsection (a) of this section.

[\(B\) For signed language interpretation services, use a sign language interpreter licensed under Oregon Laws 2023, chapter 414.](#)

### (2) Billing.

(a) Interpreters must charge the usual fee they charge to the general public for the same service.

(b) Interpreters may only bill an insurer or, if provided by contract, a managed care organization (MCO). However, if the insurer denies the claim, interpreters may bill the [patient-worker](#).

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(c) Interpreters may bill for interpreter services and for mileage when the round-trip mileage is 15 or more miles. For the purpose of this rule, "mileage" means the number of miles traveling from the interpreter's starting point to the exam or treatment location and back to the interpreter's starting point.

(d) If the interpreter arrives at the provider's office for an appointment that was required by the insurer or the director, e.g., an independent medical exam, a physician review exam, or an arbiter exam, the interpreter may bill for interpreter services and mileage according to section (2)(c) of this rule even if:

- (A) The patient-worker fails to attend the appointment; or
- (B) The provider has to cancel or reschedule the appointment.

(e) If interpreters do not know the workers' compensation insurer responsible for the claim, they may contact the division at 503-947-7814. They may also access insurance policy information at <http://www4.cbs.state.or.us/ex/wcd/cov/index.cfm>.

### **(3) Billing and Payment Limitations.**

(a) When an appointment was not required by the insurer or director, interpreters may not bill any amount for interpreter services or mileage if the provider cancels or reschedules the appointment.

(b) Other than missed appointments for arbiter exams, director required medical exams, independent medical exams, worker requested medical exams, and closing exams, an interpreter may bill a workers' compensation client if the client fails to attend the appointment and if:

- (A) The interpreter has a written missed-appointment policy that applies not only to workers' compensation clients, but to all clients;
- (B) The interpreter routinely notifies all clients of the missed-appointment policy;
- (C) The interpreter's written missed-appointment policy shows the cost to the client; and
- (D) The client has signed the missed-appointment policy.

(c) The implementation and enforcement of subsection (b) of this section is a matter between the interpreter and the client. The division is not responsible for the implementation or enforcement of the interpreter's policy.

(d) The insurer is not required to pay for interpreter services or mileage when the services are provided by:

- (A) A family member or friend of the patientworker; or
- (B) A medical provider's employee.

**(4) Billing Timelines.**

- (a) Interpreters must bill within:
- (A) 60 days of the date of service;
  - (B) 60 days after the interpreter has received notice or knowledge of the responsible workers' compensation insurer or processing agent; or
  - (C) 60 days after any litigation affecting the compensability of the service is final, if the interpreter receives written notice of the final litigation from the insurer.
- (b) If the interpreter bills past the timelines outlined in subsection (a) of this section, the interpreter may be subject to civil penalties as provided in ORS 656.254 and OAR 436-010-0340.
- (c) When submitting a bill later than outlined in subsection (a) of this section, an interpreter must establish good cause.
- (d) A bill is considered sent by the date the envelope is post-marked or the date the document is faxed.

**(5) Billing Form.**

- (a) Interpreters must use an invoice when billing for interpreter services and mileage and use Oregon specific code:
- (A) D0004 for interpreter services, excluding American Sign Language interpreter services, provided by noncertified interpreters;
  - (B) D0005 for American Sign Language interpreter services;
  - (C) D0006 for interpreter services, excluding American Sign Language interpreter services, provided by a health care interpreter certified by the Oregon Health Authority; and
  - (D) D0041 for mileage.
- (b) An interpreter's invoice must include:
- (A) The interpreter's name, the interpreter's company name, if applicable, billing address, and phone number;
  - (B) The [patient's-worker's](#) name;
  - (C) The [patient's-worker's](#) workers' compensation claim number, if known;
  - (D) The correct Oregon specific codes for the billed services (D0004, D0005, D0006, or D0041);
  - (E) The workers' compensation insurer's name and address;
  - (F) The date interpreter services were provided;

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- (G) The name and address of the medical provider that conducted the exam or provided treatment;
- (H) The total amount of time interpreter services were provided; and
- (I) The mileage, if the round trip was 15 or more miles.

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**(6) Payment Calculations.**

(a) Unless otherwise provided by contract, insurers must pay the lesser of the maximum allowable payment amount or the interpreter's usual fee.

(b) Insurers must use the following table to calculate the maximum allowable payment for interpreters:

<b>For:</b>	<b>The maximum payment is:</b>
Interpreter services provided by a noncertified interpreter of an hour or less	\$65.00
Interpreter service of an hour or less provided by health care interpreters certified by the Oregon Health Authority <sup>1</sup>	\$76.00
American sign language interpreter services of an hour or less	\$76.00
Interpreter services provided by a noncertified interpreter of more than one hour	\$16.25 per 15-minute increment; a 15-minute increment is considered a time period of at least eight minutes and no more than 22 minutes.
Interpreter service of more than one hour provided by health care interpreters certified by the Oregon Health Authority <sup>1</sup>	\$19.00 per 15-minute increment; a 15-minute increment is considered a time period of at least eight minutes and no more than 22 minutes.
American sign language interpreter services of more than one hour	\$19.00 per 15-minute increment; a 15-minute increment is considered a time period of at least eight minutes and no more than 22 minutes.
Mileage of less than 15 miles round trip	No payment allowed
Mileage of 15 or more miles round trip	The private vehicle mileage rate published in <a href="#">Bulletin 112</a>
An examination required by the director or insurer that the <a href="#">patient-worker</a> fails to attend or when the provider cancels or reschedules	\$65.00 no-show fee plus payment for mileage if 15 or more miles round trip
An interpreter who is the only person in Oregon able to interpret a specific language	The amount billed for interpreter services and mileage
<sup>1</sup> A list of certified health care interpreters can be found online under the Health Care Interpreter Registry at <a href="http://www.oregon.gov/oha/oei/Pages/HCI-Program.aspx">http://www.oregon.gov/oha/oei/Pages/HCI-Program.aspx</a> .	

**(7) Payment Requirements.**

(a) When the medical exam or treatment is for an accepted claim or condition, the insurer must pay for interpreter services and mileage if the round-trip mileage is 15 or more miles.

(b) When the [patient-worker](#) fails to attend or the provider cancels or reschedules a medical exam required by the director or the insurer, the insurer must pay the no-show fee and mileage if the round-trip mileage is 15 or more miles.

(c) The insurer must retain the invoice and pay the interpreter within:

(A) 14 days of the date of claim acceptance or any action causing the service to be payable, which includes receiving a bill for or chart note of the corresponding medical appointment, or 45 days of receiving the invoice, whichever is later; or

(B) 45 days of receiving the invoice for an exam required by the insurer or director.

(d) When an interpreter bills within 12 months of the date of service, the insurer may not reduce payment due to late billing.

(e) When an interpreter bills over 12 months after the date of service, the bill is not payable, except when a provision of subsection (4)(c) of this rule is the reason the billing was submitted after 12 months.

(f) If the insurer does not receive all the information to process the invoice, other than a bill for or chart note of the corresponding medical appointment, the insurer must return the invoice to the interpreter within 20 days of receipt. The insurer must provide specific information about what is needed to process the invoice.

(g) When there is a dispute over the amount of a bill or the appropriateness of services rendered, the insurer must, within 45 days, pay the undisputed portion of the bill and at the same time provide specific reasons for nonpayment or reduction of each service billed.

(h) The insurer must provide a written explanation of benefits for services paid or denied and must send the explanation to the interpreter that billed for the services. If the billing is done electronically, the insurer or its representative may provide this explanation electronically. All the information on the written explanation must be in 10 point size font or larger.

(i) Electronic and written explanations must include:

(A) The payment amount for each service billed. When the payment covers multiple [patients/workers](#), the explanation must clearly separate and identify payments for each [patient/worker](#);



ORDER NO. 23-054 & 23-057

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- (B) The specific reason for nonpayment, reduced payment, or discounted payment for each service billed;
- (C) An Oregon or toll-free phone number for the insurer or its representative, and a statement that the insurer or its representative must respond to an interpreter's payment questions within two days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays;
- (D) The following notice, Web link, and phone number:  
"To access the information about Oregon's Medical Fee and Payment rules, visit [www.oregonwcdoc.info](http://www.oregonwcdoc.info) or call 503-947-7606";
- (E) Space for a signature and date; and
- (F) A notice of the right to administrative review as follows:  
**"If you disagree with this decision about this payment, please contact {the insurer or its representative} first. If you are not satisfied with the response you receive, you may request administrative review by the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services. Your request for review must be made within 90 days of the mailing date of this explanation. To request review, sign and date in the space provided, indicate what you believe is incorrect about the payment, and mail this document with the required supporting documentation to the Workers' Compensation Division, Medical Resolution Team, PO Box 14480, Salem, OR 97309-0405. Or you may fax the request to the director at 503-947-7629. You must also send a copy of the request to the insurer. You should keep a copy of this document for your records."**
- (j) The insurer or its representative must respond to an interpreter's inquiry about payment within two days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. The insurer or its representative may not refer the interpreter to another entity to obtain the answer.
- (k) The insurer or its representative and an interpreter may agree to send and receive payment information by email or other electronic means. Electronic records sent are subject to the Oregon Consumer Identity Theft Protection Act under ORS 646A.600 to 646A.628 and federal law.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.726(4); Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.245, 656.248

Hist: Amended 3/4/20 as Admin. Order 20-053, eff. 4/1/20

Amended 3/2/22 as Admin. Order 22-050, eff. 4/1/22

[Amended 11/7/23 as Admin. Order 23-054, eff. 1/1/2024](#)

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-009-0998      Sanctions and Civil Penalties**

(1) The director may impose sanctions upon a medical provider or insurer for violation of these rules in accordance with OAR 436-010-0340.

(2) If an insurer applies a contract or fee discount agreement to a provider's bill that is incorrect, the insurer must pay the provider's bill at the provider's usual fee or according to the fee schedule, whichever is less, and the insurer may be subject to a civil penalty.

(3) Although insurers may contract with provider networks for certain services, the insurer is responsible for their own actions as well as the actions of others acting on the insurer's behalf. If an insurer or someone acting on the insurer's behalf violates any provision of these rules, the director may impose a civil penalty against the insurer.

(4) If the director finds a pattern and practice, or an egregious violation of applying incorrect discounts to providers' fees under these rules, by an insurer or someone acting on the insurer's behalf, the director may issue a civil penalty up to the amount allowed under ORS chapter 656.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.726(4)  
Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.245, 656.254, 656.745  
Hist: Amended 3/12/14 as Admin. Order 14-052, eff. 4/1/14  
Amended 3/12/15 as Admin. Order 15-058, eff. 4/1/15  
See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

**Appendix A - Matrix for health care provider types\* See OAR 436-009-0005 and 436-010-0210**

	Attending physician status (primarily responsible for treatment of a patient)	Provide compensable medical services for initial injury or illness	Authorize payment of temporary disability and release the patient to work	Establish impairment findings (permanent disability)	Provide compensable medical services for aggravation of injury or illness
<b>Type A attending physician</b> Medical doctor Doctor of osteopathic medicine Oral and maxillofacial surgeon Podiatric physician and surgeon	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Type B attending physician</b> Chiropractic physician Naturopathic physician <del>Physician assistant</del>	Yes, for a total of 60 consecutive days or 18 visits, from the date of the <u>initial-first</u> visit on the initial claim with any <del>type B</del> attending physician.	Yes, unless the total of 60 consecutive days or 18 visits from the date of the <u>initial-first</u> visit on the initial claim with any <del>type B</del> attending physician has passed. Or, if authorized by an attending physician and under a treatment plan. <del>(Note: physician assistants are not required to have a written treatment plan)</del>	Yes, 30 days from the date of the first visit with any type B attending physician on the initial claim, if within the specified 18 visit period.	No, unless the type B attending physician is a chiropractic physician.	No, unless authorized by <u>a type A</u> attending physician and under a written treatment plan. <del>(Note: physician assistants are not required to have a written treatment plan)</del>
<b>Type C attending physician</b> <u>Physician Assistant</u>	<u>Yes, for a total of 180 consecutive days from the date of the first visit on the initial claim with any physician assistant.</u>	<u>Yes, for 180 consecutive days from the date of the first visit to any physician assistant on the initial claim. Or, if authorized by an attending physician.</u>	<u>Yes, for 180 days from the date of the first visit with any physician assistant on the initial claim.</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>No, unless authorized by a type A attending physician.</u>
Authorized nurse practitioner	No	Yes, for 180 consecutive days from the date of the first visit to any authorized nurse practitioner on the initial claim.  <u>Or, if authorized by an attending physician.</u>	Yes, for 180 days from the date of the first visit with any authorized nurse practitioner on the initial claim.	No	No, unless authorized by <del>the a type A</del> attending physician.
Emergency room physicians	No, if the physician refers the patient to a primary care physician.	Yes	An ER physician who is not authorized to serve as attending physician under ORS 656.005(12)(c) may authorize temporary disability for up to 14 days, including retroactive authorization.	No, if patient referred to a primary care physician.	Yes

	Attending physician status (primarily responsible for treatment of a patient)	Provide compensable medical services for initial injury or illness	Authorize payment of temporary disability and release the patient to work	Establish impairment findings (permanent disability)	Provide compensable medical services for aggravation of injury or illness
"Other Health Care Providers" e.g. acupuncturists	No	Yes, for 30 consecutive days or 12 visits from the date of the first visit on the initial claim with any "Other Health Care Providers."  _Thereafter, services must be provided under a treatment plan and authorized by the attending physician.	No	No	No, unless referred by <del>the</del> <u>a type A</u> attending physician and under a written treatment plan.

\* This matrix does not apply to managed care organizations

### **Appendices B through E**

#### **Oregon Workers' Compensation Maximum Allowable Payment Amounts**

The Workers' Compensation Division no longer adopts the Federal Register that publishes Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) relative value units (RVUs). The division publishes the following Appendices to the division 009 of chapter 436.

Appendix B (physician fee schedule) containing the maximum allowable payment amounts for services provided by medical service providers.

[Effective ~~April~~ January 1, ~~2023~~ 2024]

Appendix C (ambulatory surgery center fee schedule amounts for surgical procedures), containing the maximum allowable payment amounts for surgical procedures including packaged procedures. [Effective ~~April~~ January 1, ~~2023~~ 2024]

Appendix D (ambulatory surgery center fee schedule amounts for ancillary services) containing the maximum allowable payment amounts for ancillary services integral to the surgical procedure. [Effective ~~April~~ January 1, ~~2023~~ 2024]

Appendix E (durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS)) containing the maximum allowable payment amounts for durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies. [Effective ~~April~~ January 1, ~~2023~~ 2024]

*Note: If the above links do not connect you to the division's website, click:*

<https://wcd.oregon.gov/medical/Pages/disclaimer.aspx>

If you have questions, call the Workers' Compensation Division, 503-947-7606.

The five character codes included in the Oregon Workers' Compensation Maximum Allowable Payment Tables are obtained from Current Procedural Terminology (CPT), copyright 2022 and 2023 by the American Medical Association (AMA). CPT is developed by the AMA as a listing of descriptive terms and five character identifying codes and modifiers for reporting medical services and procedures.

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Link to the Maximum Allowable Payment Tables: <https://wcd.oregon.gov/medical/Pages/disclaimer.aspx>

Or, contact the division for a paper copy, 971-286-0316

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND BUSINESS SERVICES  
WORKERS' COMPENSATION DIVISION



**Medical Services**  
**Oregon Administrative Rules**  
**Chapter 436, Division 010**

*Effective Jan. 1, 2024*

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Historical rules: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf)



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**DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND BUSINESS SERVICES  
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*Summary of rule changes effective January 1, 2024:*

- Amended rule 0005 modifies the definition of “come-along provider” to include “physician assistant.”
- Amended rule 0210:
  - Removes “physician assistants” from existing “type B” attending physician category;
  - Includes “physician assistants” in new category of “type C” attending physician;
  - Specifies that physician assistants must certify to the director that they have reviewed packet of material prior to providing compensable medical services;
  - Allows workers to keep a physician assistant as the attending physician for up to 180 days rather than the current 60 days or 18 visits;
  - Allows physician assistants to authorize the payment of temporary disability compensation for 180 days rather than the current 30 days; and
  - Specifies that physician assistants may not make findings regarding the worker’s impairment for the purpose of evaluating the worker’s disability.
- Amended rule 0220 clarifies that, when a worker must change its attending physician, that change does not count toward the worker’s two changes if that change is prompted by the period of treatment by a type C attending physician expiring, a physician assistant’s requirement to refer the worker to an attending physician for a closing examination, or a possible worsening of the worker’s condition following claim closure.
- Amended rule 0225 specifies that any sign language interpreter chosen to assist a worker, whether chosen by the worker or by the insurer, must be a sign language interpreter licensed by the Health Licensing Office under Oregon Laws 2023, chapter 414.
- Amended rule 0230 replaces “physician or authorized nurse practitioner” with “the prescribing provider.”
- Amended rule 0280 adds “physician assistants” to the list of medical service providers unable to perform a worker’s closing exam and clarifies they must refer the worker to a type A attending physician to do the closing exam.
- Amended matrix for health care providers, Appendix A:
  - Removes “physician assistants” from existing “type B” attending physician category;
  - Includes “physician assistants” in new category of “type C” attending physician; and
  - Clarifies that medical services for aggravation of injury or illness provided by a chiropractic physician, naturopathic physician, physician assistant, authorized nurse practitioner, or other health care provider must be authorized by a type A attending physician.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND BUSINESS SERVICES  
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MEDICAL SERVICES RULES

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OREGON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES  
CHAPTER 436, DIVISION 010

NOTE: Revisions are marked: new text | ~~deleted text~~.

## 436-010-0001 Purpose and Applicability of These Rules

### (1) Purpose.

The purpose of these rules is to establish uniform standards for administering the delivery of and payment for medical services to workers within the workers' compensation system.

### (2) Applicability of Rules.

(a) These rules apply on or after the effective date to carry out the provisions of ORS 656.245, 656.247, 656.248, 656.250, 656.252, 656.254, 656.256, 656.260, 656.268, 656.313, 656.325, 656.327, 656.331, 656.704, and 656.794, and govern all providers of medical services licensed or authorized to provide a product or service under ORS chapter 656.

(b) The director may waive procedural rules as justice requires, unless otherwise obligated by statute.

(c) Any orders issued by the division in carrying out the director's authority to enforce Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) chapter 656 and Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) chapter 436, are considered orders of the director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.726(4)

Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.245, 656.248, 656.250, 656.252, 656.254, 656.256, 656.260, 656.268, 656.273, 656.313, 656.325, 656.327, 656.331, 656.704, 656.794

Hist: Amended 3/11/19 as Admin. Order 19-052, eff. 4/1/19

Amended 3/3/21 as Admin. Order 21-052, eff. 4/1/21

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## 436-010-0005 Definitions

(1) Unless a term is specifically defined elsewhere in these rules or the context otherwise requires, the definitions of ORS chapter 656 are hereby incorporated by reference and made part of these rules.

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- (2) **“Administrative review”** means any decision making process of the director requested by a party aggrieved with an action taken under these rules except the hearing process described in OAR 436-001.
- (3) **“Attending physician”** has the same meaning as described in ORS 656.005(12)(b). See Appendix A “Matrix for Health Care Provider Types.”
- (4) **“Authorized nurse practitioner”** means a nurse practitioner licensed under ORS 678.375 to 678.390 who has certified to the director that the nurse practitioner has reviewed informational materials about the workers’ compensation system provided by the director and who has been assigned an authorized nurse practitioner number by the director.
- (5) **“Board”** means the Workers’ Compensation Board and includes its Hearings Division.
- (6) **“Chart note”** means a notation made in chronological order in a medical record in which the medical service provider records information such as subjective and objective findings, diagnosis, treatment rendered, treatment objectives, and return-to-work goals and status.
- (7) **“Come-along provider”** means a primary care physician, chiropractic physician, [physician assistant](#), or an authorized nurse practitioner who is not a managed care organization (MCO) panel provider and who [is authorized to continue](#) to treat the worker when the worker becomes enrolled in an MCO. (See OAR 436-015-0070.)
- (8) **“Date stamp”** means to stamp or display the initial receipt date and the recipient’s name on a paper or electronic document, regardless of whether the document is printed or displayed electronically.
- (9) **“Days”** means calendar days.
- (10) **“Direct control and supervision”** means the physician is on the same premises, at the same time, as the person providing a medical service ordered by the physician. The physician can modify, terminate, extend, or take over the medical service at any time.
- (11) **“Direct medical sequela”** means a condition that is clearly established medically and originates or stems from an accepted condition. For example: The accepted condition is low back strain with herniated disc at L4-5. The worker develops permanent weakness in the leg and foot due to the accepted condition. The weakness is considered a “direct medical sequela.”
- (12) **“Director”** means the director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services or the director’s designee.

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(13) **“Division”** means the Workers' Compensation Division of the Department of Consumer and Business Services.

(14) **“Eligible worker”** means a worker who has filed a claim or who has an accepted claim and whose employer is located in an MCO's authorized geographical service area, covered by an insurer that has a contract with that MCO.

(15) **“Enrolled”** means an eligible worker has received notification from the insurer that the worker is being required to treat under the provisions of a managed care organization (MCO). However, a worker may not be enrolled who would otherwise be subject to an MCO contract if the worker's primary residence is more than 100 miles outside the managed care organization's certified geographical service area.

(16) **“Health care practitioner or health care provider”** has the same meaning as a “medical service provider.”

(17) **“Home health care”** means necessary medical and medically related services provided in the patient's home environment. These services may include, but are not limited to, nursing care, medication administration, personal hygiene, or assistance with mobility and transportation.

(18) **“Hospital”** means an institution licensed by the State of Oregon as a hospital.

(19) **“Initial claim”** means the first open period on the claim immediately following the original filing of the occupational injury or disease claim until the worker is first declared to be medically stationary by an attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner. For nondisabling claims, the “initial claim” means the first period of medical treatment immediately following the original filing of the occupational injury or disease claim ending when the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner does not anticipate further improvement or need for medical treatment, or there is an absence of treatment for an extended period.

(20) **“Insurer”** means the State Accident Insurance Fund Corporation; an insurer authorized under ORS chapter 731 to transact workers' compensation insurance in the state; or, an employer or employer group that has been certified under ORS 656.430 that meets the qualifications of a self-insured employer under ORS 656.407.

(21) **“Interim medical benefits”** means those services provided under ORS 656.247 on initial claims with dates of injury on or after January 1, 2002 that are not denied within 14 days of the employer's notice of the claim.

**DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND BUSINESS SERVICES  
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(22) **“Mailed or mailing date”** means the date a document is postmarked. Requests submitted by facsimile or “fax” are considered mailed as of the date printed on the banner automatically produced by the transmitting fax machine. Hand-delivered requests will be considered mailed as of the date stamped by the division. Phone or in-person requests, where allowed under these rules, will be considered mailed as of the date of the request.

(23) **“Managed care organization” or “MCO”** means an organization formed to provide medical services and certified in accordance with OAR chapter 436, division 015.

(24) **“Medical evidence”** includes, but is not limited to: expert written testimony; written statements; written opinions, sworn affidavits, and testimony of medical professionals; records, reports, documents, laboratory, X-ray and test results authored, produced, generated, or verified by medical professionals; and medical research and reference material used, produced, or verified by medical professionals who are physicians or medical record reviewers in the particular case under consideration.

(25) **“Medical provider”** means a medical service provider, a hospital, a medical clinic, or a vendor of medical services.

(26) **“Medical service”** means any medical treatment or any medical, surgical, diagnostic, chiropractic, dental, hospital, nursing, ambulances, or other related services; drugs, medicine, crutches, prosthetic appliances, braces, and supports; and where necessary, physical restorative services.

(27) **“Medical service provider”** means a person duly licensed to practice one or more of the healing arts.

(28) **“Medical treatment”** means the management and care of a patient for the purpose of combating disease, injury, or disorder. Restrictions on activities are not considered treatment unless the primary purpose of the restrictions is to improve the worker’s condition through conservative care.

(29) **“Parties”** mean the worker, insurer, MCO, attending physician, and other medical provider, unless a specific limitation or exception is expressly provided for in the statute.

(30) **“Patient”** means the same as worker as defined in ORS 656.005(28).

(31) **“Physical capacity evaluation”** means an objective, directly observed, measurement of a worker’s ability to perform a variety of physical tasks combined with subjective analyses of abilities by worker and evaluator. Physical tolerance screening, Blankenship’s Functional Capacity Evaluation, and Functional Capacity Assessment have the same meaning as Physical Capacity Evaluation.

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**(32) “Physical restorative services”** means those services prescribed by the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner to address permanent loss of physical function due to hemiplegia or a spinal cord injury, or to address residuals of a severe head injury. Services are designed to restore and maintain the patient’s highest functional ability consistent with the patient’s condition.

**(33) “Report”** means medical information transmitted in written form containing relevant subjective or objective findings. Reports may take the form of brief or complete narrative reports, a treatment plan, a closing examination report, or any forms as prescribed by the director.

**(34) “Residual functional capacity”** means a patient’s remaining ability to perform work-related activities. A residual functional capacity evaluation includes, but is not limited to, capability for lifting, carrying, pushing, pulling, standing, walking, sitting, climbing, balancing, bending/stooping, twisting, kneeling, crouching, crawling, and reaching, and the number of hours per day the patient can perform each activity.

**(35) “Specialist physician”** means a licensed physician who qualifies as an attending physician and who examines a patient at the request of the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner to aid in evaluation of disability, diagnosis, or provide temporary specialized treatment. A specialist physician may provide specialized treatment for the compensable injury or illness and give advice or an opinion regarding the treatment being rendered, or considered, for a patient’s compensable injury.

**(36) “Work capacity evaluation”** means a physical capacity evaluation with special emphasis on the ability to perform a variety of vocationally oriented tasks based on specific job demands. Work Tolerance Screening has the same meaning as Work Capacity Evaluation.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.726(4) | Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.000 et seq.; 656.005

Hist: Amended 3/7/16 as Admin. Order 16-051

Amended 3/11/19 as Admin. Order 19-052, eff. 4/1/19

[Amended 11/22/23 as Admin. Order 23-055, eff. 1/1/2024](#)

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

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## **436-010-0008 Request for Review before the Director**

### **(1) General.**

(a) Except as otherwise provided in ORS 656.704, the director has exclusive jurisdiction to resolve all disputes concerning medical fees, nonpayment of compensable medical bills, and medical service and treatment disputes arising under ORS 656.245, 656.247, 656.248, 656.260, 656.325, and 656.327. Disputes about whether a medical service provided after a worker is medically stationary is compensable within the meaning of ORS 656.245(1)(c), or whether a medical treatment is unscientific, unproven, outmoded, or experimental under ORS 656.245(3), are subject to administrative review before the director.

(b) As provided in ORS 656.704(3)(b), the following disputes are in the jurisdiction of the board and will be transferred:

(A) A dispute that requires a determination of the compensability of the medical condition for which medical services are proposed; and

(B) A dispute that requires a determination of whether a sufficient causal relationship exists between medical services and an accepted claim.

(c) A party does not need to be represented to participate in the administrative review before the director.

(d) Any party may request that the director provide voluntary mediation or alternative dispute resolution after a request for administrative review or hearing is filed.

(e) All issues pertaining to disagreements about medical services within a managed care organization (MCO), including disputes under ORS 656.245(4)(a) about whether a change of provider will be medically detrimental to the worker, are subject to ORS 656.260. A party dissatisfied with an action or decision of the MCO must first apply for and complete the internal dispute resolution process within the MCO before requesting an administrative review of the matter before the director.

(f) The director may, on the director's own motion, initiate a review of medical services or medical treatment at any time.

(g) If the director issues an order declaring an already rendered medical treatment or medical service inappropriate, or otherwise in violation of the statute or medical rules, the worker is not obligated to pay for such.

(h) A request for administrative review under this rule may also be filed as prescribed in OAR 438-005.



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**(2) Time Frames and Conditions.**

(a) The following time frames and conditions apply to requests for administrative review before the director under this rule:

(A) For MCO-enrolled claims, a party that disagrees with an action or decision of the MCO must first use the MCO's dispute resolution process. If the party does not appeal the MCO's decision using the MCO's dispute resolution process, in writing and within 30 days of the mailing date of the decision, the party will lose all rights to further appeal the decision unless the party can show good cause. Good cause means circumstances that are outside the control of a party or circumstances that are considered to be extenuating by the division. When the aggrieved party is a represented worker, and the worker's attorney has given written notice of representation to the insurer, the 30-day time frame begins when the attorney receives written notice or has actual knowledge of the MCO decision.

When a party mistakenly sends an appeal of an MCO action or decision to the division, the division will forward the appeal to the MCO. The MCO must use the original mailing date of the appeal mistakenly sent to the division when determining timeliness of the appeal.

(B) For MCO-enrolled claims, if a party disagrees with the final action or decision of the MCO, the aggrieved party must request administrative review before the director within 60 days of the MCO's final decision. When the aggrieved party is a represented worker, and the worker's attorney had given written notice of representation to the insurer at the time the MCO issued its decision, the 60-day time frame begins when the MCO issues its final decision to the attorney. If a party has been denied access to the MCO dispute resolution process, or the process has not been completed for reasons beyond a party's control, the party may request director review within 60 days of the failure of the MCO process. If the MCO does not have a process for resolving a particular type of dispute, the insurer or the MCO must advise the medical provider or worker that they may request review before the director.

(C) For claims not enrolled in an MCO, or for disputes that do not involve an action or decision of an MCO, the aggrieved party must request administrative review before the director within 90 days of the date the party knew, or should have known, there was a dispute. When the aggrieved party is a represented worker, and the worker's attorney has given written notice of representation to the insurer, the 90-day time frame begins when the attorney receives written notice or has actual knowledge of the dispute. For purposes of this rule, the date the insurer should have known of the dispute is the date action on the bill was due. For disputes regarding interim medical benefits on denied claims, the date the insurer should have known of the dispute is no later than one year from the claim denial, or 45 days after the bill is perfected, whichever occurs last.

(b) Medical provider bills for treatment or services that are under review before the director are not payable during the review.

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**(3) Form and Required Information.**

(a) Requests for administrative review before the director should be made on [Form 2842](#) as described in [Bulletin 293](#). When an insurer or a worker's representative submits a request without the required information, the director may dismiss the request or hold initiation of the administrative review until the required information is submitted. Unrepresented workers may ask the director for help in meeting the filing requirements. The requesting party must simultaneously notify all other interested parties and their representatives, if known, of the dispute. The notice must:

- (A) Identify the worker's name, date of injury, insurer, and claim number;
- (B) Specify the issues in dispute and the relief sought; and
- (C) Provide the specific dates of the unpaid disputed treatment or services.

(b) In addition to medical evidence relating to the dispute, all parties may submit other relevant information, including written factual information, sworn affidavits, or legal argument, for incorporation into the record. Such information may also include timely written responses and other evidence to rebut the documentation and arguments of an opposing party. The director may take or obtain additional evidence consistent with statute, such as pertinent medical treatment and payment records. The director may also interview parties to the dispute, or consult with an appropriate committee of the medical provider's peers. When a party receives a written request for additional information from the director, the party must respond within 14 days.

(c) When a request for administrative review is filed under ORS 656.247, 656.260, or 656.327, the insurer must provide a record packet, at no charge, to the director and all other parties or their representatives as follows:

(A) The packet must include a complete copy of the worker's medical record and other documents that are arguably related to the medical dispute, arranged in chronological order, with oldest documents on top. The packet must include the following notice in bold type:

**We hereby notify you that the director is being asked to review the medical care of this worker. The director may issue an order that could affect reimbursement for the disputed medical service(s).**

(B) If the insurer requests review, the packet must accompany the request, with copies sent simultaneously to the other parties.

(C) If the requesting party is not the insurer, or if the director has initiated the review, the director will request the record from the insurer. The insurer must provide the record within 14 days of the director's request as described in this rule.

(D) If the insurer fails to submit the record in the time and format specified in this rule, the director may sanction the insurer under OAR 436-010-0340.

(E) Except for disputes regarding interim medical benefits, the packet must include certification that there is or is not an issue of compensability or causation under

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subsection (1)(b) of this rule. If the insurer issued a denial that has been reversed by the board or the Court of Appeals, the insurer must provide a statement regarding its intention, if known, to accept or appeal the decision.

**(4) Physician Review (E.g., appropriateness).**

If the director determines a review by a physician is indicated to resolve the dispute, the director, under OAR 436-010-0330, may appoint an appropriate medical service provider or panel of providers to review the medical records and, if necessary, examine the worker and perform any necessary and reasonable medical tests, other than invasive tests.

Notwithstanding ORS 656.325(1), if the worker is required by the director to submit to a medical exam as part of the administrative review process, the worker may refuse an invasive test without sanction.

(a) A single physician selected to conduct a review must be a practitioner of the same healing art and specialty, if practicable, of the medical service provider whose treatment or service is being reviewed.

(b) When a panel of physicians is selected, at least one panel member must be a practitioner of the same healing art and specialty, if practicable, of the medical service provider whose treatment or service is being reviewed.

(c) When such an exam of the worker is required, the director will notify the appropriate parties of the date, time, and location of the exam. Examinations will be at a place reasonably convenient to the worker, if possible. The parties must not directly contact the physician or panel unless it relates to the exam date, time, location, or attendance. If the parties have special questions they want addressed by the physician or panel, the questions must be submitted to the director for screening as to the appropriateness of the questions. Matters not related to the issues before the director are inappropriate for medical review and will not be submitted to the reviewing physician(s). The exam may include, but is not limited to:

(A) A review of all medical records and diagnostic tests submitted,

(B) An examination of the worker, and

(C) Any necessary and reasonable medical tests.

**(5) Dispute Resolution by Agreement (E.g., Alternative Dispute Resolution).**

(a) A dispute may be resolved by agreement between the parties to the dispute. The agreement must be in writing and approved by the director. The director may issue a letter of agreement instead of an administrative order, which will become final on the 10th day after the letter of agreement is issued unless the agreement specifies otherwise. Once the agreement becomes final, the director may revise the agreement or reinstate the review only under one or more of the following conditions:

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- (A) A party fails to honor the agreement;
  - (B) The agreement was based on misrepresentation;
  - (C) Implementation of the agreement is not feasible because of unforeseen circumstances; or
  - (D) All parties request revision or reinstatement of the dispute.
- (b) Any mediated agreement may include an agreement on attorney fees, if any, to be paid to the worker's attorney.
- (c) If the dispute does not resolve through mediation or alternative dispute resolution, the director will issue an order. If the dispute is not resolved by agreement and if the director determines that no bona fide dispute exists in a claim not enrolled in an MCO, the director will issue an order under ORS 656.327(1). If any party disagrees with an order of the director that no bona fide medical dispute exists, the party may appeal the order to the Workers' Compensation Board within 30 days of the mailing date of the order. Upon review, the order of the director may be modified only if it is not supported by substantial evidence in the record developed by the director.

**(6) Director Order and Reconsideration.**

- (a) The director may, on the director's own motion, reconsider or withdraw any order that has not become final by operation of law. A party also may request reconsideration of an administrative order upon an allegation of error, omission, misapplication of law, incomplete record, or the discovery of new information that could not reasonably have been discovered and produced during the review. The director may grant or deny a request for reconsideration at the director's sole discretion. A request must be received by the director before the administrative order becomes final.
- (b) During any reconsideration of the administrative order, the parties may submit new material evidence consistent with this rule and may respond to such evidence submitted by others.
- (c) Any party requesting reconsideration or responding to a reconsideration request must simultaneously notify all other interested parties of its contentions and provide them with copies of all additional information presented.
- (d) Attorney fees in administrative review will be awarded as provided in ORS 656.385(1) and OAR 436-001-0400 through 436-001-0440.

**(7) Hearings.**

- (a) Any party that disagrees with an action or administrative order under these rules may obtain review of the action or order by filing a request for hearing as provided in OAR 436-001-0019 within 30 days of the mailing date of the action or order under ORS

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656.245, 656.248, 656.260, or 656.327, or within 60 days of the mailing date of an action or order under ORS 656.247. OAR 436-001 applies to the hearing.

(b) In the review of orders issued under ORS 656.245, 656.247, 656.260(15) or (16), or 656.327(2), no new medical evidence or issues will be admitted at hearing. In these reviews, an administrative order may be modified at hearing only if it is not supported by substantial evidence in the record or if it reflects an error of law.

(c) Contested case hearings of sanctions and civil penalties: Under ORS 656.740, any party that disagrees with a proposed order or proposed assessment of a civil penalty issued by the director under ORS 656.254 or 656.745 may request a hearing by the board as follows:

(A) A written request for a hearing must be mailed or submitted to the division. The request must specify the grounds upon which the proposed order or assessment is contested.

(B) The request must be mailed or submitted to the division within 60 days after the mailing date of the order or notice of assessment.

(C) The division will forward the request and other pertinent information to the board.

## **(8) Other Proceedings.**

(a) Any party seeking an action or decision by the director, or any party aggrieved by an action taken by another party not covered under sections (1) through (7) of this rule, may request administrative review before the director.

(b) A written request for review must be sent to the division within 90 days of the disputed action and must specify the grounds upon which the action is contested.

(c) The division may require and allow such input and information as it deems appropriate to complete the review.

**Stat. Auth.:** ORS 656.726(4)

**Stats. Implemented:** ORS 656.245, 656.248, 656.252, 656.254, 656.256, 656.260, 656.268, 656.313, 656.325, 656.327, 656.331, 656.704

Hist: Amended 3/13/18 as Admin. Order 18-054, eff. 4/1/18

Amended 3/11/19 as Admin. Order 19-052, eff. 4/1/19

Amended 12/17/19 as Admin. Order 19-061, eff. 1/1/20

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

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## **436-010-0200 Medical Advisory Committee**

The Medical Advisory Committee members are appointed by the director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services. The committee must include one insurer representative, one employer representative, one worker representative, one managed care organization representative, and a diverse group of health care providers representative of those providing medical care to injured or ill workers.

The director may appoint other persons as may be determined necessary to carry out the purpose of the committee. Health care providers must comprise a majority of the committee at all times. When appointing members, the director should select health care providers who will consider the perspective of specialty care, primary care, and ancillary care providers and consider the ability of members to represent the interests of the community at large.

**Stat. Auth:** ORS 656.726(4)

**Stats. Implemented:** ORS 656.794

**Hist:** Amended 8/20/15 as Admin. Order 15-060, eff. 10/1/15

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-010-0210 Attending Physician, Authorized Nurse Practitioner, and Temporary Disability Authorization**

(1) An attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner is primarily responsible for the patient's care, authorizes temporary disability, and prescribes and monitors ancillary care and specialized care.

(a) No later than five days after becoming a patient's attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner, the provider must notify the insurer using [Form 827](#). Regardless of whether Form 827 is filed, the facts of the case and the actions of the provider determine if the provider is the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner.

(b) Type A, ~~and~~ [type B](#), [and type C](#) attending physicians, and authorized nurse practitioners may authorize temporary disability and manage medical services subject to the limitations of ORS chapter 656 or a managed care organization contract. (See Appendix A "Matrix for Health Care Provider Types")

(c) Except for emergency services, or otherwise provided for by statute or these rules, all treatments and medical services must be approved by the worker's attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner.

(2) **Chiropractic Physicians, [and Naturopathic Physicians, ~~Physician Assistants~~ \(Type B providers\).](#)**

(a) Prior to providing any compensable medical service or authorizing temporary disability benefits under ORS 656.245, a type B provider must certify to the director that the provider has reviewed a packet of materials provided by the director.

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(b) Type B providers may assume the role of attending physician for a cumulative total of 60 days or 18 visits, whichever occurs first, from the first visit on the initial claim with any type B provider.

(c) Type B providers may authorize payment of temporary disability compensation for a period not to exceed 30 days from the date of the first visit on the initial claim to any type B provider.

(d) Except for chiropractic physicians serving as the attending physician at the time of claim closure, type B providers may not make findings regarding the worker's impairment for the purpose of evaluating the worker's disability.

**(3) Physician Assistants (Type C providers).**

(a) Prior to providing any compensable medical service or authorizing temporary disability benefits under ORS 656.245, a physician assistant must certify to the director that the provider has reviewed a packet of materials provided by the director.

(b) Physician assistants may assume the role of attending physician for a cumulative total of 180 days from the date of the first visit on the initial claim with any physician assistant.

(c) Physician assistants may authorize payment of temporary disability compensation for a period not to exceed 180 days from the date of the first visit on the initial claim to any physician assistant.

(d) Physician assistants may not make findings regarding the worker's impairment for the purpose of evaluating the worker's disability.

**(3) Emergency Room Physicians.**

~~Emergency room physicians may authorize temporary disability for no more than 14 days when they refer the patient to a primary care physician. If an emergency room physician sees a patient in the physician's private practice apart from their duties as an emergency room physician, the physician may be the attending physician.~~

**(4) Authorized Nurse Practitioners.**

(a) In order to provide any compensable medical service, a nurse practitioner licensed in Oregon under ORS 678.375 to 678.390 must review a packet of materials provided by the division and complete the statement of authorization. (See [www.oregonwcdoc.info](http://www.oregonwcdoc.info)) Once the nurse practitioner has completed the statement of authorization, the division will assign an authorized nurse practitioner number.

(b) An authorized nurse practitioner may:

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(A) Provide compensable medical services to an injured worker for a period of 180 days from the date of the first visit with a nurse practitioner on the initial claim. Thereafter, medical services provided by an authorized nurse practitioner are not compensable without the attending physician's authorization; and

(B) Authorize temporary disability benefits for a period of up to 180 days from the date of the first nurse practitioner visit on the initial claim.

**(5) Emergency Room Physicians.**

Emergency room physicians may authorize temporary disability for no more than 14 days when they refer the patient to a primary care physician. If an emergency room physician sees a patient in the physician's private practice apart from their duties as an emergency room physician, the physician may be the attending physician.

**(56) Unlicensed to Provide Medical Services.**

Attending physicians may prescribe services to be carried out by persons not licensed to provide a medical service or treat independently. These services must be rendered under the physician's direct control and supervision. Home health care provided by a patient's family member is not required to be provided under the direct control and supervision of the attending physician if the family member demonstrates competency to the satisfaction of the attending physician.

**(67) Out-of-State Attending Physicians.**

The worker may choose an attending physician outside the state of Oregon with the approval of the insurer. When the insurer receives the worker's request or becomes aware of the worker's request to treat with an out-of-state attending physician, the insurer must give the worker written notice of approval or disapproval of the worker's choice of attending physician within 14 days. If an approved out-of-state attending physician does not comply with OAR 436-009 or 436-010, the insurer may withdraw approval of the attending physician.

(a) If the insurer approves the worker's choice of out-of-state attending physician, the insurer must immediately notify the worker and the physician in writing of the following:

(A) The Oregon medical fee and payment rules, OAR 436-009;

(B) The manner in which the out-of-state physician may provide compensable medical treatment or services to Oregon workers; and

(C) That the insurer cannot pay bills for compensable services above the Oregon fee schedule.

(b) If the insurer disapproves the worker's out-of-state attending physician or withdraws a prior approval, the insurer must send the worker written notice that:



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- (A) Clearly states the reasons for the disapproval or withdrawal of the prior approval, for example, the out-of-state physician's refusal to comply with OAR 436-009 and 436-010;
- (B) Identifies at least two other physicians of the same healing art and specialty in the same area that the insurer would approve;
- (C) Informs the worker that if the worker disagrees with the disapproval or withdrawal, the worker may request approval from the director under OAR 436-010-0220; and
- (D) Informs the worker that the worker may be liable for payment of services provided after the date of notification if the worker receives further medical services from the disapproved or no longer approved out-of-state physician.
- (c) If the insurer withdraws approval of the out-of-state attending physician, the insurer must notify the physician of the following in writing:
- (A) The reasons for withdrawing the approval;
- (B) That any future services provided by that physician will not be paid by the insurer; and
- (C) That the worker may be liable for payment of services provided after the date of notification.
- (d) The worker or worker's representative may request approval from the director under OAR 436-010-0220 if the worker disagrees with the insurer's decision to:
- (A) Disapprove an out-of-state attending physician; or
- (B) Withdraw the approval of the out-of-state attending physician.

Stat. Auth: ORS 656.726(4)

Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.005(12), 656.245, 656.260, 656.799

Hist: Amended 3/11/19 as Admin. Order 19-052, eff. 4/1/19

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Amended 11/22/23 as Admin. Order 23-055, eff. 1/1/2024

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-010-0220      Choosing and Changing Medical Providers**

(1) The worker may have only one attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner at a time. Concurrent treatment or services by other medical providers, including specialist physicians, must be sufficiently different that separate medical skills are needed for proper care, and must be based on a written referral by the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner. The referral must specify any limitations and a copy must be sent to the insurer. A specialist physician is authorized to provide or order all compensable medical services and treatment the physician considers appropriate, unless the referral is for a consultation only. The attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner continues to be responsible for authorizing temporary disability even if the specialist physician is providing or authorizing

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medical services and treatment. Physicians who provide the following services are not considered attending physicians:

- (a) Emergency services;
- (b) Insurer or director requested examinations;
- (c) A Worker Requested Medical Examination;
- (d) Consultations or referrals for specialized treatment or services initiated by the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner; and
- (e) Diagnostic studies provided by radiologists and pathologists upon referral.

**(2) Changing Attending Physician or Authorized Nurse Practitioner.**

The worker may choose to change attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner only twice after the initial choice. When the worker requests a referral by the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner to another attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner, the change will count as one of the worker's choices. The limitation of the worker's right to choose attending physicians or authorized nurse practitioners begins with the date of injury and extends through the life of the claim. The following are not considered changes of attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner initiated by the worker and do not count toward the worker's two changes:

- (a) When the worker has an attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner who works in a group setting/facility and the worker sees another group member due to team practice, coverage, or on-call routines;
- (b) When the worker's attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner is not available and the worker sees a medical provider who is covering for that provider in their absence; or
- (c) When the worker is required to change attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner due to conditions beyond the worker's control. This could include, but is not limited to:
  - (A) When the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner terminates practice or leaves the area;
  - (B) When the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner is no longer willing to treat the worker;
  - (C) When the worker moves out of the area requiring more than a 50 mile commute to the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner;
  - (D) When the period for treatment or services by a type B or type C attending physician, or an authorized nurse practitioner has expired (See Appendix A "Matrix for Health Care Provider Types");

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(E) When the [physician assistant or](#) authorized nurse practitioner is required to refer the worker to an attending physician for a closing examination or because of a possible worsening of the worker's condition following claim closure;

(F) When the worker becomes subject to a managed care organization (MCO) contract and must change to an attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner on the MCO's panel;

(G) When the worker who, at the time of MCO enrollment was required to change attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner, is disenrolled from an MCO; or

(H) When the worker has to change because their attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner is no longer qualified as an attending physician or authorized to continue providing compensable medical services.

### **(3) Insurer Notice to the Worker.**

When the worker has changed attending physicians or authorized nurse practitioners twice by choice or has reached the maximum number of changes established by the MCO, the insurer must notify the worker by certified mail that any additional changes by choice must be approved by the insurer or the director. If the insurer fails to provide such notice and the worker later chooses another attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner, the insurer must pay for compensable medical services rendered prior to notice to the worker. The insurer must notify the newly selected provider that the worker was not allowed to change attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner without approval of the insurer or director, and therefore any future services will not be paid. The insurer must pay for appropriate medical services rendered prior to this notification.

### **(4) Worker Requesting Additional Changes of Attending Physician or Authorized Nurse Practitioner.**

(a) If a worker not enrolled in an MCO has changed attending physicians or authorized nurse practitioners by choice twice (or for MCO enrolled workers, the maximum allowed by the MCO) and wants to change again, the worker must request approval from the insurer. The worker must make the request in writing or by signing [Form 827](#). The insurer must respond to the worker within 14 days of receiving the request whether the change is approved. If the insurer objects to the change, the insurer must:

(A) Send the worker a written explanation of the reasons;

(B) Send the worker [Form 2332](#) (Worker's Request to Change Attending Physician or Authorized Nurse Practitioner); and

(C) Inform the worker that the worker may request director approval by sending [Form 2332](#) to the director.

(b) When the worker submits a request to the director for an additional change of attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner, the director may request, in writing,

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additional information. If the director requests additional information, the parties must respond in writing within 14 days of the director's request.

(c) The director will issue an order advising whether the request for change of attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner is approved. On a case-by-case basis the director will consider circumstances, such as:

(A) Whether there is medical justification for a change, e.g., whether the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner can provide the type of treatment or service that is appropriate for the worker's condition.

(B) Whether the worker has moved to a new area and wants to establish an attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner closer to the worker's residence.

(d) Any party that disagrees with the director's order may request a hearing by filing a request for hearing as provided in OAR 436-001-0019 within 30 days of the mailing date of the order.

### **(5) Managed Care Organization (MCO) Enrolled Workers.**

(a) An MCO enrolled worker must choose:

(A) A panel provider unless the MCO approves a non-panel provider, or

(B) A "come-along provider" who provides medical services subject to the terms and conditions of the governing MCO.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, if a worker is unable to find three providers that are willing to treat the worker in a category of providers listed in OAR 436-015-0030(6)(a) and (b) in the worker's geographic service area (GSA), the worker may contact the MCO for a list of three providers who are willing to treat the worker. If the MCO, within a reasonable period of time, is unable to provide a list of three providers who are willing to treat the worker, the worker may choose a non-panel provider in that category.

(c) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, if the MCO has fewer than three providers in a category of providers listed in OAR 436-015-0030(6)(a) and (b) in the worker's GSA, the worker may choose a non-panel provider in that category.

Stat. Auth: ORS 656.726(4)

Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.245, 656.252, 656.260

Hist: Amended 3/11/19 as Admin. Order 19-052, eff. 4/1/19

Amended 6/13/22 as Admin. Order 22-054, eff. 7/1/22

Amended 11/22/23 as Admin. Order 23-055, eff. 1/1/2024

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-010-0225 Choosing a Person to Provide Interpreter Services**

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(1) A worker may choose a person to communicate with a medical provider when the worker and the medical provider speak different languages, including sign language. The worker may choose a family member, a friend, an employee of the medical provider, or someone who provides interpreter services as a profession. However, for signed language interpretation services, the worker may only choose an interpreter who is a medical sign language interpreter licensed under Oregon Laws 2023, chapter 414, section 6.a A representative of the worker's employer may not provide interpreter services. The medical provider may disapprove of the worker's choice at any time the medical provider feels the interpreter services are not improving communication with the worker, or feels the interpretation is not complete or accurate.

(2) When a worker asks an insurer to arrange for interpreter services, the insurer must:

(a) For interpretation services, other than signed language interpretation services, use a certified or qualified health care interpreter listed on the Oregon Health Care Interpreter Registry of the Oregon Health Authority, available at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/OHA/OEI/Pages/HCI-Program.aspx>. The interpreter's certification or qualification must be in effect on the date the interpreter services are provided. If no certified or qualified health care interpreter is available, the insurer may schedule an interpreter of its choice subject to the limits in section (1) of this rule.

(b) For signed language interpretation services, use a sign language interpreter licensed under Oregon Laws 2023, chapter 414.

(3) For the purpose of this rule, interpreter services means the act of orally translating between a medical provider and a patient-worker who speak different languages, including sign language. It includes reasonable time spent waiting at the location for the medical provider to examine or treat the patient as well as reasonable time spent on necessary paperwork for the provider's office.

**Stat. Auth:** ORS 656.726(4)

**Stats. Implemented:** ORS 656.245

Adopted 5/27/10, as Admin. Order 10-053, eff. 7/1/10

Amended 3/13/18 as Admin. Order 18-054, eff. 4/1/18

Amended 11/22/23 as Admin. Order 23-055, eff. 1/1/2024

## **436-010-0230 Medical Services and Treatment Guidelines**

(1) Medical services provided to the worker must not be more than the nature of the compensable injury or the process of recovery requires. Services that are unnecessary or inappropriate according to accepted professional standards are not reimbursable.

(2) If the provider's chart notes do not provide evidence of frequency, extent, and efficacy of treatment and services, the insurer may request additional information from the provider.

(3) All medical service providers must notify the patient at the time of the first visit of how they can provide compensable medical services and authorize temporary disability. Providers

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must also notify patients that they may be personally liable for noncompensable medical services. Such notification should be made in writing or documented in the patient's medical record.

**(4) Consent to Attend a Medical Appointment.**

(a) An employer or insurer representative, such as a nurse case manager, may not attend a patient's medical appointment without written consent of the patient. The patient has the right to refuse such attendance.

(A) The consent form must be written in a way that allows the patient to understand it and to overcome language or cultural differences.

(B) The consent form must state that the patient's benefits cannot be suspended if the patient refuses to have an employer or insurer representative present.

(C) The insurer must keep a copy of the signed consent form in the claim file.

(b) The patient or the medical provider may refuse to allow an employer or insurer representative to attend an appointment at any time, even if the patient previously signed a consent form. The medical provider may refuse to meet with the employer or insurer representative.

**(5) Request for Records at a Medical Appointment.**

The medical provider may refuse to provide copies of the patient's medical records to the insurer representative without proof that the person is representing the insurer. The provider may charge for any copies that are provided.

**(6) Requesting a Medical Provider Consultation.**

The attending physician, authorized nurse practitioner, or the MCO may request a consultation with a medical provider regarding conditions related to an accepted claim. MCO-requested consultations that are initiated by the insurer, which include an exam of the worker, must be considered independent medical exams under OAR 436-010-0265.

**(7) Ancillary Services – Treatment Plan.**

(a) Ancillary medical service providers include but are not limited to physical or occupational therapists, chiropractic or naturopathic physicians, and acupuncturists. When an attending or specialist physician or an authorized nurse practitioner prescribes ancillary services, unless an MCO contract specifies other requirements, the ancillary provider must prepare a treatment plan before beginning treatment.

(b) The ancillary medical service provider must send the treatment plan to the prescribing provider and the insurer within seven days of beginning treatment. If the treatment plan is

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not sent within seven days, the insurer is not required to pay for the services provided before the treatment plan is sent.

(c) The treatment plan must include objectives, modalities, frequency of treatment, and duration. The treatment plan may be in any legible format, e.g., chart notes. If the ancillary treatment needs to continue beyond the duration stated in the treatment plan, the ancillary care provider must obtain a new prescription from the attending or specialist physician or authorized nurse practitioner to continue treatment. The ancillary care provider also must send a new treatment plan to the insurer and ~~physician or authorized nurse practitioner~~ the prescribing provider within seven days.

(d) Treatment plans required under this subsection do not apply to services provided under ORS 656.245(2)(b)(A). (See Appendix A "Other Health Care Providers.")

(e) Within 30 days of the beginning of ancillary services, the prescribing provider must sign a copy of the treatment plan and send it to the insurer. If the prescribing provider does not sign and send the treatment plan, the provider may be subject to sanctions under OAR 436-010-0340. However, this will not affect payment to the ancillary provider.

(f) Authorized nurse practitioners, out-of-state nurse practitioners, and physician assistants directed by the attending physician do not have to provide a written treatment plan as prescribed in this section.

### **(8) Massage Therapy.**

Unless otherwise provided by an MCO, when an attending physician, authorized nurse practitioner, or specialist physician prescribes ancillary services provided by a massage therapist licensed by the Oregon State Board of Massage Therapists under ORS 687.011 to 687.250, the massage therapist must prepare a treatment plan before beginning treatment. Massage therapists not licensed in Oregon must provide their services under the direct control and supervision of the attending physician. Treatment plans provided by massage therapists must follow the same requirements as those for ancillary providers in section (7) of this rule.

### **(9) Therapy Guidelines and Requirements.**

(a) Unless otherwise provided by an MCO's utilization and treatment standards, the usual range for therapy visits is up to 20 visits in the first 60 days, and four visits a month thereafter. This is only a guideline and insurers should not arbitrarily limit payment based on this guideline nor should the therapist arbitrarily use this guideline to exceed medically necessary treatment. The medical record must provide clinical justification when therapy services exceed these guidelines. When an insurer believes the treatment is inappropriate or excessive, the insurer may request director review as outlined in OAR 436-010-0008.

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(b) Unless otherwise provided by an MCO, a physical therapist must submit a progress report to the attending physician (or authorized nurse practitioner) and the insurer every 30 days or, if the patient is seen less frequently, after every visit. The progress report may be part of the physical therapist's chart notes and must include:

- (A) Subjective status of the patient;
- (B) Objective data from tests and measurements conducted;
- (C) Functional status of the patient;
- (D) Interpretation of above data; and
- (E) Any change in the treatment plan.

### **(10) Physical Capacity Evaluation.**

The attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner must complete a physical capacity or work capacity evaluation within 20 days after the insurer or director requests the evaluation. If the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner does not wish to perform the evaluation, they must refer the patient to a different provider within seven days of the request. The attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner must notify the insurer and the patient in writing if the patient is incapable of participating in the evaluation.

### **(11) Prescription Medication.**

(a) Unless otherwise provided by an MCO contract, prescription medications do not require prior approval even after the worker is medically stationary. For prescription medications, the insurer must reimburse the worker based on actual cost. When a provider prescribes a brand-name drug, pharmacies must dispense the generic drug (if available) according to ORS 689.515. When a worker insists on receiving the brand-name drug, and the prescribing provider has not prohibited substitution, the worker must pay the total cost of the brand-name drug out-of-pocket and request reimbursement from the insurer. However, if the insurer has previously notified the worker that the worker is liable for the difference between the generic and brand-name drug, the insurer only has to reimburse the worker the generic price of the drug. Except in an emergency, prescription drugs for oral consumption dispensed by a physician's or authorized nurse practitioner's office are compensable only for the initial supply to treat the worker, up to a maximum of 10 days. Unless otherwise provided by an MCO contract, the worker may choose the dispensing provider.

(b) Providers should review and are encouraged to adhere to the division's opioid guidelines. See <https://wcd.oregon.gov/medical/provider-training/Pages/opioid-guidelines.aspx>.

### **(12) Diagnostics.**



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Unless otherwise provided by an MCO, a medical provider may contact an insurer in writing for pre-authorization of diagnostic imaging studies other than plain film X-rays. The request must be separate from chart notes and clearly state that it is a request for pre-authorization of diagnostic imaging studies. Pre-authorization is not a guarantee of payment. The insurer must respond to the provider's request in writing whether the service is pre-authorized or not pre-authorized within 14 days of receipt of the request.

**(13) Articles.**

Articles, including but not limited to, beds, hot tubs, chairs, and gravity traction devices are not compensable unless a report by the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner clearly justifies the need. The report must:

- (a) Establish that the nature of the injury or the process of recovery requires the item be furnished, and
- (b) Specifically explain why the worker requires the item when the great majority of workers with similar impairments do not.

**(14) Physical Restorative Services.**

(a) Physical restorative services include, but are not limited to, a regular exercise program, personal exercise training, or swim therapy. They are not services to replace medical services usually prescribed during the course of recovery. Physical restorative services are not compensable unless:

- (A) The nature of the worker's limitations requires specialized services to allow the worker a reasonable level of social or functional activity, and
  - (B) A report by the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner clearly justifies why the worker requires services not usually considered necessary for the majority of workers.
- (b) Trips to spas, resorts, or retreats, whether prescribed or in association with a holistic medicine regimen, are not reimbursable unless special medical circumstances are shown to exist.

**(15) Lumbar Artificial Disc Replacement Guidelines.**

(a) Lumbar artificial disc replacement is always inappropriate for patients with the following conditions (absolute contraindications):

- (A) Metabolic bone disease – for example, osteoporosis;
- (B) Known spondyloarthropathy (seropositive and seronegative);
- (C) Posttraumatic vertebral body deformity at the level of the proposed surgery;
- (D) Malignancy of the spine;

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- (E) Implant allergy to the materials involved in the artificial disc;
  - (F) Pregnancy – currently;
  - (G) Active infection, local or systemic;
  - (H) Lumbar spondylolisthesis or lumbar spondylolysis;
  - (I) Prior fusion, laminectomy that involves any part of the facet joint, or facetectomy at the same level as proposed surgery; or
  - (J) Spinal stenosis – lumbar – moderate to severe lateral recess and central stenosis.
- (b) Lumbar artificial disc replacement that is not excluded from compensability under OAR 436-009-0010(12)(g) may be inappropriate for patients with the following conditions, depending on severity, location, etc. (relative contraindications):
- (A) A comorbid medical condition compromising general health, for example, hepatitis, poorly controlled diabetes, cardiovascular disease, renal disease, autoimmune disorders, AIDS, lupus, etc.;
  - (B) Arachnoiditis;
  - (C) Corticosteroid use (chronic ongoing treatment with adrenal immunosuppression);
  - (D) Facet arthropathy – lumbar – moderate to severe, as shown radiographically;
  - (E) Morbid obesity – BMI greater than 40;
  - (F) Multilevel degenerative disc disease – lumbar – moderate to severe, as shown radiographically;
  - (G) Osteopenia – based on bone density test;
  - (H) Prior lumbar fusion at a different level than the proposed artificial disc replacement; or
  - (I) Psychosocial disorders – diagnosed as significant to severe.

Stat. Auth: ORS 656.726(4); Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.245, 656.248, 656.252

Hist: Amended 3/11/19 as Admin. Order 19-052, eff.4/1/19

Amended 3/3/21 as Admin. Order 21-052, eff. 4/1/21

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See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-010-0240 Medical Records and Reporting Requirements for Medical Providers**

### **(1) Medical Records and Reports.**

- (a) Medical providers must maintain records necessary to document the extent of medical services provided.
- (b) All records must be legible and cannot be kept in a coded or semi-coded manner unless a legend is provided with each set of records.

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(c) Reports may be handwritten and must include all relevant or requested information such as the anticipated date of release to return to work, medically stationary date, etc.

(d) Diagnoses stated on all reports, including [Form 827](#), must conform to terminology found in the appropriate International Classification of Disease (ICD).

## **(2) Diagnostic Studies.**

When the director or the insurer requests original diagnostic studies, including but not limited to actual films, they must be forwarded to the director, the insurer, or the insurer's designee within 14 days of receipt of a written request.

(a) Diagnostic studies, including films, must be returned to the medical provider within a reasonable time.

(b) The insurer must pay a reasonable charge made by the medical provider for the costs of delivery of diagnostic studies, including films.

## **(3) Multidisciplinary Programs.**

When an attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner approves a multidisciplinary treatment program for the worker, the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner must provide the insurer with a copy of the approved treatment program within 14 days of the beginning of the treatment program.

## **(4) Release of Medical Records.**

(a) Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) rules allow medical providers to release information to insurers, self-insured employers, service companies, or the Department of Consumer and Business Services. [See 45 CFR 164.512(l).]

(b) When patients file workers' compensation claims they are authorizing medical providers and other custodians of claim records to release relevant medical records including diagnostics. The medical provider will not incur any legal liability for disclosing such records. [See ORS 656.252(4).] The authorization is valid for the life of the claim and cannot be revoked by the patient or the patient's representative. A separate authorization is required for release of information regarding:

(A) Federally funded drug and alcohol abuse treatment programs governed by Federal Regulation 42, CFR 2, which may only be obtained in compliance with this federal regulation, and

(B) HIV-related information protected by ORS 433.045.

(c) Any medical provider must provide all relevant information to the director, or the insurer or its representative upon presentation of a signed Form [801](#), [827](#), or [2476](#). The insurer may print "Signature on file" on a release form as long as the insurer maintains a

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signed original. However, the medical provider may require a copy of the signed release form.

(d) The medical provider must respond within 14 days of receipt of a request for progress reports, narrative reports, diagnostic studies, or relevant medical records needed to review the efficacy, frequency, and necessity of medical treatment or medical services. Medical information relevant to a claim includes a past history of complaints or treatment of a condition similar to that presented in the claim or other conditions related to the same body part.

(e) Patients or their representatives are entitled to copies of all medical and payment records, which may include records from other medical providers. Patients or their representatives may request all or part of the record. These records should be requested from the insurer, but may also be obtained from medical providers. A summary may substitute for the actual record only if the patient agrees to the substitution. The following records may be withheld:

(A) Psychotherapy notes;

(B) Information compiled for use in a civil, criminal, or administrative action or proceeding;

(C) Other reasons specified by federal regulation; and

(D) Information that was obtained from someone other than a medical provider when the medical provider promised confidentiality and release of the information would likely reveal the source of the information.

(f) A medical provider may charge the patient or the patient's representative for copies at the rate specified in OAR 436-009-0060. A patient may not be denied summaries or copies of the patient's medical records because of inability to pay.

(g) A medical provider is encouraged to discuss potential modified work duties with employers. However, a medical provider may not discuss medical treatments or diagnoses with employers, or release medical records other than work release documentation, to employer representatives who are not directly responsible for claims processing responsibilities. This subsection does not relieve a medical provider from the requirements outlined in subsections (a) through (d) of this section.

## **(5) Release to Return to Work.**

(a) When requested by the insurer, the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner must submit verification that the patient's medical limitations related to their ability to work result from an occupational injury or disease. If the insurer requires the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner to complete a release to return-to-work form, the insurer must use [Form 3245](#).

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(b) The attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner must advise the patient, and within five days, provide the insurer written notice of the date the patient is released to return to regular or modified work.

**(6) Temporary Disability and Medically Stationary.**

(a) When temporary disability is authorized by the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner, the insurer may require progress reports every 15 days. Chart notes may be sufficient to satisfy this requirement. If more information is required, the insurer may request a brief or complete narrative report.

The provider must submit a requested progress report or narrative report within 14 days of receiving the insurer's request. If the medical provider fails to provide information under this rule within 14 days of receiving a request sent by fax or certified mail, penalties under OAR 436-010-0340 may be imposed.

(b) The attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner must, if known, inform the patient and the insurer of the following and include it in each progress report:

- (A) The anticipated date of release to work;
- (B) The anticipated date the patient will become medically stationary;
- (C) The next appointment date; and
- (D) The patient's medical limitations.

(c) The insurer must not consider the anticipated date of becoming medically stationary as a date of release to return to work.

(d) The attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner must notify the patient, insurer, and all other medical providers involved in the patient's treatment when the patient is determined medically stationary and whether the patient is released to any kind of work. The medically stationary date must be the date of the exam and not a projected date.

**(7) Consultations.**

When the attending physician, authorized nurse practitioner, or the MCO requests a consultation with a medical provider regarding conditions related to an accepted claim:

(a) The attending physician, authorized nurse practitioner, or the MCO must promptly notify the insurer of the request for the consultation and provide the consultant with all relevant medical records. However, if the consultation is for diagnostic studies performed by radiologists or pathologists, no such notification is required.

(b) The consultant must submit a copy of the consultation report to the insurer and the attending physician, authorized nurse practitioner, or MCO within 10 days of the date of

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the exam or chart review. The consultation fee includes the fee for this report.

**Stat. Auth:** ORS 656.726(4)

**Stat. Implemented:** ORS 656.245, 656.252, 656.254

**Hist:** Amended 3/11/19 as Admin. Order 19-062, eff. 4/1/19

Amended 6/13/22 as Admin. Order 22-054, eff. 7/1/22

Amended 3/9/23 as Admin. Order 23-051, eff. 4/1/23

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-010-0241 Form 827, Worker's and Health Care Provider's Report for Workers' Compensation Claims**

### **(1) First Visit.**

(a) When the patient has filed an initial claim or wants to file an initial claim, the patient and the first medical service provider must complete and sign [Form 827](#). The provider must send the form to the insurer no later than 72 hours after the patient's first visit. Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays are not counted in the 72-hour period. Legal holidays are those listed in ORS 187.010 and 187.020.

(b) [Form 3283](#) ("A Guide for Workers Recently Hurt on the Job") is included with [Form 827](#). All medical service providers must give a copy of [Form 3283](#) and [Form 827](#) to the patient.

### **(2) New or Omitted Medical Condition.**

A patient may use [Form 827](#) to request that the insurer formally accept a new or omitted medical condition. If the patient uses the form to request acceptance of a new or omitted medical condition during a medical visit, the medical service provider may write the claimed condition or the appropriate International Classification of Diseases (ICD) diagnosis code for the patient in the space provided on the form. After the patient signs the form, the provider must send it to the insurer within five days.

### **(3) Change of Attending Physician.**

When the patient changes attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner, the patient and the new medical service provider must complete and sign [Form 827](#). The provider must send Form 827 to the insurer within five days after becoming a patient's attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner. The new attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner is responsible for requesting all available medical records from the previous attending physician, authorized nurse practitioner, or insurer. Anyone failing to forward the requested information to the new attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner within 14 days of receiving the request may be subject to sanctions under OAR 436-010-0340.

### **(4) Aggravation.**

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After the patient has been declared medically stationary, and an exam reveals an aggravation of the patient's accepted condition, the patient may file a claim for aggravation. The patient or the patient's representative and the attending physician must complete and sign [Form 827](#). The physician, on the patient's behalf, must submit Form 827 to the insurer within five days of the exam. Within 14 days of the exam, the attending physician must send a written report to the insurer that includes objective findings that document:

- (a) Whether the patient has suffered a worsened condition attributable to the compensable injury under the criteria in ORS 656.273; and
- (b) Whether the patient is unable to work as a result of the compensable worsening.

**Stat. Auth:** ORS 656.726(4)

**Stat. Implemented:** ORS 656.245, 656.252, 656.254, 656.273

**Hist:** Adopted 8/20/15 as Admin. Order 15-060, eff. 10/1/15

Amended 3/2/22 as Admin. Order 22-051, eff. 4/1/22

## **436-010-0250 Elective Surgery**

(1) "Elective surgery" is surgery that may be required to recover from an injury or illness, but is not an emergency surgery to preserve life, function, or health.

(2) Except as otherwise provided by the MCO:

(a) The attending physician, authorized nurse practitioner, or specialist physician must give the insurer at least seven days notice before the date of the proposed elective surgery to treat a compensable injury or illness. The notice must provide the medical information that substantiates the need for surgery, and the approximate surgical date and place if known. To notify the insurer of the proposed surgery, the provider has the option of using [Form 5425](#) (Elective Surgery Notification) or using their own form that includes the data gathered on [Form 5425](#).

(b) When elective surgery is proposed, the insurer may require an independent consultation (second opinion) with a physician of the insurer's choice.

(c) The insurer must respond to the recommending physician, the worker, and the worker's representative within seven days of receiving the notice of intent to perform surgery that the proposed surgery:

(A) Is approved;

(B) Is not approved and a consultation is requested by using [Form 3228](#) (Elective Surgery Response); or

(C) Is disapproved by using [Form 3228](#).

(d) If the insurer does not complete [Form 3228](#) (e.g., no specific date or consultant name) or communicate approval to the recommending physician within seven days of receiving the notice of intent to perform surgery, the insurer is barred from challenging the

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appropriateness of the surgery or whether the surgery is excessive or ineffectual. The attending physician and the worker may decide whether to proceed with surgery.

(e) If the insurer requests a consultation, it must be completed within 28 days after sending [Form 3228](#) to the physician.

(f) The insurer must notify the recommending physician of the consultant's findings within seven days of the consultation.

(g) When the consultant disagrees with the proposed surgery, the recommending physician and insurer should attempt to resolve disagreement. The insurer and recommending physician may agree to obtain additional diagnostic testing or other medical information, such as asking for clarification from the consultant, to assist in reaching an agreement regarding the proposed surgery.

(h) If the recommending physician cannot reach an agreement with the insurer and continues to recommend the proposed surgery, the physician must send either the signed and dated [Form 3228](#) or other written notification to the insurer, the patient, and the patient's representative. If the insurer believes the proposed surgery is excessive, inappropriate, ineffectual, or in violation of these rules, the insurer must request administrative review before the director within 21 days of receiving the notification. If the insurer fails to timely request administrative review the insurer is barred from challenging whether the surgery is or was excessive, inappropriate, or ineffectual. The attending physician and the worker may decide whether to proceed with surgery.

(i) A recommending physician who prescribes or performs elective surgery and fails to give the insurer the seven day notice requirement may be subject to civil penalties as provided in ORS 656.254 and OAR 436-010-0340. The insurer may still be responsible to pay for the elective surgery.

(j) Surgery that must be performed before seven days, because the condition is life threatening or there is rapidly progressing deterioration or acute pain not manageable without surgical intervention, is not considered elective surgery. In such cases, the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner should try to notify the insurer of the need for emergency surgery.

**Stat. Auth:** ORS 656.726(4) | **Stats. Implemented:** ORS 656.245, 656.248, 656.252, 656.260, 656.327

**Hist:** Amended 8/20/15 as Admin. Order 15-060, eff. 10/1/15

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See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-010-0265 Independent Medical Exams (IMEs) and Worker Requested Medical Exams (WRMEs)**

### **(1) General.**



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- (a) An independent medical exam (IME) means any medical exam (including a physical capacity or work capacity evaluation or consultation that includes an exam) that is requested by the insurer under ORS 656.325, except as provided in section (13) of this rule. A worker requested medical exam (WRME) is an exam available to a worker under ORS 656.325. An IME or WRME is completed by a medical service provider other than the worker's attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner.
- (b) The insurer may obtain three IMEs for each opening of the claim without authorization by the director. These IMEs may be obtained before or after claim closure. For the purpose of determining the number of IMEs, any IME scheduled but not completed does not count as one of the three IMEs. A claim for aggravation, Board's Own Motion, or reopening of a claim when the worker becomes enrolled or actively engaged in training under OAR 436-120 (Vocational Assistance to Injured Workers) allows a new series of three IMEs. Refer to section (12) of this rule to request additional IMEs.
- (c) The IME may be conducted by one or more providers of different specialties, generally performed at one location. If the providers are not at one location, the IME must be at locations reasonably convenient to the worker. IMEs completed within a 72-hour period count as one IME.
- (d) The insurer must choose the medical service provider from the director's list of authorized IME providers online at [www.oregonwcdoc.info](http://www.oregonwcdoc.info). If a provider is not on the director's list of authorized IME providers at the time of the IME, the insurer may not use the IME report and the report may not be used in any subsequent proceedings.
- (e) The provider will determine the conditions under which the IME will be conducted. The IME should be performed in a professional setting that is primarily used for conducting exams. If an IME is not performed in a professional setting that is primarily used for conducting exams, the IME location should be a safe and secure environment, including a place for the worker to disrobe in private, and allow for confidentiality.
- (f) IMEs must be scheduled at times and intervals reasonably convenient to the worker and must not delay or interrupt medical treatment that the worker has scheduled.
- (g) The insurer must comply with the notification and reimbursement requirements under OAR 436-009-0025 and 436-060-0095.
- (h) A medical service provider must not unreasonably interfere with the right of the insurer to obtain an IME by a medical service provider of the insurer's choice.
- (i) A medical provider who unreasonably fails to provide diagnostic records for an IME under OAR 436-010-0240 may be assessed a penalty under ORS 656.325.

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(j) The worker may complete an online survey at [www.wcdimesurvey.info](http://www.wcdimesurvey.info) or make a complaint about the IME on the division's website. If the worker does not have access to the Internet, the worker may call the division at 800-452-0288.

**(2) IME and WRME Provider Authorization and Removal.**

(a) Medical service providers can perform IMEs, WRMEs, or both once they are on the director's list of authorized IME providers.

(b) To be on the director's list of authorized IME providers, a medical service provider must:

(A) Complete the online application available at [www.oregonwcdoc.info](http://www.oregonwcdoc.info);

(B) Hold a current license with the provider's professional regulatory licensing board;

(C) Be in good standing as determined by the division. For the purpose of this paragraph, the division determines good standing to mean the provider is not currently, or within the past two years has not been subject to, a disciplinary action or stipulated agreement with the provider's regulatory licensing board that the division determines to be detrimental to performing IMEs; and

(D) Complete the director's Training Guide to Performing Independent Medical Exams including the corresponding quiz both of which are available at [www.oregonwcdoc.info](http://www.oregonwcdoc.info); or

(E) Complete a director-approved training course regarding IMEs provided by an outside vendor.

(c) By submitting the application to the division, the medical service provider agrees to abide by:

(A) The standards of professional conduct for performing IMEs adopted by the provider's regulatory licensing board or the IME standards of professional conduct published in Appendix B if the provider's regulatory licensing board does not have standards of professional conduct for performing IMEs; and

(B) All relevant workers' compensation laws and rules.

(d) A provider may be removed from the director's list of authorized IME providers after the director finds that the provider:

(A) Violated the standards of either the professional conduct for performing IMEs adopted by the provider's regulatory licensing board or the IME standards published in Appendix B if the provider's regulatory licensing board does not have IME standards;

(B) Has a current restriction on their license or is under a current disciplinary action from their professional regulatory licensing board; or

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- (C) Has entered into a voluntary agreement with their regulatory licensing board that the director determines is detrimental to performing IMEs.
- (e) A provider may appeal the director's decision to remove the provider from the director's list within 60 days of the mailing date of the order under ORS 656.704(2) and OAR 436-001-0019.

**(3) IME Complaint Process.**

- (a) A complaint about an IME may be submitted to the division for investigation.
- (b) The division reviews IME complaints to determine the appropriate action under the director's jurisdiction.
- (c) The division investigates IME complaints to determine if there is a violation of one or more of the standards of professional conduct or workers' compensation laws or rules.
- (d) If the division determines additional information is needed the division will contact the IME provider regarding the allegations in the complaint and request:
- (A) A written response regarding the allegations;
  - (B) A copy of the IME report;
  - (C) Contact information for scribes, chaperones, or other people attending the IME at the IME provider's request; or
  - (D) A copy of a video or audio recording of the IME, if the IME was recorded.
- (e) If the division does not receive a response to information requested under subsection (d) within 14 days from the date of the request, the division may make a decision based on available information.
- (f) The division may contact any person who may have information or view any documentation or items regarding the IME or complaint.
- (g) The division will notify the IME provider and complainant in writing of the outcome of the IME investigation.
- (h) When investigating a new complaint regarding an IME provider, the division will review all complaints about that provider received in the past two years, excluding complaints where the director found no violation, to determine if there is a pattern of behavior involving the IME provider. If there is a pattern of behavior, the director may take additional action, up to and including removal of the provider from the director's list of authorized IME providers.
- (i) An order issued by the director to remove an IME provider from the director's list of authorized IME providers will include a notice of appeal rights under ORS 656.704(2) and OAR 436-001-0019.

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**(4) IME Training.**

An outside vendor may provide initial IME training to providers wanting to become an IME provider, as long as the training is approved by the director before it is provided.

**(5) IME Related Forms.**

(a) When scheduling an IME, the insurer must ensure the medical service provider has:

(A) [Form 3923](#), "Important Information about Independent Medical Exams," available to the worker before the exam; and

(B) [Form 3227](#), "Invasive Medical Procedure Authorization," if applicable.

(b) The IME provider must make [Form 3923](#) with the attached observer Form [3923A](#) available to the worker.

**(6) IME Observer.**

(a) A worker may choose to have an observer present during the IME. An observer is not allowed to be present during a psychological examination unless the IME provider approves.

(b) The worker's observer must not be paid to attend the IME. The worker's attorney or any representative of the worker's attorney may not be an observer.

(c) If the observer interferes with or obstructs the IME, the IME provider may ask the observer to leave and continue the IME with the worker's consent or end the IME.

(d) If the worker chooses to have an observer present, the provider must verify that the worker has signed [Form 3923A](#), "IME Observer Form," acknowledging that the worker understands:

(A) The IME provider may ask sensitive questions during the exam in the presence of the observer;

(B) If the observer interferes with the exam, the IME provider may stop the exam, which could affect the worker's benefits; and

(C) The observer must not be paid to attend the exam.

**(7) Invasive Procedure.**

(a) For the purposes of this rule, an invasive procedure is one that breaks the skin or penetrates, pierces, or enters the body using a surgical or exploratory procedure (e.g., by a needle, tube, scope, or scalpel). If an IME provider intends to perform an invasive procedure, the provider must explain to the worker the risks involved in the procedure and the worker's right to refuse the procedure. The worker must check the applicable box on [Form 3227](#), "Invasive Medical Procedure Authorization," either agreeing to the procedure or declining the procedure and sign the form. The IME provider must make a copy of the signed Form 3227 for the worker and send the original to the insurer.

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(b) An IME provider may be sanctioned under OAR 436-010-0340(1) for failing to follow this section.

**(8) Recording the IME.**

With the IME provider's approval, the worker may use a video camera or other device to record the IME.

**(9) Objection to the IME Location.**

When a worker objects to the location of an IME, the worker may request review before the director within six business days of the mailing date of the appointment notice.

- (a) The request may be made in-person, by telephone, fax, email, or mail.
- (b) The director may facilitate an agreement between the parties regarding location.
- (c) If necessary, the director will conduct an expedited review and issue an order regarding the reasonableness of the location.
- (d) The director will determine if travel is medically contraindicated or unreasonable because:
  - (A) The travel exceeds limitations imposed by the attending physician, authorized nurse practitioner, or any medical conditions;
  - (B) Alternative methods of travel will not overcome the limitations; or
  - (C) The travel would impose undue hardship for the worker that outweighs the right of the insurer to select an IME location of its choice.

**(10) Failure to Attend an IME.**

If the worker fails to attend an IME and does not notify the insurer before the date of the IME or does not have sufficient reason for not attending the IME, the director may impose a monetary penalty against the worker for failure to attend.

**(11) IME Report.**

- (a) After the IME is complete, the IME provider must send the insurer a report that includes, but is not limited to the following:
  - (A) Clear and accurate documentation of all tests performed;
  - (B) Who performed the IME;
  - (C) Who dictated the report;
  - (D) A signed quality assurance statement acknowledging that to the best of the IME provider's ability all statements contained in the report are true and accurate; and

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- (E) A copy of the observer [Form 3923A](#), the invasive procedure [Form 3227](#), or both, if applicable.
- (b) The IME provider must communicate with the insurer if the IME provider is unable to provide the report within the insurer's requested time period and provide a date when the report will be sent.
- (c) The insurer must forward a copy of the signed report to the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner within three business days of the insurer's receipt of the report.

**(12) Request for Additional IME.**

- (a) When the insurer has obtained the three IMEs allowed under section (1) of this rule, the insurer must request authorization from the director before scheduling the worker for an additional IME. An insurer that fails to request authorization from the director may be assessed a civil penalty.
- (b) The insurer must submit a request for authorization to the director for an additional IME by using [Form 2333](#), "Insurer's Request for Director Approval of an Additional Independent Medical Examination." The insurer must send a copy of the request to the worker and the worker's attorney, if represented.
- (c) The director will review the request and determine if additional information from the insurer or the worker is needed.
- (A) Upon receiving a written request for additional information from the director, the parties have 14 days to respond.
- (B) If the parties do not provide the requested information within the timeframes in paragraph (A), the director will issue an order approving or disapproving the request based on available information.
- (d) The director, when making a determination to approve or deny the request for an additional IME, will consider, but is not limited to, whether:
- (A) An IME involving the same disciplines or review of the same condition has been completed within the past six months;
- (B) There has been a significant change in the worker's condition;
- (C) There is a new condition or compensable aspect in the claim;
- (D) There is a conflict of medical opinions about a worker's medical treatment, medical services, impairment, stationary status, or other issues critical to claim processing or benefits;
- (E) The IME is requested to establish a preponderance for medically stationary status;
- (F) The IME is medically harmful to the worker, and
- (G) The IME is requested for a condition for which the worker has sought treatment or services, or the condition has been included in the compensable claim.

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(e) Any party that disagrees with the director's order to approve or disapprove a request for an additional IME may request a hearing by the board under ORS 656.283 and OAR chapter 438.

**(13) Other Exams – Not Considered IMEs.**

The following exams are not considered IMEs and do not require approval as outlined in section (12) of this rule:

- (a) An exam, including a closing exam, requested by the worker's attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner;
- (b) An exam requested by the director;
- (c) An elective surgery consultation requested under OAR 436-010-0250(2)(b);
- (d) An exam of a permanently totally disabled worker required under ORS 656.206(5);
- (e) A closing exam that has been arranged by the insurer at the attending physician's or authorized nurse practitioner's request; and
- (f) An exam requested by the managed care organization (MCO) for the purpose of clarifying or refining a plan for continuing medical services as provided under the MCO's contract.

**Stat. Auth:** ORS 656.726(4)

**Stat. Implemented:** ORS 656.252, 656.325, 656.245, 656.260, 656.264, 656.328

**Hist:** Amended 3/11/19 as Admin. Order 19-052, eff. 4/1/19

Amended 6/13/22 as Admin. Order 22-054, eff. 7/1/22

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-010-0270 Insurer's Rights and Duties**

### **(1) Notifications.**

- (a) Immediately following receipt of notice or knowledge of a claim, the insurer must notify the worker in writing about how to receive medical services for compensable injuries.
- (b) Within 10 days of any change in the status of a claim, (e.g., acceptance or denial of a claim, or a new or omitted medical condition), the insurer must notify the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner, if known, and the MCO, if any.
- (c) In disabling and nondisabling claims, immediately following notice or knowledge that the worker is medically stationary, the insurer must notify the worker and the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner in writing which medical services remain

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compensable. This notice must list all benefits the worker is entitled to receive under ORS 656.245 (1)(c).

(d) When the insurer establishes a medically stationary date that is not based on the findings of an attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner, the insurer must notify all medical service providers of the worker's medically stationary status. For all injuries occurring on or after October 23, 1999, the insurer must pay all medical service providers for services rendered until the insurer provides notice of the medically stationary date to the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner.

## **(2) Medical Records Requests.**

(a) Insurers may request relevant medical records, using [Form 2476](#), "Request for Release of Medical Records for Oregon Workers' Compensation Claim," or a computer-generated equivalent of Form 2476, with "signature on file" printed on the worker's signature line, provided the insurer maintains a worker-signed original of the release form.

(b) Within 14 days of receiving a request, the insurer must forward all relevant medical information to return-to-work specialists, vocational rehabilitation organizations, or new attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner.

## **(3) Pre-authorization.**

Unless otherwise provided by an MCO, an insurer must respond in writing within 14 days of receiving a medical provider's written request for preauthorization of diagnostic imaging studies, other than plain film X-rays. The response must include whether the service is pre-authorized or not pre-authorized.

## **(4) Insurer's Duties under MCO Contracts.**

(a) Insurers who enter into an MCO contract under OAR 436-015, must notify the affected employers of the following:

- (A) The names and addresses of all MCO panel providers within the employer's geographical service area(s);
- (B) How workers can receive compensable medical services within the MCO;
- (C) How workers can receive compensable medical services by non-panel providers; and
- (D) The geographical service area governed by the MCO.

(b) Insurers under contract with an MCO must notify any newly insured employers as specified in subsection (4)(a) of this rule no later than the effective date of coverage.



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(c) When the insurer is enrolling a worker in an MCO, the insurer must provide the name, address, and telephone number of the worker and, if represented, the worker's attorney's name, mailing address, phone number, and, if known, fax number and email address to the MCO.

(d) When the insurer is enrolling a worker in an MCO, the insurer must simultaneously provide written notice to the worker, the worker's representative, all medical providers, and the MCO of enrollment. To be considered complete, the notice must:

(A) Provide the worker a written list of the eligible attending physicians within the relevant MCO geographic service area or provide a Web address to access the list of eligible attending physicians. If the notice does not include a written list, then the notice must also:

(i) Provide a telephone number the worker may call to ask for a written list; and

(ii) Tell the worker that they have seven days from the mailing date of the notice to request the list;

(B) Explain how the worker may obtain the names and addresses of the complete panel of MCO medical providers;

(C) Advise the worker how to obtain medical services for compensable injuries within the MCO. This includes whether the worker:

(i) Must change attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner to an MCO panel provider, or

(ii) May continue to treat with the worker's current attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner;

(D) Explain how the worker can receive compensable medical treatment from a "come-along" provider;

(E) Advise the worker of the right to choose the MCO when more than one MCO contract covers the worker's employer, except when the employer provides a coordinated health care program. For the purpose of this rule, "coordinated health care program" means an employer program providing coordination of a separate policy of group health insurance coverage with the medical portion of workers' compensation coverage, for some or all of the employer's workers, which provides the workers with health care benefits even if a workers' compensation claim is denied; and

(F) Notify the worker of the worker's right to appeal MCO decisions and provide the worker with the title, address, and telephone number of the contact person at the MCO responsible for ensuring the timely resolution of complaints or disputes.

(e) When an insurer enrolls a worker in an MCO before claim acceptance, the insurer must inform the worker in writing that the insurer will pay for certain medical services even if the claim is denied. Necessary and reasonable medical services that are not

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otherwise covered by health insurance will be paid until the worker receives the notice of claim denial or until three days after the denial is mailed, whichever occurs first.

(f) When a worker who is not yet medically stationary must change medical providers because an insurer enrolled the worker in an MCO, the insurer must notify the worker of the right to request review before the MCO if the worker believes the change would be medically detrimental.

(g) The insurer may delegate to the MCO responsibility for issuing the enrollment notice required by ORS 656.245(4)(a) and these rules by express provision in the contract between those parties; however, the insurer remains liable for any deficiencies in the notice issued by the MCO.

(h) If, at the time of MCO enrollment, the worker's medical service providers are not members of the MCO and do not qualify as "come-along providers," the insurer must notify the worker and providers regarding provisions of care under the MCO contract, including continuity of care as provided by OAR 436-015-0037(3).

(i) Within seven days of receiving a dispute regarding an issue that should be processed through the MCO dispute resolution process and a copy has not been sent to the MCO, the insurer must:

(A) Send a copy of the dispute to the MCO; or

(B) If the MCO does not have a dispute resolution process for that issue, notify the parties in writing to seek administrative review before the director.

(j) The insurer must notify the MCO within seven days of receiving notification of the following:

(A) When the worker obtains representation by an attorney, the attorney's name, mailing address, phone number, and, if known, fax number and email address;

(B) Any changes to the worker's or worker's attorney's name, address, or telephone number;

(C) Any requests for medical services from the worker or the worker's medical provider; or

(D) Any request by the worker to continue treating with a "come-along" provider.

(k) Insurers under contract with MCOs must maintain records including, but not limited to:

(A) A listing of all employers covered by MCO contracts;

(B) The employers' WCD employer numbers;

(C) The estimated number of employees governed by each MCO contract;

(D) A list of all workers enrolled in the MCO; and

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(E) The effective dates of such enrollments.

(l) When the insurer is disenrolling a worker from an MCO, the insurer must simultaneously provide written notice of the disenrollment to the worker, the worker's representative, all medical service providers, and the MCO. The insurer must mail the notice no later than seven days before the date the worker is no longer subject to the contract. The notice must tell the worker how to obtain compensable medical services after disenrollment.

(m) When an MCO contract expires or is terminated without renewal, the insurer must simultaneously provide written notice to the worker, the worker's representative, all medical service providers, and the MCO that the worker is no longer subject to the MCO contract. The notice must be mailed no later than three days before the date the contract expires or terminates. The notice must tell the worker how to obtain compensable medical services after the worker is no longer subject to the MCO contract.

Stat. Auth: ORS 656.726(4)

Stat. Implemented: ORS 656.252, 656.325, 656.245, 656.248, 656.260, 656.264

Hist: Amended 3/13/18 as Admin. Order 18-054, eff. 4/1/18

Statutory minor correction – ORS 183.335(7), filed and effective 7/6/20

Amended 6/13/22 as Admin. Order 22-054, eff. 7/1/22

Amended 3/9/23 as Admin. Order 23-051, eff. 4/1/23

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-010-0280      Determination of Impairment / Closing Exams**

(1) When a worker becomes medically stationary and there is a reasonable expectation of permanent disability, the attending physician must complete a closing exam or refer the worker to a consulting physician for all or part of the closing exam. If the worker is under the care of an authorized nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or a ~~type B attending naturopathic~~ naturopathic physician, ~~other than a chiropractic physician~~, the provider must refer the worker to a type A attending physician to do a closing exam.

(2) The closing exam must be completed under OAR 436-030 and 436-035 and [Bulletin 239](#). (See Appendix A "Matrix for Health Care Provider Types".)

(3) When the attending physician completes the closing exam, the attending physician has 14 days from the medically stationary date to send the closing report to the insurer. When the attending physician does not complete the closing exam, the attending physician must arrange, or ask the insurer to arrange, a closing exam with a consulting physician within seven days of the medically stationary date.

(4) When an attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner requests a consulting physician to do the closing exam, the consulting physician has seven days from the date of

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the exam to send the report to the attending physician for concurrence or objections. Within seven days of receiving the closing exam report, the attending physician must state in writing whether the physician concurs with or objects to all or part of the findings of the exam, and send the concurrence or objections with the report to the insurer.

- (5) The attending physician must specify the worker's residual functional capacity if:
- (a) The attending physician has not released the worker to the job held at the time of injury because of a permanent work restriction caused by the compensable injury, and
  - (b) The worker has not returned to the job held at the time of injury, because of a permanent work restriction caused by the compensable injury.
- (6) Instead of specifying the worker's residual functional capacity under section (5) of this rule, the attending physician may refer the worker for:
- (a) A second-level physical capacities evaluation (see OAR 436-009-0060) when the worker has not been released to return to the job held at the time of injury, has not returned to the job held at the time of injury, has returned to modified work, or has refused an offer of modified work; or
  - (b) A work capacities evaluation (see OAR 436-009-0060) when there is a question of the worker's ability to return to suitable and gainful employment. The provider may also be required to specify the worker's ability to perform specific job tasks.
- (7) When the insurer issues a major contributing cause denial on an accepted claim and the worker is not medically stationary:
- (a) The attending physician must do a closing exam or refer the worker to a consulting physician for all or part of the closing exam; or
  - (b) An authorized nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or a type B attending naturopathic physician, ~~other than a chiropractic physician~~, must refer the worker to a type A attending physician for a closing exam.
- (8) The closing report must include all of the following:
- (a) Findings of permanent impairment.
    - (A) In an initial injury claim, the closing report must include objective findings of any permanent impairment that is caused in any part by an accepted condition or a direct medical sequela of an accepted condition.
    - (B) In a new or omitted condition claim, the closing report must include objective findings of any permanent impairment that is caused in any part by an accepted new or omitted condition or a direct medical sequela of an accepted new or omitted condition.

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- (C) In an aggravation claim, the closing report must include objective findings of any permanent impairment that is caused in any part by an accepted worsened condition or a direct medical sequela of an accepted worsened condition.
- (D) In an occupational disease claim, the closing report must include objective findings of any permanent impairment that is caused in any part by an accepted occupational disease or a direct medical sequela of an accepted occupational disease.
- (b) Findings documenting permanent work restrictions.
- (A) If the worker has no permanent work restriction, the closing report must include a statement indicating that:
- (i) The worker has no permanent work restriction; or
  - (ii) The worker is released, without restriction, to the job held at the time of injury.
- (B) In an initial injury claim, the closing report must include objective findings documenting any permanent work restriction that:
- (i) Prevents the worker from returning to the job held at the time of injury; and
  - (ii) Is caused in any part by an accepted condition or a direct medical sequela of an accepted condition.
- (C) In a new or omitted condition claim, the closing report must include objective findings documenting any permanent work restriction that:
- (i) Prevents the worker from returning to the job held at the time of injury; and
  - (ii) Is caused in any part by an accepted new or omitted condition or a direct medical sequela of an accepted new or omitted condition.
- (D) In an aggravation claim, the closing report must include objective findings documenting any permanent work restriction that:
- (i) Prevents the worker from returning to the job held at the time of injury; and
  - (ii) Is caused in any part by an accepted worsened condition or a direct medical sequela of an accepted worsened condition.
- (E) In an occupational disease claim, the closing report must include objective findings documenting any permanent work restriction that:
- (i) Prevents the worker from returning to the job held at the time of injury; and
  - (ii) Is caused in any part by an accepted occupational disease or a direct medical sequel of an accepted occupational disease.
- (c) A statement regarding the validity of an impairment finding is required in the following circumstances:

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**(A)** If the examining physician determines that a finding of impairment is invalid, the closing report must include a statement that identifies the basis for the determination that the finding is invalid.

**(B)** If the examining physician determines that a finding of impairment is valid but the finding is not addressed by any applicable validity criteria under [Bulletin 239](#), the closing report must include a statement that identifies the basis for the determination that the finding is valid.

**(C)** If the examining physician chooses to disregard applicable validity criteria under [Bulletin 239](#) because the criteria are medically inappropriate for the worker, the closing report must include a statement that describes why the criteria would be inappropriate.

**Stat. Auth:** ORS 656.726(4), 656.245(2)(b) | **Stats. Implemented:** ORS 656.245, 656.252

**Hist:** Amended 8/20/15 as Admin. Order 15-060, eff. 10/1/15

Amended 4/10/17 as Admin. Order 17-052, eff. 4/11/17 (temp)

Amended 9/7/17 as Admin. Order 17-055, eff. 10/8/17

Amended 3/13/18 as Admin. Order 18-054, eff. 4/1/18

Amended 11/22/23 as Admin. Order 23-055, eff. 1/1/2024

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-010-0290 Medical Care After Medically Stationary**

**(1)** A worker is found medically stationary when no further material improvement would reasonably be expected from medical treatment or the passage of time. Medical services after a worker's condition is medically stationary are compensable only when services are:

- (a)** Palliative care under section (2) of this rule;
- (b)** Curative care under sections (3) and (4) of this rule;
- (c)** Provided to a worker who has been determined permanently and totally disabled;
- (d)** Prescription medications;
- (e)** Necessary to administer or monitor administration of prescription medications;
- (f)** Prosthetic devices, braces, or supports;
- (g)** To monitor the status of, to replace, or to repair prosthetic devices, braces, and supports;
- (h)** Provided under an accepted claim for aggravation;
- (i)** Provided under Board's Own Motion;
- (j)** Necessary to diagnose the worker's condition; or
- (k)** Life-preserving modalities similar to insulin therapy, dialysis, and transfusions.

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**(2) Palliative Care.**

(a) Palliative care means that medical services are provided to temporarily reduce or moderate the intensity of an otherwise stable medical condition. It does not include those medical services provided to diagnose, heal, or permanently alleviate or eliminate a medical condition. Palliative care is compensable when the attending physician prescribes it and it is necessary to enable the worker to continue current employment or a vocational training program. Before palliative care can begin, the attending physician must submit a written palliative care request to the insurer for approval. The request must:

(A) Describe any objective findings;

(B) Identify the medical condition for which palliative care is requested by the appropriate ICD diagnosis;

(C) Detail a treatment plan which includes the name of the provider who will provide the care, specific treatment modalities, and frequency and duration of the care, not to exceed 180 days;

(D) Explain how the requested care is related to the compensable condition; and

(E) Describe how the requested care will enable the worker to continue current employment, or a current vocational training program, and the possible adverse effect if the care is not approved.

(b) Palliative care may begin after the attending physician submits the request to the insurer. If the insurer approves the request, palliative care services are payable from the date service begins. However, if the request is ultimately disapproved, the insurer is not liable for payment of the palliative care services.

(c) Insurers must date stamp all palliative care requests upon receipt. Within 30 days of receiving the request, the insurer must send written notice approving or disapproving the request to the attending physician, the provider who will provide the care, the worker, and the worker's attorney. If the request is disapproved, the notice must include the following paragraph, in bold text:

**NOTICE TO WORKER, WORKER'S ATTORNEY, AND ATTENDING PHYSICIAN: If you want to appeal this decision, you must notify the director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services in writing within 90 days of the mailing date of this notice. Send written requests for review to: Department of Consumer and Business Services, Workers' Compensation Division, Medical Resolution Team, 350 Winter Street NE, PO Box 14480, Salem, OR 97309-0405. If you do not notify DCBS in writing within 90 days, you will lose all rights to appeal the decision. For assistance, you may call the Workers' Compensation Division's toll-free hotline at 1-800-452-0288 and ask to speak with a Benefit Consultant.**

(d) If the insurer disapproves the request, the insurer must explain the reason why in writing. Reasons to disapprove a palliative care request may include:

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- (A) The palliative care services are not related to the compensable conditions;
- (B) The palliative care services are excessive, inappropriate, or ineffectual; or
- (C) The palliative care services will not enable the worker to continue current employment or a current vocational training program.

(e) When the insurer disapproves the palliative care request, the attending physician or the worker may request administrative review before the director under OAR 436-010-0008. The request for review must be within 90 days from the date of the insurer's disapproval notice. In addition to information required by OAR 436-010-0008, if the request is from the attending physician, it must include:

- (A) A copy of the original request to the insurer; and
- (B) A copy of the insurer's response.

(f) If the insurer fails to respond to the request in writing within 30 days, the attending physician or worker may request approval from the director within 120 days from the date the request was first submitted to the insurer. When the attending physician requests approval from the director, the physician must include a copy of the original request and may include any other supporting information.

(g) Subsequent requests for palliative care are subject to the same process as the initial request; however, the insurer may waive the requirement that the attending physician submit a supplemental palliative care request.

### **(3) Curative Care.**

Curative medical care is compensable when the care is provided to stabilize a temporary and acute waxing and waning of symptoms of the worker's condition.

### **(4) Advances in Medical Science.**

The director must approve curative care arising from a generally recognized, nonexperimental advance in medical science since the worker's claim was closed that is highly likely to improve the worker's condition and that is otherwise justified by the circumstances of the claim. When the attending physician believes that curative care is appropriate, the physician must submit a written request for approval to the director. The request must:

- (a) Describe any objective findings;
- (b) Identify the appropriate ICD diagnosis (the medical condition for which the care is requested);
- (c) Describe in detail the advance in medical science that has occurred since the worker's claim was closed that is highly likely to improve the worker's condition;



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(d) Provide an explanation, based on sound medical principles, as to how and why the care will improve the worker's condition; and

(e) Describe why the care is otherwise justified by the circumstances of the claim.

Stat. Auth: ORS 656.726 | Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.245

Hist: Amended 8/20/15 as Admin. Order 15-060, eff. 10/1/15

Amended 3/13/18 as Admin. Order 18-054, eff. 4/1/18

Amended 3/11/19 as Admin. Order 19-052, eff. 4/1/19

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-010-0300 Requesting Exclusion of Medical Treatment from Compensability**

If a worker or insurer believes that any medical treatment is unscientific, unproven as to its effectiveness, outmoded, or experimental, either party may initiate a request for exclusion of the medical treatment from compensability under ORS 656.245(3). The request must include documentation on why the medical treatment should be excluded from compensability for workers' compensation claims. The director will request advice from the licensing boards of practitioners that might be affected and the Medical Advisory Committee. The director will issue an order and may adopt a rule declaring the treatment to be noncompensable. The decision of the director is appealable under ORS 656.704. Request for administrative review of an individual worker's treatment under ORS 656.327 does not initiate review under this process. Excluded treatments are listed in OAR 436-009-0010.

Stat. Auth: ORS 656.726(4)

Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.245

Hist: Amended 8/20/15 as Admin. Order 15-060, eff. 10/1/15

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-010-0330 Medical Arbiters and Physician Reviewers**

(1) The director will establish and maintain a list of arbiters. The director will appoint a medical arbiter or a panel of medical arbiters from this list under ORS 656.268.

(2) The director will establish and maintain a list of physician reviewers. The director will appoint an appropriate physician or a panel of physicians from this list to review medical treatment or medical services disputes under ORS 656.245 and 656.327.

(3) When a worker is required to attend an examination under this rule, the director will provide notice of the examination to the worker and all affected parties. The notice will inform all parties of the time, date, location, and purpose of the examination. Examinations will be at a place reasonably convenient to the worker, if possible.

Stat. Auth: ORS 656.726(4)

Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.268, 656.325, 656.327

Hist: Amended 8/20/15 as Admin. Order 15-060, eff. 10/1/15

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Amended 3/7/16 as Admin. Order 16-051, eff. 4/1/16

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-010-0335      Monitoring and Auditing Medical Providers**

(1) The director may monitor and conduct periodic audits of medical providers to ensure compliance with ORS chapter 656 and chapter 436 of the administrative rules.

(2) All records maintained or required to be maintained must be disclosed upon request of the director.

Stat. Auth: ORS 656.726(4)

Stat. Implemented: ORS 656.245, 656.254, 656.745

Hist: Amended and renumbered from OAR 436-010-0260 8/20/15 as Admin. Order 15-060, eff. 10/1/15

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-010-0340      Sanctions and Civil Penalties**

(1) If the director finds any medical provider in violation of the medical reporting requirements established under ORS 656.245, 656.252, 656.254, or 656.325, or OAR 436-009 or 436-010, the director may impose one or more of the following sanctions:

(a) Reprimand by the director;

(b) Nonpayment, reduction, or recovery of fees in part or whole for medical services provided;

(c) Referral to the appropriate licensing board;

(d) Civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000 for each occurrence. In determining the amount of penalty to be assessed, the director will consider:

(A) The degree of harm inflicted on the worker or the insurer;

(B) Whether there have been previous violations; and

(C) Whether there is evidence of willful violations; or

(e) A penalty of \$100 for each violation of ORS 656.325(1)(c)(C).

(2) If the medical provider fails to provide information under OAR 436-010-0240 within 14 days of receiving a request sent by certified mail or fax, penalties under this rule or OAR 436-015-0120 may be imposed.

(3) The director may impose a penalty of forfeiture of fees and a fine not to exceed \$1,000 for each occurrence on any medical service provider who, under ORS 656.254, and 656.327, has been found to:

(a) Fail to comply with the medical rules;

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(b) Provide medical services that are excessive, inappropriate, or ineffectual; or

(c) Engage in any conduct demonstrated to be dangerous to the health or safety of a worker.

(4) If the conduct as described in section (3) of this rule is found to be repeated and willful, the director may declare the medical provider ineligible for reimbursement for treating workers' compensation patients for a period not to exceed three years.

(5) A medical provider whose license has been suspended or revoked by the licensing board for violations of professional ethical standards may be declared ineligible for reimbursement for treating workers' compensation patients for a period not to exceed three years. A certified copy of the revocation or suspension order will be prima facie justification for the director's order.

(6) If a financial penalty is imposed on the medical provider for violation of these rules, the provider may not seek recovery of the penalty fees from the worker.

(7) If an insurer or worker believes sanctions under sections (1) or (2) of this rule are appropriate, either may submit a complaint in writing to the director.

(8) If the director finds an insurer in violation of the notification provisions of OAR 436-010 limiting medical services, the director may order the insurer to reimburse any affected medical providers for services provided until the insurer complies with the notification requirement.

(9) The director may assess a civil penalty under ORS 656.745(2) against an insurer that violates ORS chapter 656, OAR 436-009, OAR 436-010, or an order of the director.

(10) The director may impose a \$100 penalty per occurrence under ORS 656.325 against a worker who fails to meet the requirements in OAR 436-010-0265(10), to be deducted from future benefits.

Stat. Auth: ORS 656.726(4)

Stat. Implemented: ORS 656.245, 656.254, 656.745

Hist: Amended 3/7/16 as Admin. Order 16-051, eff. 4/1/16

Amended 3/11/19 as Admin. Order 19-052, eff. 4/1/19

Amended 12/17/19 as Admin. Order 19-061, eff. 1/1/20

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

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**Appendix A - Matrix for health care provider types \***

See OAR 436-010-0210

	Attending physician status (primarily responsible for treatment of a patient)	Provide compensable medical services for initial injury or illness	Authorize payment of temporary disability and release the patient to work	Establish impairment findings (permanent disability)	Provide compensable medical services for aggravation of injury or illness
<b>Type A attending physician</b> Medical doctor Doctor of osteopathic medicine Oral and maxillofacial surgeon Podiatric physician and surgeon	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Type B attending physician</b> Chiropractic physician Naturopathic physician <del>Physician assistant</del>	Yes, for a total of 60 consecutive days or 18 visits, from the date of the <u>initial-first</u> visit on the initial claim with any <del>type</del> type B attending physician.	Yes, unless the total of 60 consecutive days or 18 visits from the date of the <u>initial-first</u> visit on the initial claim with any <del>type</del> type B attending physician has passed. Or, if authorized by an attending physician and under a treatment plan. <del>(Note: physician assistants are not required to have a written treatment plan)</del>	Yes, 30 days from the date of the first visit with any type B attending physician on the initial claim, if within the specified 18 visit period.	No, unless the type B attending physician is a chiropractic physician.	No, unless authorized by <u>a type A</u> attending physician and under a written treatment plan. <del>(Note: physician assistants are not required to have a written treatment plan)</del>
<b>Type C attending physician</b> Physician Assistant	<u>Yes, for a total of 180 consecutive days from the date of the first visit on the initial claim with any physician assistant.</u>	<u>Yes, for 180 consecutive days from the date of the first visit to any physician assistant on the initial claim. Or, if authorized by an attending physician.</u>	<u>Yes, for 180 days from the date of the first visit with any physician assistant on the initial claim.</u>	No	<u>No, unless authorized by a type A attending physician.</u>
Authorized nurse practitioner	No	<u>Yes, for 180 consecutive days from the date of the first visit to any authorized nurse practitioner on the initial claim. Or, if authorized by an attending physician.</u>	<u>Yes, for 180 days from the date of the first visit with any authorized nurse practitioner on the initial claim.</u>	No	<u>No, unless authorized by a type A attending physician.</u>
Emergency room physicians	No, if the physician refers the patient to a primary care physician.	Yes	An ER physician who is not authorized to serve as attending physician under ORS 656.005(12)(c) may authorize temporary disability for up to 14 days, including retroactive authorization.	No, if patient referred to a primary care physician.	Yes

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	Attending physician status (primarily responsible for treatment of a patient)	Provide compensable medical services for initial injury or illness	Authorize payment of temporary disability and release the patient to work	Establish impairment findings (permanent disability)	Provide compensable medical services for aggravation of injury or illness
"Other Health Care Providers" e.g., acupuncturists	No	Yes, for 30 consecutive days or 12 visits from the date of the first visit on the initial claim with any "Other Health Care Providers." Thereafter, services must be provided under a treatment plan and authorized by the attending physician.	No	No	No, unless referred by <del>the</del> <u>a type A</u> attending physician and under a written treatment plan.

\* This matrix does not apply to Managed Care Organizations

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**Independent Medical Examination (IME)  
Requirements and Standards of Professional Conduct  
Appendix B**

- 1. IME providers must maintain effective communication, which includes but is not limited to:**
  - a. Taking steps to avoid personal conflicts during the IME and to the extent they arise, an IME provider must be prepared to address the conflict in a professional and constructive manner and adapt to situations by changing strategy or communication style when appropriate.
  - b. Maintaining the confidentiality of the parties involved in the exam subject to applicable laws.
  - c. Allowing the worker to express themselves fully without unnecessary interruption. If the IME provider needs more information after a worker has answered a question, the IME provider must rephrase the question and explain why they are asking again.
  
- 2. IME providers must conduct an objective and impartial examination, which includes but is not limited to:**
  - a. Conducting the IME without any preconceived notions or premature conclusions.
  - b. Not sharing personal feelings or personal opinions.
  - c. Remaining objective and impartial, both in reporting and during the examination.
  - d. Basing findings and opinions only on established medical fact, practice, and theory, and not on an accepted fee for services.
  - e. Recusing themselves prior to the IME if there is any sort of pre-existing conflict, whether apparent or actual.
  - f. Being fair, truthful, and forthright in interactions with the worker and insurers whether through written documentation or oral communication.
  
- 3. IME providers must maintain dignity and respect for the parties involved, which includes but is not limited to:**
  - a. Treating the worker with dignity and respect and listening attentively.
  - b. Giving the worker appropriate empathy for pain, discomfort, and anxiety.
  - c. Using an appropriate tone and being aware of the worker's demeanor and body language when conducting the IME.

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- d. Being courteous and polite to the worker.
  - e. Being respectful of the worker's scheduled time for the IME and minimizing the necessary preparation for the IME while the worker waits.
  - f. Refraining from making disparaging or insulting comments to the worker about any party to the claim.
  - g. Refraining from criticizing or degrading the worker about their behavior or the history they provide.
  - h. Respecting a worker's answer of no, if the IME provider asks for permission to allow someone other than a scribe or chaperone to sit in on the IME without further questioning or encouraging a worker to provide permission.
- 4. Before the IME starts, the IME provider must:**
- a. Identify themselves to the worker as an IME provider;
  - b. Verify the worker's identity;
  - c. Tell the worker who requested the IME;
  - d. Tell the worker that an ongoing physician-patient relationship will not be sought or established;
  - e. Tell the worker that any information provided during the IME will be documented in a report;
  - f. Let the worker know that the IME provider cannot share opinions with them but will document findings in the report;
  - g. Explain the procedures that will be used during the IME;
  - h. Tell the worker that they may terminate a procedure if the worker feels the activity is beyond the worker's physical capacity or when pain occurs; and
  - i. Ask the worker if they have any questions about the IME process.
- 5. During the IME, the IME provider must:**
- a. Ensure the worker has privacy to disrobe;
  - b. Sufficiently examine the conditions being evaluated to answer the requesting party's questions; and
  - c. Let the worker know when the exam has concluded, and ask if the worker wants to provide more information or has questions.

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**Managed Care Organizations  
Oregon Administrative Rules  
Chapter 436, Division 015**

*Effective Jan. 1, 2024*

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Historical rules: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf)

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*Summary rule of changes effective January 1, 2024:*

- Amended rule 0005 modifies the definition of “come-along provider” to include physician assistants.
- Amended rule 0030 includes a requirement that MCOs have a process that allows workers to select a physician assistant.
- Amended rule 0040 adds “physician assistants” to the list of come-along providers for which an MCO has to report to the director denials and terminations of come-along status.
- Amended rule 0070 allows an MCO enrolled worker to continue to treat with a physician assistant who is not a member of the MCO, if the physician assistant maintains the worker’s medical records and with whom the worker has a documented history of treatment.

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OREGON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES  
CHAPTER 436, DIVISION 015

NOTE: Revisions are marked: [new text](#) | ~~deleted text~~.

## 436-015-0001 Purpose and Applicability of These Rules

### (1) Purpose.

The purpose of these rules is to establish and provide policies, procedures, and requirements to administer, evaluate, and enforce statutes relating to the delivery of medical services by managed care organizations (MCOs) to workers within the workers' compensation system.

### (2) Applicability of Rules.

(a) These rules apply on and after the effective date and govern all MCOs and insurers contracting with an MCO.

(b) The director may waive procedural rules as justice requires, unless otherwise obligated by statute.

(c) Any orders issued by the division in carrying out the director's authority to enforce Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) chapter 656 and Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) chapter 436, are considered orders of the director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services.

### (3) Timeliness of Documents.

Timeliness of any document required by these rules to be filed with or submitted to the division is determined as follows:

(a) If a document is mailed, it will be considered filed on the date it is postmarked.

(b) If a document is faxed or emailed, it must be received by the division by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time to be considered filed on that date.

(c) If a document is delivered, it must be delivered during regular business hours to be considered filed on that date.

(d) The date and time of receipt for electronic filings is determined under ORS 84.043.

(e) Time periods allowed for a filing or submission to the division are calculated in calendar days. The first day is not included. The last day is included unless it is a

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Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday. In that case, the period runs until the end of the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday. Legal holidays are those listed in ORS 187.010 and 187.020.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.260, 656.726(4)

Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.260

Hist: Amended 3/11/19, as Admin. Order 19-053, eff. 4/1/19

Amended 3/3/21, as Admin. Order 21-053, eff. 4/1/21

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-015-0005 Definitions**

Unless a term is specifically defined elsewhere in these rules or the context otherwise requires, the definitions of ORS chapter 656 and OAR 436-010-0005 are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these rules.

(1) **“Administrative review”** means any decision making process of the director requested by a party aggrieved with an action taken under these rules except the hearing process described in OAR 436-001.

(2) **“Come-along provider”** means a primary care physician, a chiropractic physician, [physician assistant](#), or an authorized nurse practitioner who is not a managed care organization (MCO) panel provider and who is authorized to continue to treat the worker when the worker becomes enrolled in an MCO.

(3) **“Coordinated health care program”** means an employer program providing for the coordination of a separate policy of group health insurance coverage with the medical portion of workers' compensation coverage, for some or all of the employer's workers, which provides workers with health care benefits even if a workers' compensation claim is denied.

(4) **“Division”** means the Workers' Compensation Division of the Department of Consumer and Business Services.

(5) **“Geographic service area (GSA)”** means an area of the state in which a managed care organization may be authorized by the director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services to provide managed care services. There are 15 geographic service areas in Oregon.

(6) **“Good cause”** means circumstances that are outside the control of a party or circumstances that are considered to be extenuating by the division.

(7) **“Group of medical service providers”** means individuals duly licensed to practice one or more of the healing arts who join together to provide medical services through a managed care organization, whether or not such providers have an ownership interest in the managed care organization.

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**(8) “Health care provider”** means an entity or group of entities, organized to provide health care services or to provide administrative support services to entities providing health care services. An entity solely organized to become an MCO under these rules is not, in and of itself, a health care provider.

**(9) “Insurer”** means the State Accident Insurance Fund Corporation; an insurer authorized under ORS chapter 731 to transact workers’ compensation insurance in the state; or an employer or employer group that has been certified under ORS 656.430 and meets the qualifications of a self-insured employer under ORS 656.407.

**(10) “Managed care organization” (“MCO”)** means an organization formed to provide medical services and certified under these rules.

**(11) “Medical provider”** means a medical service provider, a hospital, a medical clinic, or a vendor of medical services.

**(12) “Medical service”** means any medical treatment or any medical, surgical, diagnostic, chiropractic, dental, hospital, nursing, ambulance, and other related services, and drugs, medicine, crutches and prosthetic appliances, braces and supports, and, where necessary, physical restorative services.

**(13) “Medical service provider”** means a person duly licensed to practice one or more of the healing arts.

**(14) “Non-qualifying employer”** means either:

(a) An insurer as defined in this rule, with respect to managed care services to be provided to any subject worker; or

(b) An employer as defined under ORS 656.005(13), other than a health care provider, with respect to managed care services to such employer’s employees.

**(15) “Primary care physician”** means a physician qualified to be an attending physician according to ORS 656.005(12)(b)(A) and who is a general practitioner, family practitioner, or internal medicine practitioner.

**(16) “Show-cause hearing”** means an informal meeting with the director or the director’s designee where the MCO is provided an opportunity to explain and present evidence regarding any proposed orders by the director to suspend or revoke the MCO’s certification.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.260, 656.726(4)  
Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.260  
Hist: Amended 2/16/12, as Admin. Order 12-052, eff. 4/1/12  
Amended 3/13/18, as Admin. Order 18-055, eff. 4/1/18

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Amended 3/11/19, as Admin. Order 19-053, eff. 4/1/19

Amended 11/22/23 as Admin. Order 23-056, eff. 1/1/2024

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-015-0007      Entities Allowed to Manage Care**

(1) Only an MCO may provide managed care services as described in ORS 656.260(4)(d) and (21)(a), except as allowed under OAR 436-015-0009.

(2) An insurer or someone acting on behalf of an insurer may not manage the care of workers by limiting the choice of medical providers, or by requiring medical providers to abide by specific treatment standards, treatment guidelines, or treatment protocols.

**Stat. Auth.:** ORS 656.260, 656.726(4)

**Stats. Implemented:** ORS 656.260

**Hist:** Amended 2/16/12, as Admin. Order 12-052, eff. 4/1/12

Amended 3/13/18, as Admin. Order 18-055, eff. 4/1/18

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-015-0008      Request for Review before the Director**

(1) The process for administrative review is as follows:

(a) Any party that disagrees with an action of an MCO must first use the MCO's dispute resolution process. If the party does not appeal the MCO's decision, in writing and within 30 days of the mailing date of the decision, the party will lose all rights to further appeal the decision unless the party can show good cause. When the aggrieved party is a represented worker, and the worker's attorney has given written notice of representation to the insurer, the 30-day time frame begins when the attorney receives written notice or has actual knowledge of the MCO decision.

When a party mistakenly sends an appeal of an MCO action or decision to the division, the division will forward the appeal to the MCO. The MCO must use the original mailing date of the appeal mistakenly sent to the division when determining timeliness of the appeal.

(b) Within 60 days of the date the MCO issues a final decision under the MCO's dispute resolution process, the aggrieved party must file a written request for administrative review with the division. The request must specify the grounds upon which the action is contested.

If a party has been denied access to an MCO dispute resolution process because the complaint or dispute was not included in the MCO's dispute resolution process or because the MCO's dispute resolution process was not completed for reasons beyond a party's control, the party must request administrative review within 60 days of the failure of the MCO to issue a decision.

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When the aggrieved party is a represented worker, and the worker's attorney had given written notice of representation to the insurer at the time the MCO issued its decision, the 60-day time frame begins when the MCO issues its final decision to the attorney.

(c) The director will create a documentary record sufficient for judicial review. The director may require and allow the parties to submit input and information appropriate to complete the review.

(d) The director will review the record and issue an order. The order must specify that it will become final within 30 days of the mailing date of the order unless a written request for hearing is filed with the division.

## **(2) Dispute Resolution by Agreement.**

Any party may request that the director provide voluntary mediation or alternative dispute resolution after a request for administrative review or hearing is filed. When a dispute is resolved by agreement of the parties to the director's satisfaction, the agreement must be in writing and approved by the director. If the dispute does not resolve through mediation, administrative review will continue.

## **(3) Physician Review (e.g., appropriateness).**

If the director determines an evaluation by a physician is indicated to resolve the dispute, the director may appoint an appropriate medical service provider or panel of providers under ORS 656.325(1) to review the medical records and, if necessary, examine the worker and perform any necessary and reasonable medical tests, other than invasive tests. The worker may refuse an invasive test without sanction.

(a) A single physician selected to conduct an evaluation must be a practitioner of the same healing art and specialty, if practicable, as the medical service provider whose treatment or service is being reviewed.

(b) When a panel of physicians is selected, at least one panel member must be a practitioner of the same healing art and specialty, if practicable, as the medical service provider whose treatment or service is being reviewed.

(c) When an examination of the worker is required, the director will notify the appropriate parties of the date, time, and location of the examination. No party may directly contact the physician or panel except as it relates to the examination date, time, location, and attendance. If the parties want the physician or panel to address specific questions, the parties must submit these questions to the director for screening. The director will determine the appropriateness of the questions. Matters not related to the issues before the director are inappropriate for medical evaluation, and the director will not submit questions regarding such matters to the evaluating physician(s). The evaluation may include:

(A) A review of all medical records and diagnostic tests submitted;



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- (B) An examination of the worker; and
- (C) Any necessary and reasonable medical tests.

**(4) Hearings.**

Except as provided in sections (5) and (6), any party that disagrees with an order under these rules may file a request for hearing as provided in OAR 436-001-0019 within 30 days of the mailing date of the order. OAR 436-001 applies to the hearing. In the review of orders issued under ORS 656.260(15) and (16), no new medical evidence or issues will be admitted at hearing. In these reviews, administrative orders may be modified at hearing only if the administrative order is not supported by substantial evidence in the record or reflects an error of law. The dispute may be remanded to the MCO for further evidence taking, correction, or other necessary action if the administrative law judge or director determines the record has been improperly, incompletely, or otherwise insufficiently developed.

**(5) Request for Hearing on Proposed Sanctions and Civil Penalties.**

Under ORS 656.740, any party that disagrees with a proposed order or proposed assessment of civil penalty issued by the director under ORS 656.745, or to a civil penalty or cease and desist order issued under ORS 656.260(21), may request a hearing by the Hearings Division of the Workers' Compensation Board (board) as follows:

- (a) The party must file a written request for a hearing with the division within 60 days after the mailing date of the proposed order or assessment. The request must specify the grounds upon which the proposed order or assessment is contested.
- (b) The division will forward the request and other pertinent information to the board.
- (c) An administrative law judge from the Hearings Division, acting on behalf of the director, will conduct the hearing under ORS 656.740 and ORS chapter 183.

**(6) MCO Certification Suspension or Revocation.**

Hearings on the suspension or revocation of an MCO's certification:

- (a) At a show-cause hearing on a notice of intent to suspend issued under OAR 436-015-0080(2), the MCO must present evidence regarding why it should be permitted to continue to provide services under these rules.
  - (A) If the director determines that the acts or omissions of the MCO justify suspension of the MCO's certification, the director may issue an order suspending the MCO for a period of time up to a maximum of one year or may initiate revocation proceedings under OAR 436-015-0080(5). If the director determines that the acts or omissions of the MCO do not justify suspension, the director will issue an order withdrawing the notice.

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- (B) If the MCO disagrees with the order, the MCO may file a request for hearing as provided in OAR 436-001-0019 within 60 days of the mailing date of the order.
- (C) OAR 436-001 applies to the hearing.
- (b) A revocation issued under OAR 436-015-0080(5) becomes effective 10 days after service of such notice upon the MCO unless, within such period of time, the MCO corrects the grounds for revocation to the satisfaction of the director or files a written request for a show cause hearing with the division.
- (A) If the MCO requests a hearing, the division will set a date for a show cause hearing and will give the MCO at least 10 days notice of the time and place of the hearing. At hearing, the MCO must show cause why it should be permitted to continue to provide services under these rules.
- (B) Within 30 days after the hearing, the director will issue an order affirming or withdrawing the revocation.
- (C) If the MCO disagrees with the order, the MCO may file a request for hearing as provided in OAR 436-001-0019 within 60 days of the mailing date of the order.
- (D) OAR 436-001 applies to the hearing.
- (c) An emergency revocation issued under OAR 436-015-0080(7) is effective immediately. The MCO may file a request for hearing as provided in OAR 436-001-0019 within 60 days of the mailing date of the order. OAR 436-001 applies to the hearing.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 183.310 thru 550; ORS 656.260, 656.325, 656.704.; and 656.726(4)  
 Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.260, 656.325, and 656.704  
 Hist: Amended 3/13/18, as Admin. Order 18-055, eff. 4/1/18  
 Amended 3/11/19, as Admin. Order 19-053, eff. 4/1/19  
 Minor correction under ORS 183.335(7) (WCD 16-2020), filed and eff. 11/30/20  
 See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-015-0009      Formed, Owned, or Operated**

- (1) The director will not certify an MCO formed, owned, or operated by a non-qualifying employer.
- (2) For purposes of this rule, "staff" means any individual who is an employee of a non-qualifying employer or of any parent or subsidiary entity of a non-qualifying employer.
- (3) A non-qualifying employer or any of its staff, or their immediate family, may not:
- (a) Directly participate in the formation, certification, or incorporation of the MCO;
- (b) Nominate, assume a position as, or act in the role of, a director, officer, agent, or employee of the MCO;

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- (c) Arrange for, lend, guarantee, or otherwise provide financing for any organizational costs of the MCO;
  - (d) Arrange for, lend, guarantee, or otherwise provide financial support to the MCO (financial support does not include contracted fees for services rendered by an MCO);
  - (e) Have any ownership or similar financial interest in or right to payment from the MCO;
  - (f) Make or exercise any control over business, operational, or policy decisions of the MCO;
  - (g) Possess or control the ownership of voting securities of the MCO. The director will presume possession or control exists if any person, directly or indirectly, holds the power to vote or holds proxies of any other person representing 10 percent or more of the voting securities of the MCO;
  - (h) Provide MCO services other than as allowed by section (4) of this rule;
  - (i) Enter into any contract with the MCO that limits the ability of the MCO to accept business from any other source; or
  - (j) Direct or interfere with the MCO's delivery of medical and health care services.
- (4) Notwithstanding section (3) of this rule, an MCO may contract with an insurer to provide certain managed care services. However, such insurer-provided services must be according to protocols and standards established by the certified MCO plan. The insurer may not provide or participate in the provision of managed care services related to dispute resolution, service utilization review, or physician peer review.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.260, 656.726(4)  
 Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.260  
 Hist: Amended 2/16/12, as Admin. Order 12-052, eff. 4/1/12  
 Amended 3/13/18, as Admin. Order 18-055, eff. 4/1/18  
 See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-015-0010 Notice of Intent to Form an MCO**

- (1) Any health care provider or group of medical service providers initiating an MCO under ORS 656.260 must submit a "Notice of Intent to Form" to the director, by certified mail. [Form 2737](#) may be used for this purpose.
- (2) The Notice of Intent to Form must include the following:
  - (a) The identity of each person who participates in discussions intended to result in the formation of an MCO. If the person is a member of a closely held corporation, the notice must include the identity of the shareholders;

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- (b) The name, address, and telephone number of a contact person; and
- (c) A summary of the information that will be shared in discussions preceding the application for MCO certification.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.260, 656.726(4)

Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.260

Hist: Amended 2/16/12, as Admin. Order 12-052, eff. 4/1/12

Amended 3/13/18, as Admin. Order 18-055, eff. 4/1/18

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-015-0030     Applying for Certification**

### **(1) General.**

The MCO must establish one place of business in Oregon where it administers the plan and keeps membership and other records as required by OAR 436-015-0050.

(2) An applicant for MCO certification must submit the following to the director:

- (a) One copy of the application;
- (b) A nonrefundable fee of \$1,500, payable to the Department of Consumer and Business Services, which will be deposited in the Consumer and Business Services Fund;
- (c) Affidavits of each person identified in section (3) of this rule, certifying that the individuals have no interest in a non-qualifying employer under OAR 436-015-0009;
- (d) An affidavit of an authorized officer or agent of the MCO, certifying that the MCO is financially sound and able to meet all requirements necessary to ensure delivery of services under the plan, and in full satisfaction of the MCO's obligations under ORS 656.260 and OAR 436-015; and
- (e) A complete organizational chart.

### **(3) MCO Application.**

The application must include:

- (a) The name of the MCO;
- (b) The name of each person who will be a director of the MCO;
- (c) The name of the person who will be the president of the MCO;
- (d) The title and name of the person who will be the day-to-day administrator of the MCO;

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(e) The title and name of the person who will be the administrator of the financial affairs of the MCO; and

(f) A proposed plan for the MCO, in which the applicant identifies how the MCO will meet the requirements of ORS 656.260 and these rules.

**(4) MCO Plan - General.**

The plan must:

(a) Identify the initial GSAs in which the MCO intends to operate (For details regarding GSAs, see [http://wcd.oregon.gov/Bulletins/bul\\_248.pdf](http://wcd.oregon.gov/Bulletins/bul_248.pdf));

(b) Describe the reimbursement procedures for all services provided;

(c) Include a process for developing financial incentives directed toward reducing service costs and utilization, without sacrificing quality of service;

(d) Describe how the MCO will provide insurers with information that will inform workers of all choices of medical service providers and how workers can access those providers;

(e) Provide a procedure to identify those providers in the panel provider listings that only accept existing patients as workers' compensation patients. This procedure is not subject to the timeframe established in subsection (f) of this section;

(f) Provide a procedure for regular, periodic updating of all MCO panel provider listings, with published updates being available electronically no less frequently than every 30 days; and

(g) Include a procedure for timely and accurate reporting to the director of necessary information regarding medical and health care service costs and utilization under OAR 436-015-0040 and OAR 436-009.

**(5) MCO Plan – Worker Rights.**

The plan must provide a description of the times, places, and manner of providing services adequate to ensure that workers governed by the MCO will be able to:

(a) Access an MCO panel with a minimum of one attending physician within the MCO for every 1,000 workers covered by the plan;

(b) Receive initial treatment by an MCO attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner of the worker's choice within 24 hours of the MCO's knowledge of the need or a request for treatment;

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- (c) Receive treatment by an MCO attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner of the worker's choice within five working days after the worker received treatment outside the MCO;
- (d) Receive information on a 24-hour basis regarding medical services available within the MCO which must include:
  - (A) The worker's right to receive emergency or urgent care, and
  - (B) The MCO's regular hours of operation if the worker needs assistance selecting an attending physician or has other questions.
- (e) Access medical providers, including attending physicians, within a reasonable distance from the worker's place of employment, considering the normal patterns of travel. For purposes of this rule, 30 miles (one way) in urban areas and 60 miles (one way) in rural areas will be considered a reasonable distance;
- (f) Receive treatment by a non-MCO medical service provider when the enrolled worker resides outside the MCO's geographic service area. Such a worker may only select non-MCO providers if they practice closer to the worker's residence than an MCO provider of the same category, and if the provider agrees to the MCO's terms and conditions;
- (g) Receive services that meet quality, continuity, and other treatment standards which will provide all medical and health care services in a manner that is timely, effective, and convenient for the worker;
- (h) Receive specialized medical services the MCO is not able to provide;
- (i) Receive treatment that is consistent with MCO treatment standards and protocols; and
- (j) Remain eligible to receive authorized temporary disability benefits up to 14 days after the mailing date of a notice enrolling the worker's claim in an MCO under OAR 436-010-0270(4)(d).

**(6) MCO Plan – Choice of Provider.**

The plan must provide all of the following:

- (a) An adequate number, but not less than three, of medical service providers from each provider category. For purposes of these rules, the categories include acupuncturist, chiropractic physician, dentist, naturopathic physician, optometric physician, osteopathic physician, medical physician, and podiatric physician. The worker also must be able to choose from at least three physical therapists and three psychologists. The plan must meet this section's requirements unless the MCO establishes that there is not an adequate number of providers in a given category able or willing to become members of the MCO.

For categories where the MCO has fewer than three providers within a GSA or the MCO is unable to provide a list of three providers willing to treat a worker within a reasonable

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period of time, the MCO must allow the worker to seek treatment outside the MCO from a provider in each of those categories, consistent with the MCO's treatment and utilization standards. Such providers cannot be required to comply with the terms and conditions regarding services performed by the MCO. These providers are not bound by the MCO's treatment and utilization standards, however, workers are subject to those standards.

(b) A process that allows workers to select an authorized nurse practitioner. If the MCO has fewer than three authorized nurse practitioners within a GSA or the MCO is unable to provide a list of three authorized nurse practitioners willing to treat a worker within a reasonable period of time, the MCO must allow the worker to seek treatment outside the MCO from an authorized nurse practitioner, consistent with the MCO's treatment and utilization standards and ORS 656.245(2)(b)(D). Such authorized nurse practitioners cannot be required to comply with the terms and conditions regarding services performed by the MCO. These authorized nurse practitioners are not bound by the MCO's treatment and utilization standards, however, workers are subject to those standards.

(c) A process that allows workers to select a physician assistant. If the MCO has fewer than three physician assistants within a GSA or the MCO is unable to provide a list of three physician assistants willing to treat a worker within a reasonable period of time, the MCO must allow the worker to seek treatment outside the MCO from a physician assistant, consistent with the MCO's treatment and utilization standards and ORS 656.245(2)(b)(D). Such physician assistants cannot be required to comply with the terms and conditions regarding services performed by the MCO. These physician assistants are not bound by the MCO's treatment and utilization standards, however, workers are subject to those standards.

(ed) A procedure that allows workers to receive compensable medical treatment from a come-along provider authorized under OAR 436-015-0070.

### **(7) MCO Plan – Provider Agreement.**

The plan must include:

(a) A copy of the standard provider agreement used by the MCO when a provider is credentialed as a panel provider. Variations from the standard provider agreement must be identified when the plan is submitted for director approval; and

(b) An initial list of the names, addresses, and specialties of the individuals who will provide services within the MCO. This list must indicate which medical service providers will act as attending physicians in each GSA.

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**(8) MCO Plan – Monitoring and Reviewing.**

The plan must provide adequate methods for monitoring and reviewing contract matters between providers and the MCO to ensure appropriate treatment and to prevent inappropriate or excessive treatment including:

- (a)** A program of peer review and utilization review including the following:

  - (A)** Pre-admission review of elective admissions to the hospital and elective surgeries;
  - (B)** Individual case management programs, which identify ways to provide appropriate care at a lower cost for cases that are likely to prove very costly;
  - (C)** Physician profile analysis which may include such information as each physician's total charges, number and costs of related services provided, workers' temporary disability, and total number of visits in relation to care provided by other physicians to patients with the same diagnosis. A physician's profile must not be released to anyone outside the MCO without the physician's specific written consent, except that the physician's profile must be released to the director without the necessity of obtaining such consent;
  - (D)** Concurrent review programs that periodically review the care after treatment has begun, to determine if continued care is medically necessary;
  - (E)** Retrospective review programs that examine care after treatment has ended, to determine if the treatment rendered was excessive or inappropriate; and
  - (F)** Second surgical opinion programs that allow workers to obtain the opinion of a second physician when elective surgery is recommended.
- (b)** A quality assurance program that includes:

  - (A)** A system for monitoring and resolving problems or complaints, including those identified by workers or medical service providers;
  - (B)** Physician peer review, which must be conducted by a group designated by the MCO or the director. The group must include members of the same healing art as the peer-reviewed physician; and
  - (C)** A standardized medical record system.
- (c)** A program that specifies the criteria for selection and termination of panel providers and the process for peer review. The processes for terminating a panel provider and peer review must provide adequate notice and hearing rights.
- (d)** A program that meets the requirements of ORS 656.260(4) for monitoring and reviewing other contract matters not covered under peer review, service utilization review, dispute resolution, or quality assurance.



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**(9) MCO Plan – Dispute Resolution.**

The plan must include:

- (a) A procedure for internal dispute resolution to resolve complaints by enrolled workers, medical providers, and insurers under OAR 436-015-0110. The internal dispute resolution procedure must include a provision allowing waiver of the 30-day period to appeal a decision to the MCO upon a showing of good cause; and
- (b) A description of how the MCO will ensure workers continue to receive appropriate care in a timely, effective, and convenient manner throughout the dispute resolution process.

**(10) MCO Plan – Treatment Standards, Protocols, and Guidelines.**

The plan must include a summary of the process the MCO uses to develop and review treatment standards, protocols, and guidelines. This summary must describe:

- (a) The medical expertise or specialties of the clinicians involved;
- (b) The basis for protocols and guidelines;
- (c) The criteria the MCO uses in selecting the conditions for which the MCO implements treatment protocols and guidelines;
- (d) The criteria the MCO uses to determine when it needs to review or revise its treatment standards, protocols, and guidelines;
- (e) How the MCO makes the standards, protocols, and guidelines available to its panel providers and how it notifies them of any changes; and
- (f) A process that provides sufficient flexibility to allow treatment outside the standards, protocols, and guidelines if such treatment is supported by persuasive professional medical judgment and reasoning.

**(11) MCO Plan – Return to Work and Workplace Safety.**

The plan must provide other programs that meet the requirements of ORS 656.260(4), including:

- (a) A program involving cooperative efforts by the workers, the employer, the insurer, and the MCO to promote early return to work for enrolled workers; and
- (b) A program involving cooperative efforts by the workers, the employer, and the MCO to promote workplace safety and health consultative and other services. The program must:
  - (A) Identify how the MCO will promote such services;

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- (B) Describe the method by which the MCO will report to the insurer within 30 days of knowledge of occupational injuries and illnesses involving serious physical harm as defined by OAR 437-001, occupational injury and illness trends as observed by the MCO, and any observations that indicate an injury or illness was caused by a lack of diligence of the employer;
- (C) Describe the method by which the MCO's knowledge of needed loss control services will be communicated to the insurer for determining the need for services as detailed in OAR 437-001;
- (D) Include a provision that all notifications to the insurer from the MCO will be considered as a request to the insurer for services as detailed in OAR 437-001; and
- (E) Include a provision that the MCO will maintain complete files of all notifications for a period of three years following the date that notification was given by the MCO.
- (12) Within 45 days of receipt of all information required for certification, the director will notify the applicant if the certification is approved, the effective date of the certification, and the initial GSA(s) of the MCO. If the certification is denied, the director will provide the applicant with the reason for the denial.
- (13) The director will not certify an MCO if the plan does not meet the requirements of these rules.

**(14) Communication Liaison.**

The MCO must designate an in-state communication liaison(s) to the director and the insurers at the MCO's established in-state location.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.260, 656.726(4)  
 Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.260  
 Hist: Amended 3/13/18, as Admin. Order 18-055, eff. 4/1/18  
 Amended 3/11/19, as Admin. Order 19-053, eff. 4/1/19  
 Minor correction under ORS 183.335(7) (WCD 17-2020), filed and eff. 11/30/20  
 Amended 11/22/23 as Admin. Order 23-056, eff. 1/1/2024  
 See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-015-0035 Coverage Responsibility of an MCO**

- (1) The director will designate an MCO's initial geographic service area (GSA). GSAs are established by postal zip code (See [http://wcd.oregon.gov/Bulletins/bul\\_248.pdf](http://wcd.oregon.gov/Bulletins/bul_248.pdf)). The MCO may only provide contract services in those GSAs approved by the director. Workers are not subject to an MCO contract unless the director has approved the GSA.
- (2) Any expansion of an MCO's service area must be approved by the director. The request for expansion must identify the new GSA and include evidence that the MCO has an adequate provider panel which meets the minimum requirements under OAR 436-015-0030.

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The director may approve the MCO's new GSA without the minimum categories of medical service providers when the MCO establishes that there are not an adequate number of providers in a given category able or willing to become members of the MCO.

For categories where the MCO has fewer than three providers, the MCO must allow workers to seek treatment outside the MCO from providers in those categories. Treatment provided to workers must be consistent with the MCO's treatment and utilization standards. Such providers, unlike come-along providers, cannot be required to comply with the terms and conditions regarding services performed by members of the MCO. However, while such providers are not themselves bound by the MCO's treatment and utilization standards, workers are subject to those standards.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.260, 656.726(4)  
Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.245 and 260  
Hist: Amended 11/12/13 as Admin. Order 13-060, eff. 1/1/14  
Amended 3/13/18, as Admin. Order 18-055, eff. 4/1/18  
See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-015-0037 MCO-Insurer Contracts**

- (1) An MCO must provide comprehensive medical services to all enrolled workers covered by the MCO-insurer contract according to the MCO's certification.
  
- (2) An MCO may not contract exclusively with a single insurer. However, an MCO has up to one year from the effective date of its first contract to obtain contracts with more than one insurer. If the MCO has not obtained additional contracts within this time period, the MCO must provide the director with a report documenting the MCO's efforts to obtain additional contracts.
  
- (3) An MCO may contract only with insurers. The contract must include the following terms and conditions:
  - (a) Who is governed by the contract;
  
  - (b) The covered place of employment must be within the authorized geographic service area;
  
  - (c) Insurers may contract with multiple MCOs to provide coverage for employers. All workers at any specific employer's location must be governed by the same MCO(s). When insurers contract with multiple MCOs each worker must have initial choice at the time of injury to select which MCO will manage their care except when the employer provides a coordinated health care program;
  
  - (d) Workers enrolled in an MCO must receive medical services as prescribed by the terms and conditions of the contract; and

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(e) A continuity of care provision specifying how workers will receive medical services on open claims, including the following:

(A) Upon enrollment, allowing workers to continue to treat with the current medical service providers for at least 14 days after the mailing date of the notice of enrollment; and

(B) Upon termination or expiration of the MCO-insurer contract, allowing workers to continue treatment under ORS 656.245(4)(a).

(4) Notwithstanding the requirements of this rule, failure of the MCO to provide medical services does not relieve the insurers of their responsibility to ensure benefits are provided to workers under ORS chapter 656.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.260, 656.726(4); Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.245 and 260  
Hist: Adopted 3/13/18, as Admin. Order 18-055, eff. 4/1/18  
Amended 3/11/19, as Admin. Order 19-053, eff. 4/1/19

## **436-015-0040 Reporting Requirements for an MCO**

(1) In order to ensure the MCO complies with the requirements of these rules, each MCO must provide the director with a copy of the entire text of any MCO-insurer contract, signed by the insurer and the MCO, within 30 days of execution of such contracts. The MCO must submit any amendments, addenda, or cancellations to the director within 30 days of execution.

(2) When an MCO-insurer contract contains a specific expiration or termination date, the MCO must provide the director with a copy of a contract extension, signed by the insurer and MCO, no later than the contract's date of expiration or termination. If the MCO does not provide the director with a copy of the signed contract extension, workers will no longer be subject to the contract after it expires or terminates.

(3) The MCO must submit any amendments to the certified plan to the director for approval. The MCO must not take any action based on a proposed amendment until the director approves the amendment.

(4) Within 45 days of the end of each calendar quarter, each MCO must provide the following information to the director, current on the last day of the quarter, as described in [Bulletin 247](#):

(a) The quarter being reported;

(b) MCO certification number; and

(c) Membership listings by category of medical service provider (in coded form), including:

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- (A) Provider names;
  - (B) Specialty (in coded form);
  - (C) Tax ID number;
  - (D) National Provider Identifier (NPI) number; and
  - (E) Business address and phone number. When a medical service provider has multiple offices, only one office location in each geographic service area needs to be reported.
- (5) By April 30 of each year, each MCO must provide the director with the following information for the previous calendar year:
- (a) A summary of any sanctions or punitive actions taken by the MCO against its members; and
  - (b) A summary of actions taken by the MCO's peer review committee.
- (6) By April 30 of each year, each MCO must report to the director denials and terminations of the authorization of come-along providers. The MCO's report must include the following:
- (a) Provider type (primary care physician, chiropractic physician, physician assistant, or authorized nurse practitioner) reported by geographic service area (GSA).
  - (b) The number of workers affected, reported by provider type.
  - (c) Date of denial or termination.
  - (d) One or more of the following reasons for each denial or termination:
    - (A) Provider failed to meet the MCO's credentialing standards within the last two years;
    - (B) Provider has been previously terminated from serving as an attending physician within the last two years;
    - (C) Treatment is not according to the MCO's service utilization process;
    - (D) Provider failed to comply with the MCO's terms and conditions after being granted come-along privileges; or
    - (E) Other reasons authorized by statute or rule.
- (7) An MCO must report any new board members or shareholders to the director within 14 days of such changes. These parties must submit affidavits certifying they have no interest in an insurer or other non-qualifying employer as described under OAR 436-015-0009.

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**(8)** Nothing in this rule limits the director's ability to require information from the MCO as necessary to monitor the MCO's compliance with the requirements of these rules.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.260, 656.726(4)

Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.260

Hist: Amended 11/12/13 as Admin. Order 13-060, eff. 1/1/14

Amended 3/13/18, as Admin. Order 18-055, eff. 4/1/18

Amended 3/9/23, as Admin. Order 23-052, eff. 4/1/23

Amended 11/22/23 as Admin. Order 23-056, eff. 1/1/2024

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-015-0050 Record Keeping and Place of Business**

**(1)** Every MCO must give the director notice of one Oregon location and mailing address where the MCO keeps records of the following:

- (a)** Up-to-date membership listings of all MCO members;
- (b)** Sanctions or punitive actions taken by the MCO against its members;
- (c)** Actions taken by the MCO's peer review committee;
- (d)** Utilization reviews performed identifying cases reviewed, issues involved, and action taken;
- (e)** A profile analysis of each provider in the MCO;
- (f)** Enrolled workers receiving treatment by come-along providers; and
- (g)** All other records as necessary to ensure compliance with the certification requirements under OAR 436-015-0030.

**(2)** Records required by section (1) of this rule must be retained at the authorized Oregon location for three full calendar years.

**(3)** Each MCO provider must maintain medical records as provided by OAR 436-010-0240.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.260, 656.726(4)

Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.260

Hist: Amended 2/16/12, as Admin. Order 12-052, eff. 4/1/12

Amended 3/13/18, as Admin. Order 18-055, eff. 4/1/18

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-015-0060 Commencement and Termination of Panel Providers**

**(1)** Prospective new panel providers of an MCO must submit an application to the MCO. The directors, executive director, or administrator may approve the application for membership

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according to the membership requirements of the MCO. The MCO must verify that each new member meets all licensing, registration, and certification requirements necessary to practice in Oregon. If the MCO requires a membership fee, the fee must be the same for every category of medical service provider. An MCO may not require membership fees or other MCO administrative fees to be paid by come-along providers.

(2) Individual panel providers may elect to terminate their participation in the MCO or be subject to cancellation by the MCO according to the membership requirements of the MCO plan. Upon termination of a panel provider, the MCO must:

(a) Make alternate arrangements to provide continuing medical services for any affected workers under the plan; and

(b) Replace any terminated panel provider when necessary to maintain an adequate number of each category of medical service provider.

**Stat. Auth.:** ORS 656.260, 656.726(4)

**Stats. Implemented:** ORS 656.260

**Hist:** Amended 6/14/04, as Admin. Order 04-059, eff. 6/29/04

Amended 3/13/18, as Admin. Order 18-055, eff. 4/1/18

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## 436-015-0065      **Monitoring and Auditing**

(1) The director will monitor and conduct periodic audits of an MCO as necessary to ensure compliance with the MCO certification and performance requirements.

(2) All records of an MCO and its individual panel providers must be disclosed upon the director's request. These records must be legible and cannot be kept in a coded or semi-coded manner unless a legend is provided for the codes.

**Stat. Auth.:** ORS 656.260, 656.726(4); **Stats. Implemented:** ORS 656.260

**Hist:** Includes content from 436-015-0100, repealed effective 4/1/18

Adopted 3/13/18, as Admin. Order 18-055, eff. 4/1/18

## 436-015-0070      **Come-along Providers**

(1) The MCO must authorize a physician, [physician assistant](#), or nurse practitioner who is not an MCO panel provider to provide medical services to an enrolled worker if:

(a) The nurse practitioner is an authorized nurse practitioner under ORS 656.245, the chiropractic physician [or physician assistant](#) has certified to the director that the chiropractic physician [or physician assistant](#) has reviewed required materials under ORS 656.799, or the physician is a primary care physician under ORS 656.260(4)(g);

(b) The physician, [physician assistant](#), or authorized nurse practitioner agrees to comply with MCO treatment standards, protocols, utilization review, peer review, dispute

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resolution, billing and reporting procedures, and fees for services under OAR 436-015-0090; and

(c) The physician, physician assistant, or authorized nurse practitioner agrees to refer the worker to the MCO for specialized care that the worker may require, including physical therapy.

(2) The physician, physician assistant, or authorized nurse practitioner who is not an MCO panel provider will be deemed to have maintained the worker's medical records and established a documented history of treatment, if the physician's, physician assistant's, or nurse practitioner's medical records show treatment has been provided to the worker prior to the date of injury. Additionally, if a worker has selected a physician, physician assistant, or authorized nurse practitioner through a private health plan, prior to the date of injury, that selected provider will be deemed to have maintained the worker's medical records and established a documented history of treatment prior to the date of injury.

(3) The MCO may not limit the length of treatment authority of a come-along provider unless such limits are stated in ORS chapter 656.

(4) Notwithstanding section (1), for those workers receiving their medical services from a facility that maintains a single medical record on the worker, but provides treatment by multiple primary care or chiropractic physicians, physician assistants, or authorized nurse practitioners who are not MCO panel providers, the requirements of sections (1) and (2) will be deemed to be met. In this situation, the worker must select one primary care or chiropractic physician, physician assistant, or authorized nurse practitioner to treat the compensable injury.

(5) Any questions or disputes relating to the worker's selection of a physician, physician assistant, or authorized nurse practitioner who is not an MCO panel provider must be resolved under OAR 436-015-0110.

(6) Any disputes relating to a come-along provider's or other non-MCO provider's compliance with MCO standards and protocols must be resolved under OAR 436-015-0110.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.260, 656.726(4)

Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.260

Hist: Amended 11/12/13 as Admin. Order 13-060, eff. 1/1/14

Amended 3/13/18, as Admin. Order 18-055, eff. 4/1/18

Amended 6/13/22 as Admin. Order 22-055, eff. 7/1/22

Amended 11/22/23 as Admin. Order 23-056, eff. 1/1/2024

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-015-0075 Worker Exams**

When the MCO schedules a worker exam that includes a psychological evaluation, the



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appointment letter must:

- (1) Inform the worker that a psychological evaluation is part of the exam; and
- (2) State the reason for the psychological exam.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.260, 656.726(4)

Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.260

Adopted 2/16/12, as Admin. Order 12-052, eff. 4/1/12

Amended 3/13/18, as Admin. Order 18-055, eff. 4/1/18

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-015-0080      Suspension; Revocation**

(1) Under ORS 656.260, the director may suspend or revoke an MCO's certification if:

- (a) The director finds a serious danger to the public health or safety;
- (b) The MCO is not providing services according to the terms of the certified MCO plan;
- (c) There is a change in legal entity of the MCO that does not conform to the requirements of these rules;
- (d) The MCO fails to comply with ORS chapter 656, OAR 436-009, 436-010, 436-015, or orders of the director;
- (e) The MCO or any of its members commits any violation for which a civil penalty could be assessed under ORS 656.254 or 656.745;
- (f) Any false or misleading information is submitted by the MCO or any member of the organization;
- (g) The MCO continues to use the services of a health care practitioner whose license has been suspended or revoked by the licensing board; or
- (h) The director determines that the MCO was or is formed, owned, or operated by a non-qualifying employer.

(2) The director will provide the MCO written notice of intent to suspend the MCO's certification.

- (a) The notice will:
  - (A) Describe generally the acts of the MCO and the circumstances that would be grounds for suspension; and
  - (B) Advise the MCO of its right to a show cause hearing and the date, time, and place of the hearing.

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**(b)** The director will serve the notice upon the MCO's designated in-state communication liaison and to the registered agent or other officer of the corporation upon whom legal process may be served at least 30 days before the scheduled date of the hearing.

**(3)** The show cause hearing on the suspension must be conducted as provided in OAR 436-015-0008(6).

**(4)** An order of suspension will suspend the MCO's authority to enter into new contracts with insurers for a specified period of time up to a maximum of one year. During the suspension, the MCO may continue to provide services under the contracts in effect at the time of the suspension.

**(a)** The director may set aside the suspension before the end of the suspension period if the director is satisfied of the MCO's current compliance, ability, and commitment to comply with ORS chapter 656, OAR 436-009, 436-010, 436-015, orders of the director, and the certified MCO plan.

**(b)** Before the end of the suspension period the director will determine if the MCO is in compliance with ORS chapter 656, OAR 436-009, 436-010, 436-015, orders of the director, and the certified MCO plan. If the MCO is in compliance the suspension will terminate on its designated date. If the MCO is not in compliance the suspension may be extended beyond one year without further hearing, or revocation proceedings may be initiated.

**(5)** The process for revocation of the certification of an MCO is as follows:

**(a)** The director will provide the MCO with notice of an order of revocation which:

**(A)** Describes generally the acts of the MCO and the circumstances that are grounds for revocation; and

**(B)** Advises the MCO that the revocation will become effective within 10 days after service of such notice upon the MCO, unless within 10 days the MCO corrects the grounds for the revocation to the satisfaction of the director or the MCO files an appeal as provided in OAR 436-015-0008(7).

**(b)** The director will serve the order upon the MCO's designated in-state communication liaison and to the registered agent or other officer of the corporation upon whom legal process may be served.

**(c)** A show cause hearing on the revocation will be conducted as provided in OAR 436-015-0008(6).

**(d)** If the director affirms the revocation, the revocation is effective 10 days after service of the order upon the MCO unless the MCO appeals the order.

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(6) After revocation of an MCO's authority to provide services under these rules has been in effect for three years or longer, the MCO may petition the director to restore its authority by making application as provided in these rules.

(7) Notwithstanding section (5) of this rule, in any case where the director finds a serious danger to the public health or safety and sets forth specific reasons for such findings, the director may immediately revoke the certification of an MCO without providing the MCO a show cause hearing. Such order will be final, unless the MCO requests a hearing as provided in OAR 436-001-0019 within 60 days of the mailing date of the order revoking the MCO certification.. OAR 436-015-0008(6) outlines the process for review.

(8) Insurer contractual obligations to allow an MCO to provide medical services for workers are null and void upon revocation of the MCO certification by the director.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.260, 656.726(4)  
 Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.260  
 Hist: Amended 3/13/18, as Admin. Order 18-055, eff. 4/1/18  
 Minor correction under ORS 183.335(7) (WCD 18-2020), filed and eff. 11/30/20  
 See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-015-0090 Charges and Fees**

(1) Billings for medical services under an MCO must be submitted in the form and format as prescribed in OAR 436-009. The payment of medical services may be less than, but must not exceed, the maximum amounts allowed under OAR 436-009.

(2) Notwithstanding section (1) of this rule, fees paid for medical services provided by come-along providers must not be less than fees paid to MCO panel providers for similar medical services.

(3) Payments to medical providers who are not under contract with the MCO are not subject to an MCO discount.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.260, 656.726(4)  
 Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.245 and 260  
 Hist: Amended 11/12/13 as Admin. Order 13-060, eff. 1/1/14  
 Amended 3/13/18, as Admin. Order 18-055, eff. 4/1/18  
 See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

## **436-015-0110 Dispute Resolution**

(1) Disputes which arise between any party and an MCO must first be processed through the dispute resolution process of the MCO.

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(2) The MCO must promptly provide a written summary of the MCO's dispute resolution process to anyone who requests it, or to any party or their representative disputing any action of the MCO or affected by a dispute. The written summary must include at least the following:

- (a) The title, address, and telephone number of the contact person at the MCO who is responsible for the dispute resolution process;
- (b) The types of issues the MCO will consider in its dispute resolution process;
- (c) A description of the procedures and time frames for submission, processing, and decision at each level of the dispute resolution process including the right of an aggrieved party to request administrative review by the director if the party disagrees with the final decision of the MCO; and
- (d) A statement that absent a showing of good cause, failure to timely appeal to the MCO shall preclude appeal to the director.

(3) The MCO must notify the worker and the worker's attorney when the MCO:

- (a) Receives any complaint or dispute under this rule; or
- (b) Issues any decision under this rule.

(4) Whenever an MCO denies a service, or a party otherwise disputes a decision of the MCO, the MCO must send written notice of its decision to all parties that can appeal the decision. If the MCO provides a dispute resolution process for the issue, the notice must include the following paragraph, in bold text:

**NOTICE TO THE WORKER AND ALL OTHER PARTIES: If you want to appeal this decision, you must notify us in writing within 30 days of the mailing date of this notice. Send a written request for review to: {MCO name and address}. If you have questions, contact {MCO contact person and phone number}. Absent a showing of good cause, if you do not notify us in writing within 30 days, you will lose all rights to appeal the decision. If you appeal timely, we will review the disputed decision and notify you of our decision within 60 days of your request. Thereafter, if you continue to disagree with our decision, you may appeal to the director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) for further review. If you fail to seek dispute resolution through us, you will lose your right to appeal to the director of DCBS.**

(5) If an MCO receives a complaint or dispute that is not included in the MCO dispute resolution process, the MCO must, within seven days from the date of receiving the complaint, notify the parties in writing of their right to request review by the director under OAR 436-015-0008. The notice must include the following paragraph, in bold text:

**NOTICE TO THE WORKER AND ALL OTHER PARTIES: The issue you have**

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**raised is not a matter that we handle. To pursue this issue, you must request administrative review of the issue by the director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS). Send written requests for review to: DCBS, Workers' Compensation Division, Medical Resolution Team, 350 Winter Street NE, PO Box 14480, Salem, OR 97309-0405. If you do not notify DCBS in writing within 60 days of the mailing date of this notice, you will lose all rights to appeal the decision. For assistance, you may call the Workers' Compensation Division's toll-free hotline at 1-800-452-0288 and ask to speak with a Benefit Consultant.**

(6) The time frame for resolution of the dispute by the MCO may not exceed 60 days from the date the MCO receives the dispute to the date it issues its final decision. After the MCO resolves a dispute under ORS 656.260(15), the MCO must notify all parties to the dispute in writing with an explanation of the reasons for the decision. If the worker's attorney has notified the insurer in writing of representation, the MCO must also send a copy of the explanation of the reasons for the decision to the attorney. This notice must inform the parties of the next step in the process, including the right of an aggrieved party to request administrative review by the director under OAR 436-015-0008. The notice must include the following paragraph, in bold text:

**NOTICE TO THE WORKER AND ALL OTHER PARTIES: If you want to appeal this decision, you must notify the director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) in writing within 60 days of the mailing date of this notice. Send written requests for review to: Department of Consumer and Business Services, Workers' Compensation Division, Medical Resolution Team, 350 Winter Street NE, PO Box 14480, Salem, OR 97309-0405. If you do not notify DCBS in writing within 60 days, you will lose all rights to appeal the decision. For assistance, you may call the Workers' Compensation Division's toll-free hotline at 1-800-452-0288 and ask to speak with a Benefit Consultant.**

(7) If the MCO fails to issue a decision within 60 days, the MCO's initial decision is automatically deemed affirmed. The parties may immediately proceed as though the MCO had issued an order affirming the MCO decision. The MCO must notify the parties of the next step in the process, including the right of an aggrieved party to request administrative review by the director under OAR 436-015-0008 including the appeal rights provided in (6) of this rule.

(8) The director may assist in resolution of a dispute before the MCO. The director may issue an order to further the dispute resolution process. Any of the parties also may request in writing that the director assist in resolution if the dispute cannot be resolved by the MCO.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.260, 656.726(4)

Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.260

Hist: Amended 3/11/13 as Admin. Order 13-053, eff. 4/1/13

Amended 3/13/18, as Admin. Order 18-055, eff. 4/1/18

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).

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## **436-015-0120      Sanctions and Civil Penalties**

- (1) Complaints pertaining to violations of these rules must be sent to the director.
- (2) The director may investigate an alleged rule violation. The investigation may include, but is not limited to, request for and review of pertinent medical treatment and payment records, interviews with the parties to the complaint, or consultation with an appropriate panel of the medical provider's peers, chosen in the manner provided in OAR 436-010-0330.
- (3) If the director finds any violation of OAR 436-015, or if the MCO fails to meet any of the requirements of the certified plan, the director may impose one or more of the following sanctions against an MCO:
- (a) Reprimand by the director;
  - (b) Civil penalty as provided under ORS 656.745(2). In determining the amount of penalty to be assessed, the director will consider:
    - (A) The degree of harm inflicted on the worker, insurer, or medical provider;
    - (B) Previous violations; and
    - (C) Evidence of willful violation; or
  - (c) Suspension or revocation of the MCO's certification under OAR 436-015-0080.
- (4) If the director determines that an insurer has entered into a contract with an MCO that violates OAR 436-015 or the MCO's certified plan, the insurer will be subject to civil penalties as provided in ORS 656.745.
- (5) If an insurer or someone who is not a certified MCO acting on the insurer's behalf engages in managed care activities prohibited under these rules, the director may impose a sanction or civil penalty.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.260, 656.726(4) | Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.260 and 656.745

Hist: Amended 12/15/08, as Admin. Order 08-064, eff. 1/1/09

Amended 3/13/18, as Admin. Order 18-055, eff. 4/1/18

Amended 12/17/19 as Admin. Order 19-062, eff. 1/1/20

See also the *Index to Rule History*: [https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule\\_history/436\\_history.pdf](https://wcd.oregon.gov/laws/Documents/Rule_history/436_history.pdf).