



NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING
INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & FISCAL IMPACT

CHAPTER 436
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND BUSINESS SERVICES
WORKERS' COMPENSATION DIVISION

FILED
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ARCHIVES DIVISION
SECRETARY OF STATE

FILING CAPTION: Claims processing procedures; requests for public records

LAST DAY AND TIME TO OFFER COMMENT TO AGENCY: 02/21/2020 11:55 PM

The Agency requests public comment on whether other options should be considered for achieving the rule's substantive goals while reducing negative economic impact of the rule on business.

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Filed By:
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HEARING(S)

Auxiliary aids for persons with disabilities are available upon advance request. Notify the contact listed above.

DATE: 02/18/2020

TIME: 9:00 AM

OFFICER: Fred Bruyns

ADDRESS: Labor & Industries Building,
Room B

350 Winter Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

To listen to the hearing or testify by
telephone: Dial-in number is 1-213-
787-0529; Access code is 9221262#.

NEED FOR THE RULE(S):

Amendments to these rules are needed to remove or replace obsolete or redundant provisions, to enhance clarity, to conform the rules to other rules in OAR chapter 436 and to requirements under ORS chapter 656, and to promote efficient and effective claims processing.

DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE:

Rulemaking advisory committee records and written advice. These documents are available for public inspection upon request to the Workers' Compensation Division, 350 Winter Street NE, Salem, Oregon 97301-3879. Please contact Fred Bruyns, rules coordinator, 503-947-7717, fred.h.bruyns@oregon.gov.

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT:

The agency does not anticipate any significant effects on its costs to carry out its responsibilities under ORS chapter 656 or OAR chapter 436.

COST OF COMPLIANCE:

(1) Identify any state agencies, units of local government, and members of the public likely to be economically affected by the rule(s). (2) Effect on Small Businesses: (a) Estimate the number and type of small businesses subject to the rule(s); (b) Describe the expected reporting, recordkeeping and administrative activities and cost required to comply with the rule(s); (c) Estimate the cost of professional services, equipment supplies, labor and increased administration required to comply with the rule(s).

1. Impact on state agencies, units of local government and the public (ORS 183.335(2)(b)(E)):

- a. The agency estimates that proposed rule changes will not affect costs to state agencies for compliance with the rule.
- b. The agency estimates that proposed rule changes will not affect costs to units of local government for compliance with the rule, with the exception of cities and counties that are self-insured employers; see impacts for self-insurers under impacts to the public under part c (below).
- c. The agency estimates that proposed rule changes will result in some short-term costs to the public for compliance with the rules. Insurers, self-insured employers, and service companies may have to revise forms and form letters. The time required may vary from a few minutes to a few hours, depending on the procedures and software used to generate forms and letters. However, the proposed changes are not extensive, and the resulting short-term costs are expected to be small.

If an insurer or self-insured employer changes the status of the claim from disabling to nondisabling, proposed amendments would require the worker to first ask the insurer or self-insured employer to change the classification to disabling rather than request review by the director. Therefore, insurers, self-insured employers, and service companies may have to issue additional Notices of Refusal to Reclassify (claims). Because this should occur infrequently, the agency projects that the cost impact would be very small.

Proposed amendments to wage dispute processing might increase the number of related hearing requests, but significant effects are unlikely.

Proposed changes to evidentiary requirements related to approval of worker-requested medical examinations might increase the number of exams by about three (or fewer) per year. Although the cost of an exam can be substantial, overall the effect is projected to be small, but with a corresponding benefit to workers who receive the exams and to medical providers who perform the exams.

2. Cost of compliance effect on small business (ORS 183.336):

a. Estimate the number of small businesses and types of business and industries with small businesses subject to the rule:

The businesses primarily affected by these rules are workers' compensation insurers, self-insured employers, and self-insured employer groups. These entities tend to be large employers and not small businesses as defined by ORS 183.310. However, claims costs ultimately affect premiums charged to Oregon employers to cover their workers. Oregon has approximately 124,000 employers, and a substantial majority of these employers are small businesses. Service companies that process claims on behalf of insurers or self-insured employers may be affected; five or fewer are small businesses.

Approximately 500 health care providers who are able to conduct worker-requested medical examinations may be affected; many of these providers are small businesses or are employed by small businesses.

b. Projected reporting, recordkeeping and other administrative activities required for compliance, including costs of professional services:

The agency projects some increased costs for reporting and administrative activities due to proposed requirements to modify forms and form letters and possibly to issue additional Notices of Refusal to Reclassify (claims).

c. Equipment, supplies, labor and increased administration required for compliance:

The agency does not project increased costs for equipment, supplies, or increased administration. Costs for labor (staff time) may result as described under part b.

DESCRIBE HOW SMALL BUSINESSES WERE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE RULE(S):

The agency notified approximately 3,700 stakeholders, including a number small businesses/representatives, about the advisory committee meeting and requested volunteers and agenda topics.

WAS AN ADMINISTRATIVE RULE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSULTED? YES

RULES PROPOSED:

436-001-0700, 436-060-0003, 436-060-0005, 436-060-0008, 436-060-0009, 436-060-0010, 436-060-0011, 436-060-0012, 436-060-0015, 436-060-0017, 436-060-0018, 436-060-0019, 436-060-0020, 436-060-0025, 436-060-0030, 436-060-0035, 436-060-0040, 436-060-0045, 436-060-0055, 436-060-0060, 436-060-0075, 436-060-0095, 436-060-0105, 436-060-0135, 436-060-0137, 436-060-0140, 436-060-0147, 436-060-0150, 436-060-0155, 436-060-0170, 436-060-0180, 436-060-0190, 436-060-0500

ADOPT: 436-001-0700

RULE SUMMARY: Adopted rule 0700, "Access to Public Records and Workers' Compensation Claim Records":

- Replaces OAR 436-060-0009 with provisions that are applicable to all public records of the Workers' Compensation Division, not just claim records;
- Removes redundant or otherwise unnecessary provisions; and
- Includes wording changes to enhance clarity and consistency with other rules in OAR chapter 436.

CHANGES TO RULE:

436-001-0700

Access to Public Records and Workers Compensation Claim Records

(1) Access to public records. Department of Consumer and Business Services rules on Access of Public Records, Fees for Record Search and Copies of Public Records are in OAR 440-005, accessible at <https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/displayDivisionRules.action?selectedDivision=2100>.

(2) Inspection of nonexempt public records. Any person has a right to inspect and obtain copies of nonexempt public records but not to request blind searches for records not known to exist.

(3) Access to workers' compensation claim records.

(a) The department's workers' compensation claim records are exempt from public disclosure under ORS 192.355.

(b) Access to claim records will be granted at the sole discretion of the director, under the following circumstances:

(A) When necessary for an insurer, self-insured employer, service company, or their attorney, for the purpose of processing a workers' compensation claim;

(B) When necessary for the director to carry out the director's duties, functions, or powers;

(C) When necessary for a governmental agency of Oregon or the United States to carry out its duties, functions, or powers;

(D) When a worker or the worker's representative requests the worker's claim record; or

(E) When disclosure can be made in a way that the disclosed information cannot be used to identify any worker who is the subject of an Oregon workers' compensation claim.

(4) Requests for claim records. A request to inspect or obtain copies of workers' compensation claim records may be made in writing, in person, or by phone. Requesters may use the division's Form 3088, "Request for Workers' Compensation Claim Records."

(a) Written requests must include:

(A) The name, identity, and contact information of the requester;

(B) Information identifying the worker or the claim;

(C) A description of the records requested; and

(D) The signature of the requester certifying the requester meets the criteria in subsection (3)(b) of this rule.

(b) In addition to the information required under subsection (a) of this section, requests for claims history made by phone or fax must include, if known:¶

(A) The worker's Social Security number; and¶

(B) The insurer claim number.¶

(c) A request from the worker's representative must be accompanied by an attorney retainer agreement or a valid release signed by the worker.¶

(d) A request from a person other than as described in subsection (3)(b) of this rule must include a valid release signed by the worker.¶

(e) The director may require additional information or documentation to ensure records are released in accordance with ORS 192.355 and this rule.¶

(5) Release of claim records to other persons. The director may release workers' compensation claim records to persons other than those described in (3)(b) of this rule including public or private research organizations.¶

(a) The determination whether to release the information is at the sole discretion of the director.¶

(b) The director may enter into written agreements as necessary to ensure that the recipient of the information uses the information only in accordance with these rules and the agreement with the director to ensure confidentiality of the disclosed records. The director may terminate such agreements at any time the director determines that one or more of the conditions of the agreement have been violated.¶

(c) The director may deny or revoke access to workers' compensation claims records at any time.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 192.318, 192.355, 656.726(4)

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 192.318, 192.355, 656.726(4)

AMEND: 436-060-0003

RULE SUMMARY: Amended rule 0003:

- Explains that the forms and bulletins referenced in these rules are available on the division's website and includes the web address;
- Specifies that an insurer or self-insured employer may also use its own form (instead of a form prescribed in these rules) in certain circumstances;
- Describes how an insurer may request approval of a modified form; and
- Includes other changes that enhance clarity and consistency with other rules in OAR chapter 436.

CHANGES TO RULE:

436-060-0003

Purpose and Applicability of these Rule, Forms, and Bulletins ¶

(1) Purpose. The purpose of these rules in OAR 436-060 is to prescribe uniform standards by which for insurers to process workers' compensation claims under ORS chapter 656.¶

(2) Applicability.¶

(a) The rules are subject to the applicability provisions under ORS 656.202.¶

(3b) ~~The director's discretion.~~ The director may waive procedural rules as justice requires, unless otherwise obligated by statute.¶

(3) Forms and bulletins.¶

(a) The forms and bulletins referenced in OAR 436-060 are available on the division's website at <https://wcd.oregon.gov/forms/Pages/index.aspx>.¶

(b) With the approval of the director, an insurer may modify the appearance, wording, or font size of a paper form referenced in OAR 436-060. Any insurer modified paper form must:¶

(A) Obtain information equivalent to the division's current form;¶

(B) Use the same form number as the division's current form; ¶

(C) Have an appearance and format substantially similar to the division's current form; and¶

(D) Have an asterisk after the form name with the following statement at the bottom: "*This form was modified by [INSERT INSURER'S NAME], and has been approved for use by the Oregon Workers' Compensation Division."¶

(c) An insurer may continue using a modified paper form that was in use prior to the effective date of these rules if the insurer requests, no later than May 1, 2020, approval by the director to continue using that form, subject to the following:¶

(A) If the insurer requests approval by the director to continue using a modified paper form, the director will either approve the form, specify changes to the form, or deny approval of the form. The director may require immediate removal of information that violates state or federal laws or otherwise may cause harm to any person. Otherwise, the insurer must comply with the director's determination within six months of the director's decision; or¶

(B) If the insurer fails to request approval by the director to continue using a modified paper form by May 1, 2020, or if the insurer fails to comply with the director's determination within six months of the determination in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, the modified paper form can no longer be used by the insurer.¶

(d) The director may revoke approval of an insurer modified paper form when the director determines the form does not comply with current federal or state law, or if the director finds the form no longer meets the requirements of (3)(b) of this rule.¶

(e) To request approval of a modified paper form, the insurer must send or hand deliver the proposed form, along with a cover letter requesting approval to use the form, to the Forms and Bulletins Coordinator at WCD.FormsBulletins@oregon.gov or 350 Winter Street NE, P.O. Box 14480, Salem OR 97309-0405.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 656.210, 656.212, 656.230, 656.262, 656.264, 656.265, 656.268, 656.273, 656.277, 656.307, 656.325, 656.331, 656.704, 656.726(4)

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 656.726(4), 84.013, 192.318, 192.355, 656.005, 656.126, 656.160, 656.202,

656.204, 656.206, 656.208, 656.210, 656.212, 656.214, 656.216, 656.228, 656.230, 656.234, 656.236, 656.245,
656.260, 656.262, 656.263, 656.264, 656.265, 656.268, 656.273, 656.277, 656.278, 656.289, 656.307, 656.308,
656.313, 656.325, 656.331, 656.360, 656.362, 656.386, 656.605, 656.704, 656.745

AMEND: 436-060-0005

RULE SUMMARY: Amended rule 0005:

- Defines "Board" to mean the Workers' Compensation Board and its Hearings Division;
- Defines "business days" to mean Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays; and
- Includes other changes that enhance clarity and consistency with other rules in OAR chapter 436.

CHANGES TO RULE:

436-060-0005

Definitions ¶¶

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 a part of these rules. For the purpose of these rules unless the context requires otherwise:¶¶

- (1) "Aggravation" means an actual worsening of the compensable conditions after the last award or arrangement of compensation that satisfies the requirements of ORS 656.273.¶¶
- (2) "Authorized nurse practitioner" means a nurse practitioner authorized to provide compensable medical services under ORS 656.245 and OAR 436-010.¶¶
- (3) "Board" means the Workers' Compensation Board and includes its Hearings Division.¶¶
- (4) "Business days" means Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. Legal holidays are those listed in OAR 436-060-0150(2).¶¶
- (5) "Dependent" means any of the relatives of a worker listed under ORS 656.005(10) who, at the time of an accident, depended in whole or in part for support on the earnings of a worker who dies as a result of an injury.¶¶
- (46) "Designated paying agent" means the insurer temporarily ordered responsible to pay compensation for a compensable injury under ORS 656.307.¶¶
- (57) "Director" means the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services or the director's designee.¶¶
- (68) "Disposition" or "claim disposition" means the written agreement to release rights or obligations under ORS 656.236.¶¶
- (79) "Division" means the Workers' Compensation Division of the Department of Consumer and Business Services.¶¶
- (810) "Employer" means a subject employer under ORS 656.023.¶¶
- ~~(9) "Hearings Division" means the Hearings Division of the Workers' Compensation Board.~~¶¶
- (101) "Inpatient" means a worker who is admitted to a hospital before and extending past midnight for treatment and lodging.¶¶
- (112) "Insurer" means the State Accident Insurance Fund Corporation; an insurer authorized under ORS chapter 731 to transact workers' compensation insurance in Oregon; or an employer or employer group certified under ORS 656.430 that ~~it~~ meets the qualifications of a self-insured employer under ORS 656.407.¶¶
- (123) ~~"Mailed" or "mailing date," unless otherwise specified, means:~~¶¶
 - (a) The date a document is postmarked;¶¶
 - (b) The date automatically produced by electronic transmission (e.g., email or facsimile);¶¶
 - (c) The date a hand-delivered document is ~~stamped or punched in~~ received by the recipient; or¶¶
 - (d) The date of a phone, or in-person request, when allowed under these rules.¶¶
- (134) "Physical rehabilitation program" means any services provided to a worker to prevent the compensable injury from causing continuing disability.¶¶
- (145) "Regularly employed ~~worker~~" means ~~any worker who is~~ receiving a regular wage as defined in section (178) of this rule. For workers who are paid a daily wage, "regularly employed" means actual employment or availability for such employment.¶¶
- (156) "Service company" means the contracted agent for an insurer authorized to process claims and make payment of compensation on behalf of the insurer.¶¶

(167) "Suspension of compensation" means a period of time where:¶

(a) No temporary disability, permanent total disability, or medical and related service benefits accrue or are payable during the period of suspension; and¶

(b) Vocational assistance and payment of permanent partial disability benefits will stop during the period of suspension be stayed.¶

(178) "Wages" is as defined in ORS 656.005(29) and, in these rules, is categorized as either irregular wages or regular wages. Wages do not include expenses incurred due to the job and reimbursed by the employer (e.g., meals, lodging, per diem, equipment rental). As used in these rules:¶

(a) "Irregular wages" means a variable pay rate at which the service rendered is recompensed under the contract of hiring in force at the time of the accident, and it includes but is not limited to: ¶

(A) Tips; ¶

(B) Commissions; ¶

(C) Monies paid on unscheduled or unpredictable intervals, including but not limited to workers who are seasonally employed, on call, paid hourly at varying hours, or paid by piece rate; and ¶

(D) The reasonable value of any in-kind considerations only if the considerations will not continue during the period of disability; and¶

(b) "Regular wages" means a constant and uniform pay rate at which the service rendered is recompensed under the contract of hiring in force at the time of the accident, and it includes, but is not limited to, wages paid on a daily or weekly basis. Hourly wages may be considered regular if the same number of hours are worked each pay period.¶

(189) "Wage earning agreement" means the verbal or written contract of hiring or terms of employment made between the worker and employer.¶

(1920) "Written" means expressed in writing, including electronic transmission.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 656.726(4)

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 656.726(4), ORS 656.005

AMEND: 436-060-0008

RULE SUMMARY: Amended rule 0008 includes minor changes that enhance clarity and consistency with other rules in OAR chapter 436.

CHANGES TO RULE:

436-060-0008

Administrative Review and Contested Cases ¶

(1) Request for hearing on an action concerning a worker's right to compensation. Any party, or assigned claims agent, that disagrees with an action taken under these rules that concerns a worker's right to compensation, or the amount of compensation due, may request a hearing by the ~~Hearings Division~~board under ORS chapter 656 and OAR chapter 438.¶

(2) Request for hearing on proposed sanctions or civil penalties. Any party, or assigned claims agent, that disagrees with a proposed order or proposed assessment of civil penalty of the director issued under ORS 656.254, 656.260, 656.735, 656.740, 656.745 or 656.750 may request a hearing by the ~~Hearings Division~~board. To request a hearing the party, or assigned claims agent, must:¶

(a) Mail or deliver a written request for hearing to the ~~Workers' Compensation Division~~ within 60 days of the mailing date of the proposed order or assessment; and¶

(b) Specify, in the request, the reasons why the party, or assigned claims agent, disagrees with the proposed order or assessment.¶

(3) Administrative review of a matter other than a matter concerning a claim. Any party, or assigned claims agent, that disagrees with an action taken under these rules, except as described in section (1) of this rule, may request the director to conduct an administrative review of the action.¶

~~(a)~~ To request administrative review, the party must:¶

~~(A)~~ Mail or deliver a written request for review to the ~~Workers' Compensation Division~~ within 90 days of the contested action; and¶

~~(B)~~ Specify, in the request, the reasons why the party disagrees with the proposed order or assessment.¶

~~(b)~~ Requests mail. Requests mailed or delivered more than 90 days after the contested action may be considered if the director determines there was good cause for delay, or that substantial injustice may otherwise result; and¶

(b) Specify, in the request, the reasons why they disagree with the contested action.¶

(4) Request for hearing on a matter other than a matter concerning a claim. Any party, or an assigned claims agent, that disagrees with an action or order of the director under these rules, other than as described in sections (1) and (2) of this rule, 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 or notice of action. OAR 436-001 applies to the hearing.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 656.704, 656.726(4), 656.745

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS ~~656.245~~704, ~~656.726~~(4), ~~656.704~~5, ~~656.726~~(4)~~254~~, ~~656.260~~, ~~656.735~~, ~~656.740(1)~~, ~~656.750~~

REPEAL: 436-060-0009

RULE SUMMARY: Repealed rule 0009, "Access to Department of Consumer and Business Services Workers' Compensation Claim File Records," will be adopted, with amendments, in OAR 436-001.

CHANGES TO RULE:

~~436-060-0009~~

~~Access to Department of Consumer and Business Services Workers Compensation Claim File Records~~

~~(1) General. Under ORS 192.430 and OAR 440-005-0015(1) the director, as custodian of public records, adopts this rule to protect the integrity of claim file records and prevent interference with the regular discharge of the department's duties.¶¶~~

~~(2) Access to public records. The department rules on Access of Public Records, Fees for Record Search and Copies of Public Records are found in OAR 440-005, accessible at:~~

~~http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/rules/oars_400/oar_440/440_005.html.¶¶~~

~~(a) The director will provide the first copy of any document to a worker, worker's attorney, insurer of record, or the insurer's legal representatives and service companies without charge.¶¶~~

~~(b) Additional copies will be provided at the rates set forth in OAR 440-005. Payment of fees for access to records must be made in advance unless the director determines otherwise.¶¶~~

~~(3) Inspection of nonexempt public records. Any person has a right to inspect and obtain copies of nonexempt public records. The statutory right to "inspect" encompasses a right to examine original records. It does not include a right to request blind searches for records not known to exist.¶¶~~

~~(4) Inspection of exempt records. Workers' compensation claims records are exempt from public disclosure. Access to workers' compensation claims records will be granted at the sole discretion of the director in accordance with this rule, under the following circumstances:¶¶~~

~~(a) When necessary for insurers, service companies, and their legal representatives for the sole purpose of processing workers' compensation claims;¶¶~~

~~(b) When necessary for the director, other governmental agencies of this state or the United States to carry out their duties, functions or powers;¶¶~~

~~(c) When the disclosure is made in such a manner that the disclosed information cannot be used to identify any worker who is the subject of a claim; or¶¶~~

~~(d) When a worker or the worker's attorney requests review of the worker's claim record.¶¶~~

~~(5) Release of records to other persons. The director may release workers' compensation claims records to persons other than those described in section (4) of this rule when the director determines such release is in the public interest and the conditions in ORS 192.502(20) and subsection (4)(c) of this rule have been met, including when workers' compensation claims file information is required by a public or private research organization in order to contact injured workers in order to conduct its research.¶¶~~

~~(a) The determination whether the request to release workers' compensation claims records meets those conditions is at the sole discretion of the director.¶¶~~

~~(b) The director may enter into written agreements as necessary to ensure that the recipient of workers' compensation claims records under this section uses or provides the information to others only in accordance with these rules and the agreement with the director, and to ensure the confidentiality of the disclosed records. The director may terminate such agreements at any time the director determines that one or more of the conditions of the agreement have been violated.¶¶~~

~~(6) Revocation of access to exempt records. The director may deny or revoke access to workers' compensation claims records at any time the director determines such access is no longer in the public interest or is being used in a manner that violates these rules or any law of the State of Oregon or the United States.¶¶~~

~~(7) Requests for records. A request to inspect or obtain copies of workers' compensation claim records may be made in writing, in person, or by phone.¶¶~~

~~(a) Written requests must include:¶¶~~

~~(A) The name, address, telephone number, and email address of the requester;¶¶~~

- (B) The reason for requesting the records;¶
 - (C) A sufficiently detailed description of the records requested;¶
 - (D) The format and number of copies requested; and¶
 - (E) The account number of the requester, when applicable.¶
 - (b) In addition to the information required in subsection (a), a request made by telephone or facsimile transmission must include:¶
 - (A) The worker's Social Security number; and¶
 - (B) The insurer claim number.¶
 - (c) Except as prescribed in subsections (4)(a) through (d) of this rule, a request to inspect or obtain copies of a worker's claim record must be accompanied by an attorney retainer agreement or release signed by the worker.¶
 - (A) The director may refuse to honor any release the director determines is likely to result in disclosed records being used in a manner contrary to these rules.¶
 - (B) Upon request, the director will review proposed release forms to determine whether the proposed release is consistent with the law and this rule.¶
 - (8) Retention of records. The director will retain or destroy records according to retention schedules published by the Secretary of State, Archives Division.
- Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 192.502, 656.704, 656.726(4)
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 656.704, 656.726(4)

AMEND: 436-060-0010

RULE SUMMARY: Amended rule 0010 includes minor changes to wording that enhance clarity and consistency with other rules in OAR chapter 436.

CHANGES TO RULE:

436-060-0010

Employer Responsibilities ¶

(1) General. A subject employer must accept notice of a claim for workers' compensation benefits from a worker or the worker's attorney under ORS 656.265.¶

(a) Form 801, "Report of Job Injury or Illness," must be readily available for workers to report their injuries. The employer must provide Form 801 to the worker:¶

(A) Immediately upon request by the worker or worker's attorney under ORS 656.265(6); and or¶

(B) Upon receiving notice or knowledge of an accident that may involve a compensable injury under ORS 656.262(3)(a).¶

(b) Form 827, "Worker's and Health Care Provider's Report for Workers' Compensation Claims," signed by the worker, is written notice of an accident that may involve a compensable injury ~~under ORS 656.265~~. The signed Form 827 will start the claim process, but does not relieve the worker or employer of the responsibility of filing Form 801.¶

(c) ~~The employer must provide~~ Form 3283, "A Guide for Workers Recently Hurt on the Job," must be provided by the employer to the worker at the time a worker files a claim for workers' compensation benefits. Form 3283 may be printed on the back of Form 801.¶

(d) If a worker provides notice of a claim using an electronic form, the insurer may require the worker to sign a medical release form, so the insurer can obtain medical records necessary to process the claim under OAR 436-010-0240.¶

(2) Employer reporting time frame. An employer, except a self-insured employer, must report a claim to its insurer no later than five days after the date the employer has notice or knowledge of any claim or accident that may result in a compensable injury. The date an employer has knowledge of an accident that may result in a compensable injury is the earliest date any supervisor or manager of the employer has enough facts to reasonably conclude that workers' compensation liability is a possibility.¶

(3) Reporting requirements. The report must provide the information requested on Form 801, and include at least:¶

(a) The worker's name, address, and Social Security number (if known);¶

(b) The employer's legal name and address; and¶

(c) The information required under ORS 656.262 and 656.265.¶

(4) Injuries not requiring medical services. The employer is not required to notify the insurer of an accident that does not require the worker to seek treatment from a licensed medical service provider, subject to the following:¶

(a) The employer must report the claim to the insurer under section (2) of this rule, if:¶

(A) The worker chooses to file a claim;¶

(B) The worker signs a Form 801;¶

(C) The worker or employer is billed for treatment; or¶

(D) The employer learns that the injury has resulted in medical services, disability or death. For the purposes of this paragraph, the date of that knowledge under section (2) of this rule is the date the employer received notice or knowledge of the medical services, disability, or death; and¶

(b) If the employer does not give the insurer notice under this section:¶

(A) The employer must maintain records for five years showing the name of the worker, the date of the accident, the nature of the injury and treatment provided, ~~for five years~~; and¶

(B) These records must be available for inspection by the director, the worker or the worker's attorney, if any, and the insurer.¶

(5) Civil penalty for failure to report claims. The director may assess a civil penalty under OAR 436-060-0200 against an employer that:¶

(a) Is late in reporting more than ten percent of its total claims to its insurer during any quarter; or¶

(b) Intentionally or repeatedly pays compensation instead of reporting claims or accidents that may result in a compensable injury to its insurer.¶

(6) Worker's right to choose medical service provider. The worker may choose a medical service provider, attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner under ORS 656.245, 656.260, OAR 436-010 and 436-015. Except as provided under ORS 656.260 and OAR 436-015, if an employer restricts the worker's choice of medical service provider the director may impose a civil penalty of up to \$2,000.¶

~~[ED. NOTE: Forms referenced are available from the agency.]~~

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 656.265(6), 656.726(4), ORS 656.745

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 656.745, 656.245, 656.260, 656.262, 656.265

AMEND: 436-060-0011

RULE SUMMARY: Amended rule 0011:

- Qualifies an insurer's responsibility to report a worker's Social Security number on Form 1502 to be "as provided by the worker or employer," and the insurer may report that the insurer has been unable to obtain the worker's Social Security number;
- Removes the requirement to report the employer's policy number on Form 1502 if the employer is self-insured or the claim is a non-complying employer claim;
- Requires reporting of the wrap-up project name on Form 1502, if the claim is from a wrap-up project;
- Requires reporting of the managed care organization (MCO) number on Form 1502 if the worker is enrolled in an MCO; and
- Includes other minor changes to wording and punctuation that enhance clarity and consistency with other rules in OAR chapter 436.

CHANGES TO RULE:

436-060-0011

Insurer Reporting Requirements ¶¶

(1) General. The insurer must process and file claims and reports required by the director in compliance with ORS chapter 656, OAR chapter 436, and orders of the director.¶¶

(a) All forms must be legible and include all information required by this rule.¶¶

(b) The insurer may not submit forms, or their electronic equivalents, by email, facsimile, electronic data interchange (EDI), or other electronic means, without the director's prior authorization.¶¶

(c) Electronic forms, when allowed, must include the same fields and elements as their paper counterparts.¶¶

(2) Misdirected claims. If an insurer receives a claim and did not provide coverage for the worker's employer on the date of injury, the insurer must forward the claim to either the correct insurer or the director within three days of the date it determined it was not responsible for the claim.¶¶

(3) Identification of insurer. All workers' compensation forms generated by the insurer must include:¶¶

(a) The insurer's name;¶¶

(b) The service company's name, if applicable; and¶¶

(c) The mailing address and phone number of the location responsible for processing the claim.¶¶

(4) Claims status and activity reporting. The insurer must report all disabling claims status and activity to the director using Form 1502, "Insurer's Report."¶¶

(a) The insurer must file a Form 1502 with the director within 14 days of:¶¶

(A) The date of the insurer's initial decision to accept or deny the claim;¶¶

(B) The date of any reopening of the claim, except voluntary reopening under ORS 656.278;¶¶

(C) The date of a change in the acceptance or classification of the claim following the initial Form 1502;¶¶

(D) The date of a litigation order or insurer's decision that changes the acceptance or classification of the claim, or causes the claim to be reopened;¶¶

(E) The date a worker is enrolled in a managed care organization that occurs after the initial Form 1502 has been filed;¶¶

(F) The date the insurer has knowledge that a previously filed Form 1502 contained erroneous information;¶¶

(G) The date of a denial that occurs after the initial Form 1502 has been filed; or¶¶

(H) The date first payment of temporary disability is issued, if the date was not included in the initial Form 1502.¶¶

(b) Each Form 1502 the insurer files must include ~~at least~~ the following information:¶¶

(A) The worker's legal name;¶¶

(B) The worker's Social Security number as provided by the worker or employer, or a statement that the insurer is unable to obtain the worker's Social Security number;¶¶

(C) The insurer's claim number;¶¶

- (D) The date of injury;¶
- (E) The employer's legal name;¶
- (F) The employer's policy number, unless the employer is self-insured or the claim is a non-complying employer claim;¶
- (G) The status of the claim; ~~and~~¶
- (H) The reason for filing; ~~and~~¶
- (I) The wrap-up project name, if the claim is from a wrap-up project.¶
- (c) The Form 1502 reporting the insurer's initial decision to accept or deny a claim must also include:¶
 - (A) If the first payment of compensation was made within the time frame required under OAR 436-060-0150, if applicable;¶
 - (B) If the claim was accepted or denied within the time frame required under OAR 436-060-0140; and¶
 - (C) ~~If the~~ For a worker is enrolled in a managed care organization, and t:¶
 - (i) The date of enrollment, if applicable; and¶
 - (ii) The managed care organization number, unless the number was reported on a prior Form 1502 on the claim.¶
- (5) Filing the first Form 1502 on a claim. The first Form 1502 the insurer files on a claim must be accompanied by:¶
 - (a) Copies of all acceptance ~~or~~ and denial notices not previously submitted to the director; and¶
 - (b) A signed Form 801, or its electronic equivalent, except when a Form 801 is not available for timely filing.¶
 - (A) The Form 801 must be completed by the employer and worker, unless:¶
 - (i) The Form 801 cannot be obtained from the employer or worker because the employer or worker cannot be located, refuses to cooperate, or is physically unable to complete the form; or¶
 - (ii) The Form 801 was prepared using an electronic form that required it to be prepared by the insurer based upon information obtained from the employer and worker.¶
 - (B) If a Form 801 is not available for timely filing:¶
 - (i) The Form 1502 may be accompanied by a signed Form 827 to satisfy the initial reporting requirement; and¶
 - (ii) The Form 801 must be submitted within 30 days of the date the insurer filed the first Form 1502.¶
 - (6) Nondisabling claims. The insurer is not required to report a nondisabling claim to the director, except:¶
 - (a) The insurer must report a nondisabling claim that is denied in part or whole to the director within 14 days of the date of denial; and¶
 - (b) The insurer must report a nondisabling claim that is reclassified as disabling to the director within 14 days of the date of the status change.¶
 - (7) Voluntarily reopened own motion claims. The insurer must file a Form 3501, "Notice of Voluntary Reopening Own Motion Claim," with the director within 14 days of the date the insurer voluntarily reopens a qualified claim under ORS 656.278.¶
 - (8) New condition reopening. If the insurer reopens a claim due to a new medical condition, and the claim:¶
 - (a) Is not closed within 14 days, the insurer must file Form 1502 with the director within 14 days of the earliest of:¶
 - (A) The date the new condition is accepted; or¶
 - (B) The date the insurer has knowledge that interim temporary disability compensation is due and payable; or¶
 - (b) Is closed within 14 days, the insurer must report the reopening on the Form 1503, "Insurer Notice of Closure Summary," Form 1503 must be filed with the director at the time the insurer closes the claim. ~~The Form 1503 must be,~~ and accompanied by the "Modified Notice of Acceptance" and "Updated Notice of Acceptance at Closure" sent to the worker.¶
 - (9) Claim withdrawal. The insurer must file a Form 1502 with the director if it receives written communication from the worker stating the worker never intended to file a claim and wants the claim withdrawn after the claim has been reported to the director. The Form 1502 must be accompanied by a copy of the worker's communication.¶
 - (10) Failure to report. The director may issue a civil penalty against any insurer that does not file required notices and forms within the time frames of these rules.¶
 - (11) Reporting of legal service costs. Insurers must make an annual report to the director reporting attorney fees,

attorney salaries, and all other costs of legal services paid under ORS chapter 656. The report must be submitted on forms provided by the director for that purpose. Reports for each calendar year must be filed by March 1 of the following year.¶

(12) Election of payment of supplemental disability. If an insurer elects to not process and pay supplemental disability benefits under ORS 656.210(5)(a) and OAR 436-060-0035:¶

(a) The insurer must submit a Form 3530, "Supplemental Disability Election Notification," to the director. The insurer is not required to inform the director if it elects to process and pay supplemental disability unless the insurer has previously provided notice otherwise.¶

(b) The insurer must use a Form 3504, "Supplemental Disability Benefits Quarterly Reimbursement Request," to request reimbursement under OAR 436-060-0500 for each quarter the insurer processed and paid supplemental disability benefits.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 656.264, 656.265(6), 656.726(4), 656.745

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 656.264, 656.745, 656.210, 656.262, 656.264, ~~656.726(4)~~

AMEND: 436-060-0012

RULE SUMMARY: Amended rule 0012 includes minor changes to wording that enhance clarity and consistency with other rules in OAR chapter 436.

CHANGES TO RULE:

436-060-0012

Notices and Correspondence Following the Death of a Worker ¶

(1) If a worker is deceased, regardless of the cause of death, an insurer must:¶

(a) Address all future notices and correspondence to the ~~worker's estate~~estate of the worker or qualified beneficiaries;¶

(b) Provide a written notice of acceptance or denial of a claim to the estate of the worker; and¶

(c) Issue a Notice of Closure, when applicable, to the estate of the worker. The insurer must mail the worker's copy of the Notice of Closure to the worker's last known address. The insurer may mail copies of the Notice of Closure to any known or potential beneficiaries.¶

(2) Other notices required under this chapter intended for the worker are not required when the worker is deceased.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 656.726(4)

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 656.262, 656.264, 656.268

AMEND: 436-060-0015

RULE SUMMARY: Amended rule 0015 includes minor wording changes to enhance clarity.

CHANGES TO RULE:

436-060-0015

Required Notice and Information ¶¶

(1) Notice to worker's attorney. If a worker is represented by an attorney, and the attorney has given written notice of representation, the insurer must provide written notice to the worker's attorney before, or at the same time, as:¶¶

~~(a) The insurer;~~¶¶

(a) Requests the worker to submit to a medical examination;¶¶

~~(b) The insurer;~~¶¶
(b) Contacts the worker regarding any matter that may result in denial, reduction, or termination of the worker's benefits; or¶¶

~~(c) The insurer;~~¶¶
(c) Contacts the worker regarding any matter relating to the disposition of a claim under ORS 656.236.¶¶

(2) Penalty for failure to provide notice to worker's attorney. The director may assess a civil penalty against an insurer that intentionally or repeatedly fails to give notice as required under section (1) of this rule.¶¶

(3) Information provided to worker. The insurer or service company must provide:¶¶

(a) Form 1138, "What Happens if I'm Hurt on the Job?" to every worker who has a disabling claim with the first disability check or earliest written correspondence. For nondisabling claims, Form 3283, "A Guide for Workers Recently Hurt on the Job," may be provided in place of Form 1138, unless the worker specifically requests Form 1138;¶¶

(b) Form 3283 to its insured employers. Form 3283 may be printed on the back of Form 801;¶¶

(c) Form 3058, "Notice to Worker," or an equivalent form, to the worker with the initial notice of acceptance of the claim under OAR 436-060-0140(6). If an equivalent form is provided, it must include all of the information included on Form 3058; and¶¶

(d) The additional notices required under OAR 436-060-0018, 436-060-0030, 436-060-0035, 436-060-0095, 436-060-0105, 436-060-0135, 436-060-0140, and 436-060-0180.¶¶

(4) Notice of change of processing location. When the insurer changes claims processing locations, service companies, or self-administration, the insurer must provide at least 10 days prior notice to workers with open or active claims, their attorneys, and attending physicians. The notice must provide the name of a contact person, telephone number, email address, and mailing address of the new claim processor.¶¶

(5) Notice of change in rate of compensation and benefit amounts. When the insurer changes the rate of compensation, the wage used to calculate benefit amounts, or the method of calculation used to determine benefits, the insurer must provide a written explanation of any change to the worker and the worker's attorney, if any.¶¶

(6) Notice of wage used to calculate benefits at closure. Before closure of a disabling claim the insurer must send a notice to the worker that:¶¶

(a) Documents the wage upon which benefits were based;¶¶

(b) Informs the worker that work disability, if applicable, will be determined when the claim is closed; and¶¶

(c) Explains how the worker can appeal the insurer's wage calculation if the worker disagrees with the wage.¶¶

~~[ED. NOTE: Forms referenced are available from the agency.]~~

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 656.331, 656.726(4), 656.745

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 656.331, 656.726(4), 656.745

AMEND: 436-060-0017

RULE SUMMARY: Amended rule 0017:

- Requires an insurer or service company to provide claim records, without charge, upon request of a beneficiary's attorney;
- Requires an insurer to provide new documents to the beneficiary's attorney every 30 days when that attorney makes an ongoing request for documents; and
- Includes other minor changes to wording and punctuation that enhance clarity and consistency with other rules in OAR chapter 436.

CHANGES TO RULE:

436-060-0017

Release of Claim Documents¶

(1) ~~Definitions.~~ For the purpose of this rule:¶

(a) "Documents" means the written records making up, or relating to, the worker's claim, including but not limited to:¶

(A) Medical records;¶

(B) Vocational records;¶

(C) Payment ledgers for both temporary disability and medical services;¶

(D) Payroll records;¶

(E) Recorded statements;¶

(F) Insurer generated records, excluding a claims examiner's generated file notes, such as documentation or justification concerning setting or adjusting reserves, claims management strategy, or any privileged communications;¶

(G) All forms on the claim filed with the director;¶

(H) Notices of closure; and¶

(I) Electronic transmissions and correspondence between the insurer, service providers, ~~claimant~~worker, director, or ~~Workers' Compensation Board~~.¶

(b) Any documents generated or received by the insurer five or more ~~working~~business days before the mailing date of a request for copies of claims documents are considered to be in the insurer's or service company's possession, even if the documents have not reached the insurer's or service company's claim file.¶

(2) Date of receipt. The insurer or service company must display evidence of the initial date of receipt on each document in its possession.¶

(a) The evidence must include the month, day, year of receipt, and name of the company that received the document.¶

(b) Acceptable evidence under this section includes, but is not limited to, a machine produced date stamp or the data automatically produced by electronic transmission.¶

(3) Requests for claims documents. The insurer or service company must provide, without charge, legible copies of documents in its possession relating to a claim, upon request of the worker, worker's attorney ~~or~~, worker's beneficiary, or beneficiary's attorney at times other than those provided for under ORS 656.268 and OAR chapter 438, as provided in this rule.¶

(a) A request for copies of claim documents must be submitted to the insurer or service company, and copied simultaneously to the insurer's defense counsel, if known.¶

(b) Except as provided in OAR 436-060-0180, an initial request by anyone other than the worker or worker's beneficiary must be accompanied by an attorney retainer agreement or a medical release that has been signed by the worker.¶

(A) The signed medical release must be provided using Form 2476, "Request for Release of Medical Records for Oregon Workers' Compensation Claim," or an equivalent form.¶

- (B) Information not otherwise available through this release, but relevant to the claim, may only be obtained in compliance with applicable state or federal laws.¶
- (c) If the worker or beneficiary is represented by an attorney:¶
- (A) The documents must be mailed directly to the worker's or beneficiary's attorney;¶
- (B) The insurer is not required to provide copies to both the worker or beneficiary and the attorney; however, the insurer must inform the worker or beneficiary that the documents were mailed to the attorney if the documents were requested by the worker or beneficiary; and¶
- (C) If the worker or beneficiary changes attorneys, the insurer must provide the new attorney with copies upon request.¶
- (d) If the worker's or beneficiary's attorney makes an ongoing request for documents:¶
- (A) The insurer must provide all new documents received and generated by the insurer for 180 days after the initial mailing date under section (4) of this rule, or until a hearing is requested before the ~~Workers' Compensation Board~~ Board; and¶
- (B) The insurer must provide new documents to the worker's or beneficiary's attorney every 30 days. If the attorney requests that specific documents be sent ~~more frequently~~ sooner, those documents must be provided within the time frame specified in section (4) of this rule.¶
- (e) The insurer must provide to the worker or the worker's attorney the entire health information record in its possession, except the following, may be withheld:¶
- (A) Information obtained from someone other than a health care provider under a promise of confidentiality and access to the information would likely reveal the source of the information;¶
- (B) Psychotherapy notes;¶
- (C) Information compiled for use in a civil, criminal, or administration action or proceeding; or¶
- (D) Information that must be withheld under federal regulation.¶
- (f) If a hearing is requested before the ~~Workers' Compensation Board~~ Board, the release of documents is controlled by OAR chapter 438 until the hearing request is withdrawn or the hearing record is closed, provided a request for documents is renewed.¶
- (4) Time frame to provide documents. The insurer must provide copies of documents requested under this rule within the following time frames:¶
- (a) ~~Copies of documents from~~ For files that are not archived, documents must be mailed within 14 days of receipt of a request;¶
- (b) ~~Copies of documents from archived file~~ For files that are archived, documents must be mailed within 30 days of receipt of a request;¶
- (c) If a claim is lost or has been destroyed, the insurer must so notify the requester in writing within 14 days of receiving the request for claim documents. The insurer must reconstruct and mail the file within 30 days from the date of the lost or destroyed file notice; and¶
- (d) If the insurer does not possess any documents at the time the request is received:¶
- (A) The insurer must mail any documents relating to the claim it receives to the requestor within 14 days of receipt of the documents; and¶
- (B) The request will be considered ongoing for 90 days.¶
- (5) Complaints of violation. Complaints about a violation of the rules regarding release of requested claims documents must be made in writing, and mailed or delivered to the division within 180 days of the request for documents, and must include a copy of the request submitted under section (3) of this rule.¶
- (a) When notified by the director that a complaint has been filed, the insurer must mail or deliver a written response to the director within 14 days of the mailing date of the director's inquiry letter. A copy of the response, including any attachments, must be simultaneously mailed to the requester of claim documents.¶
- (b) If the director does not receive a timely response or the insurer provides an inadequate response (e.g., failing to answer specific questions or provide requested documents), the director may assess a civil penalty against the insurer under OAR 436-060-0200. Assessment of a penalty does not relieve the insurer of ~~the~~ its obligation to provide a response.¶

(6) Failure to provide documents. The director may assess a civil penalty against an insurer that fails to provide documents as required under this rule. The matrix attached to these rules in Appendix "A" will be used in assessing penalties.¶

~~[ED. NOTE: Appendices referenced are available from the agency.]~~ {See attached table.}

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 656.726(4), ORS 656.745

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 656.745, 656.360, 656.362

RULE ATTACHMENTS DO NOT SHOW CHANGES. PLEASE CONTACT AGENCY REGARDING CHANGES.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND BUSINESS SERVICES
WORKERS' COMPENSATION DIVISION
Proposed CLAIMS ADMINISTRATION

APPENDIX "A"
436-060-0017 Matrix for Assessing Penalties

VIOLATION NUMBER

NUMBER OF DAYS LATE	1	2	3	4	5+
1-7	\$0	\$100	\$250	\$500	\$1,000
8-14	\$100	\$250	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,000
15-21	\$250	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
22+	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000

AMEND: 436-060-0018

RULE SUMMARY: Amended rule 0018 :

- Revises wording to state that the request for classification status review must be first made to the insurer in writing; this includes claims where the classification was modified by the insurer from disabling to nondisabling;
- Specifies that the insurer must "mail," not "send," a "Notice of Refusal to Reclassify";
- Revises the wording of the notice that the insurer must send with a "Notice of Refusal to Reclassify." These modifications include describing ways to provide the appeal to the division, that the worker may use Form 2943, "Worker Request for Claim Classification Review," and may contact the Workers' Compensation Division or Ombudsman for Injured Workers to get assistance;
- Clarifies that a copy of the insurer's Notice of Refusal to Reclassify must be provided to the director, rather than stating "[t]he appeal must include a copy of the insurer's Notice of Refusal to Reclassify;"
- Prescribes wording insurers are to include on a Modified Notice of Acceptance that changes the status of a claim from disabling to nondisabling;
- Clarifies how a request for review may be submitted to the division; and
- Includes other minor changes to wording and punctuation that enhance clarity and consistency with other rules in OAR chapter 436.

CHANGES TO RULE:

436-060-0018

Nondisabling/and Disabling Claim Reclassification ¶¶

(1) General. If the insurer changes the classification of an accepted claim:¶¶

~~(a) The insurer must:~~¶¶

(a) Notify the director under OAR 436-060-0011;¶¶

~~(b) The insurer must send the worker and the worker's attorney, if any, a "Modified Notice of Acceptance" explaining the change in status; and~~¶¶

~~(c) If the claim qualifies for closure, the insurer must close the claim under ORS 656.268(5)~~Close the claim under ORS 656.268(5), if the claim qualifies for closure.¶¶

(2) Reclassification of a nondisabling claim. The insurer must reclassify a nondisabling claim to disabling:¶¶

(a) Within 14 days of receiving information that:¶¶

(A) Temporary disability is due and payable;¶¶

(B) The worker is medically stationary within one year of the date of injury and the worker will be entitled to an award of permanent disability; or¶¶

(C) The worker is not medically stationary, but there is a reasonable expectation that the worker will be entitled to an award of permanent disability when the worker does become medically stationary; or¶¶

(b) Upon acceptance of a new or omitted condition that meets the disabling criteria in this ~~rule~~section.¶¶

(3) Worker request for reclassification. A worker may request ~~for~~ the insurer ~~to~~ review the classification of a nondisabling claim under ORS 656.277 if the claim has been classified as nondisabling for one year or less after the date of acceptance and the worker believes the claim was or has become disabling.¶¶

(a) The request for classification status review must be first made to the insurer in writing.¶¶

(b) Within 14 days of receipt of the worker's request, the insurer must review the claim and:¶¶

(A) If the classification is changed to disabling, provide notice under this rule; or¶¶

(B) If the insurer believes evidence supports denying the worker's request to reclassify the claim, the insurer must ~~send~~mail a "Notice of Refusal to Reclassify" to the worker and the worker's attorney, if any. The notice must include the following statement, in bold print:¶¶

"If you disagree with this Notice of Refusal to Reclassify, you must appeal by contacting the Workers' Compensation Division within sixty (60) days of the mailing date of this notice ~~or you will lose your right to appeal.~~ The address and telephone number of the Workers' Compensation Division are: [INSURER: Insert current address

and telephone number of the Workers' Compensation Division, Appellate Review Unit, here.]. You may appeal by using Form 2943, "Worker Request for Claim Classification Review," available on the division's website at wcd.oregon.gov.

Send written appeals to the Workers' Compensation Division, Appellate Review Unit, PO Box 14480, Salem OR 97309-0405.

Or fax to: 503-947-7794.

Or hand-deliver to: Workers' Compensation Division, Appellate Review Unit, 350 Winter Street NE, 2nd Floor, Salem OR 97301.

You may appeal by phone by calling the Appellate Review Unit at 503-947-7816. A member of the Appellate Review Unit will complete and sign Form 2943 as the worker's designee and they will send a copy of the completed form to you, the insurer, and any attorneys involved in the claim.

If you do not appeal to the Workers' Compensation Division within 60 days of the mailing date of this notice, you will lose all rights to review of this decision. For assistance, you may call the Workers' Compensation Division at 503-947-7816, or the Ombudsman for Injured Workers at 503-378-3351 or 800-927-1271 (toll-free).

(c) If the worker disagrees with the insurer's decision in the Notice of Refusal to Reclassify, the worker may appeal to the director under section (7) of this rule:

(A) The appeal must be made no later than the 60th day after the mailing date of the Notice of Refusal to Reclassify; and

(B) ~~The appeal must include a~~ A copy of the insurer's Notice of Refusal to Reclassify must be provided to the director.

(d) If the insurer does not respond to the worker's request for reclassification within 14 days of receipt of the worker's request:

(A) The worker may request review by the director under section (7) of this rule as if the insurer issued a Notice of Refusal to Reclassify; and

(B) The director may assess civil penalties under OAR 436-060-0200; and

(C) The director may assess an attorney fee under ORS 656.386(3); and

(e) If the worker is represented by an attorney, and the attorney is instrumental in obtaining an order from the director that reclassifies the claim from nondisabling to disabling, the director may award the attorney a reasonable assessed attorney fee under ORS 656.277.

(4) Time frame for aggravation rights. A claim for aggravation under ORS 656.273 must be filed within five years after:

(a) The first valid closure of a claim that is reclassified from nondisabling to disabling within one year from the date of acceptance; or

(b) The date of injury of a claim that is not reclassified from nondisabling to disabling within one year from the date of acceptance.

(5) Claims for aggravation on nondisabling claims. When a claim has been classified as nondisabling for at least one year after the date of acceptance, a worker who believes the claim was or has become disabling may submit a claim for aggravation under ORS 656.273.

(6) Reclassification of a disabling claim. If a claim has been accepted and classified as disabling:

(a) All aspects of the claim are classified as disabling and may not be reclassified, unless:

(A) The claim has been classified as disabling for less than one year from date of acceptance; and

(B) The insurer determines the criteria for a disabling claim were never satisfied; and

(C) The insurer has notified the worker and the worker's attorney, if any, by issuing a Modified Notice of Acceptance. The Modified Notice of Acceptance must ~~advise the worker that he or she has 60 days from the date of the~~ include the following:

"Notice to Worker: Your claim has been reclassified to nondisabling. Generally, this means your insurer concluded no disability payments are due and all of the following are true:

You were able to return to work at full wages on or before the fourth calendar day after leaving work or losing wages as a result of your injury.

You did not lose time or wages from work as a result of your injury on or after that fourth calendar day.¶

It appears you will not have any permanent disability as a result of your injury.¶

If you think there is a mistake in the classification of your claim as nondisabling, contact the insurer within one year of the date the insurer first accepted your claim and request reclassification.¶

If you request reclassification, the insurer must complete its review and send you its decision within 14 days of receiving your request. If you disagree with the insurer's decision, you have the right, within 60 days of the date of the insurer's notice, to appeal the decision; request that the Workers' Compensation Division review your claim to determine if it was correctly classified. If the insurer does not respond to your request for reclassification within 14 days of receiving your request, you may ask the Workers' Compensation Division to review your claim as though the insurer refused to reclassify your claim. For assistance, you may call the Workers' Compensation Division at 503-947-7816, or the Ombudsman for Injured Workers at 503-378-3351 or 800-927-1271 (toll-free).

¶

(b) Any subsequently accepted conditions or aggravations must be processed as disabling claims; and¶

(c) Claim closure must be processed under ORS 656.268.¶

(7) Appeal of insurer's classification decision. If a worker disagrees with an insurer's decision to not reclassify the worker's claim from nondisabling to disabling, ~~or to reclassify the claim from disabling to nondisabling~~, the worker may appeal the decision by requesting review by the director:¶

(a) The request must be ~~in writing and mailed to the director~~ submitted to the division by mail, hand-delivery, fax, or phone within 60 days from the date of the insurer's notice;¶

(b) The worker may use Form 2943, "Worker Request for Claim Classification Review," for requesting review of the insurer's claim classification decision; and¶

(c) The worker does not need to be represented by an attorney to appeal the insurer's reclassification decision under section (3) or (6) of this rule. If a worker appeals an insurer's reclassification decision:¶

(A) The worker's appeal must be copied to the insurer;¶

(B) The director will acknowledge receipt of the appeal in writing to the worker, the worker's attorney, if any, and the insurer, and initiate the review;¶

(C) Within 14 days of the director's acknowledgement:¶

(i) The insurer must provide the director and all other parties with the complete medical record and all official actions and notices on the claim. The director may impose penalties against an insurer under OAR 436-060-0200 if the insurer fails to provide claim documents in a timely manner; and¶

(ii) The worker may submit any additional evidence for the director to consider. Copies must be provided to all other parties at the same time; and¶

(D) After ~~receiving~~ receiving and ~~reviewing~~ reviewing of the required documents, the director will issue an order:¶

(i) The worker and the insurer have 30 days from the mailing date of the order to appeal the director's decision to the ~~Hearings Division board~~; and¶

(ii) The director may reconsider, abate, or withdraw any order before the order becomes final by operation of law.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 656.268, 656.277, 656.386, 656.726(4), 656.745

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS ~~656.21068~~, ~~656.21277~~, ~~656.214386~~, ~~656.262745~~, ~~656.26810~~, ~~656.386212~~, ~~656.273214~~, ~~656.27762~~, ~~656.745273~~

AMEND: 436-060-0019

RULE SUMMARY: Amended rule 0019 includes minor wording and punctuation changes that enhance clarity.

CHANGES TO RULE:

436-060-0019

Determining and Paying the Three-Day Waiting Period ¶

(1) Determining the three-day waiting period. The three-day waiting period is three consecutive calendar days, beginning with the first day the worker leaves work or loses wages as a result of the compensable injury, subject to the following:¶

(a) If the worker leaves work, but returns and completes the work shift without loss of wages, that day is not considered to be the first day of the three-day waiting period;¶

(b) If the worker leaves work, but returns and completes the work shift and receives reduced wages, that day is considered to be the first day of the three-day waiting period;¶

(c) If the worker leaves work and does not complete the work shift, that day is considered to be the first day of the three-day waiting period, even if there is no loss of wages; ~~and~~¶

(d) If the worker leaves work or loses wages during a work shift that extends into another calendar day, the first day of the three-day waiting period is the date the employer uses for payroll purposes.¶

(2) Authorization of temporary disability. Authorization of temporary disability under OAR 436-010-0210 is not required to begin the three-day waiting period.¶

(3) Paying the three-day waiting period. No temporary disability compensation is due to the worker for the three-day waiting period, unless temporary disability is authorized under OAR 436-010-0210, and:¶

(a) The worker is totally disabled after the injury, and the total disability continues for a period of 14 consecutive days; or¶

(b) The worker is admitted as an inpatient to a hospital within 14 days of the first onset of total disability.¶

(4) Amount due when the three-day waiting period is payable. ~~If compensation is due and payable~~ When the worker is eligible for compensation for the three-day waiting period under section (3) of this rule, the amount due and payable is determined by applying the following:¶

(a) If the worker left work during the first half of the shift on the first day of the three-day waiting period, and did not return to complete the shift, the worker must be paid compensation for one half of that day; or¶

(b) If the worker left work during the second half of the shift on the first day of the three-day waiting period, the worker is not due compensation for that day;¶

(5) ~~If the worker is~~ Worker is employed with varying days off or a cyclic work schedule. If a worker is employed with varying days off or a cyclic work schedule, the three-day waiting period must be determined using the work schedule of the week the worker first leaves work or loses wages as a result of the injury.¶

(6) ~~If the worker is~~ Worker is no longer employed with the employer at injury. If the worker is no longer employed with the employer at injury, or does not have an established schedule when the worker leaves work or loses wages, the three-day waiting period and scheduled days off must be based on the work schedule of the week the worker was injured.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 656.210, 656.212, 656.726(4)

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 656.210, 656.212

AMEND: 436-060-0020

RULE SUMMARY: Amended rule 0020 includes minor wording changes that enhance clarity.

CHANGES TO RULE:

436-060-0020

Payment of Temporary Total Disability Compensation ¶¶

(1) Employer payment of temporary disability. An employer may pay temporary disability compensation with the approval of the insurer. If the insurer approves an employer to make such payment:¶¶

(a) The insurer continues to be responsible for determining the worker's entitlement to compensation, and ensuring timely payment of compensation;¶¶

(b) The employer must provide the insurer with payment documentation that is adequate to meet the insurer's responsibilities; and¶¶

(c) The insurer must reimburse the employer for any temporary disability compensation paid to the worker under this section.¶¶

(2) Persons who have withdrawn from the workforce. No temporary disability is due and payable for any period of time in which the person has withdrawn from the workforce. For the purpose of this rule, a person who has withdrawn from the workforce, includes, but is not limited to:¶¶

(a) A person who, before a claim reopening under ORS 656.267, 656.273 or 656.278, was not working and ~~had~~ made not ~~made~~ reasonable efforts to obtain employment, unless such efforts would be futile as a result of the compensable injury.¶¶

(b) A person who was a full-time student for at least six months in the 52 weeks before the date of injury who elects to return to school full time, unless the person can establish a prior customary pattern of working while attending school. For purposes of this subsection, "full time" is defined as twelve or more quarter hours or the equivalent.¶¶

(3) Authorization of temporary disability compensation. No compensation is due and payable after the worker's attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner ceases to authorize temporary disability, or for any period of time when temporary disability benefits are not authorized by a medical service provider under ORS 656.245(2)(b). Temporary disability compensation is authorized when:¶¶

(a) The medical service provider provides the insurer or employer with oral or written verification of the worker's inability to work;¶¶

(b) Documents in the insurer's possession at claim closure reasonably reflect the worker's inability to work. For the purposes of this rule "documents" and "possession" have the same meaning as in OAR 436-060-0017(1); or¶¶

(c) The director determines, at reconsideration of claim closure, there is sufficient contemporaneous medical documentation to reasonably reflect the worker's inability to work under ORS 656.268.¶¶

(4) Lack of verification of inability to work. No temporary disability is due and payable for any period of time during which the insurer has requested from the worker's attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner verification of the worker's inability to work and the physician or authorized nurse practitioner cannot verify it, unless the worker has been unable to receive treatment for reasons beyond the worker's control.¶¶

(a) Before withholding temporary disability under this section, the insurer must ask the worker whether a reason beyond the worker's control prevented the worker from receiving treatment.¶¶

(A) If no valid reason is found or the worker does not respond or cannot be located, the insurer must document its file regarding those findings.¶¶

(B) The insurer must provide the director a copy of the documentation within 20 days, if requested.¶¶

(b) If the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner is unable to verify the worker's inability to work, the insurer may stop temporary disability payments and, in place of the scheduled payment, must send the worker an explanation for stopping the temporary disability payments.¶¶

(c) When verification of temporary disability is received from the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner, the insurer must pay temporary disability within 14 days of receiving the verification of any

authorized period of temporary disability, unless otherwise denied.¶

(5) Suspension of benefits. An insurer may suspend temporary disability benefits without authorization from the director when all of the following circumstances apply:¶

(a) The worker ~~has~~ missed a regularly scheduled appointment with the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner;¶

(b) The insurer ~~has~~ sent a letter by certified mail to the worker and a letter to the worker's attorney, at least 10 days in advance of a rescheduled appointment, stating that the appointment has been rescheduled with the worker's attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner; stating the time and date of the appointment; and giving the following notice, in prominent or bold face type:¶

"You must attend this appointment. If there is any reason you cannot attend, you must tell us before the date of the appointment. If you do not attend, your temporary disability benefits will be suspended without further notice, as provided by ORS 656.262(4)(e)."¶

(c) The insurer verifies that the worker has missed the rescheduled appointment; and¶

(d) The insurer sends a letter to the worker, the worker's attorney and the division giving the date of the regularly scheduled appointment that was missed, the date of the rescheduled appointment that was missed, the date of the letter being the day benefits are suspended, and the following notice, in prominent or bold face type:¶

"Since you missed a regular appointment with your doctor, we arranged a new appointment. We notified you of the new appointment by certified mail and warned you that your benefits would be suspended if you failed to attend. Since you failed to attend the new appointment, your temporary disability benefits have been suspended. In order to resume your benefits, you must schedule and attend an appointment with your doctor who must verify your continued inability to work."¶

(6) Verbal release to work. If temporary disability benefits end because the insurer or employer negotiates a verbal release of the worker to return to any type of work with the worker's attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner, and the worker has not ~~already~~ been informed of the release by the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner or returned to work, the insurer must:¶

(a) Document the facts;¶

(b) Communicate the release to the worker by mail within seven days. The communication to the worker of the negotiated return-to-work release may be contained in an offer of modified employment; and¶

(c) Advise the worker of their reinstatement rights under ORS chapter 659A.¶

(7) Temporary disability from two or more claims. When a worker is due concurrent temporary disability under ORS 656.210 or ORS 656.212 as a result of two or more accepted claims:¶

(a) The director may order one of the insurers to pay the entire amount of temporary disability due; or make a pro rata distribution between two or more of the insurers;¶

(b) The insurers may request for the director to make a pro rata distribution of compensation due. The request must be in writing, and the insurer must provide a copy to the worker and the worker's attorney, if any;¶

(c) The director's pro rata order does not apply to:¶

(A) Any periods of interim compensation payable under ORS 656.262; or¶

(B) Any benefits due under ORS 656.214 or 656.245;¶

(d) Claims subject to the pro rata order must be closed under OAR 436-030 and ORS 656.268, when appropriate;¶

(e) The pro rata distribution ordered by the director only applies to benefits due as of the date all claims involved are in an accepted status. The order pro rating compensation will not apply to periods where any claim involved is in a deferred status;¶

(f) The insurers may not prorate temporary disability without the approval of the director, except when the claims involve the same worker, the same employer, and the same insurer. When the insurer prorates temporary disability under this subsection the worker must receive compensation at the highest temporary disability rate of the claims involved.¶

(8) Premature closure. If a closure under ORS 656.268 has been found to be premature and there was an open ended authorization of temporary disability at the time of closure, the insurer must begin payments under ORS

656.262, including retroactive periods, and pay temporary disability for as long as authorization exists or until there are other lawful bases to terminate temporary disability.¶

(9) Incorrectly denied claims. If a denied claim has been determined to be compensable by final order, the insurer must begin temporary disability payments under ORS 656.262, including retroactive periods, if the authorization for temporary disability was open ended at the time of denial, and there are no other lawful bases to terminate temporary disability.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 656.210(2), ORS 656.245, 656.262, 656.726(4)

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS ~~656.210~~45, ~~656.216~~2, ~~656.261~~0, ~~656.212~~, 656.307(1)(c)

AMEND: 436-060-0025

RULE SUMMARY: Amended rule 0025:

- Specifies that, "For the purpose of this rule, the 'average weekly hours worked' includes all hours paid at an hourly rate which resulted in payment of irregular wages since the new wage earning agreement went into place, but not to exceed 52 weeks. This may include, but is not limited to, pay for regular hours, overtime, vacation, sick leave, paid time off, or bereavement leave";
- Clarifies how to calculate the weekly wage in an occupational disease claim when the worker has irregular wages and their wage earning agreement was in place for less than four weeks;
- Requires wage dispute resolution to include the insurer's review of its records and mathematical calculations;
- Removes the word "still" from the explanation that: "If the worker still does not agree with the wage calculated by the insurer, the worker may request a hearing under OAR 436-060-0008; and
- Includes other minor wording and punctuation changes that enhance clarity and consistency with other rules in OAR chapter 436.

CHANGES TO RULE:

436-060-0025

Workers Weekly Wage Calculation and Rate of Temporary Disability Compensation ¶¶

(1) Continuation of wages, insured employers. An employer may not continue to pay wages in place of temporary disability benefits. However, with the ~~consent of the worker~~worker's consent, the employer may pay the worker amounts in addition to the temporary disability benefits due to the worker, if:¶¶

~~(a) The employer is:~~¶¶

(a) Identifies temporary disability benefits separately from other payments; and¶¶

~~(b) The employer does not withhold payroll deductions from the temporary disability benefits.~~¶¶

(2) Continuation of wages, self-insured employers. Notwithstanding section (1) of this rule, a self-insured employer may continue to pay the same wage at the same pay interval that the worker received at the time of injury. Such payment qualifies as timely payment of temporary disability under ORS 656.210 and 656.212. If the self-insured employer continues to pay wages in place of temporary disability benefits under this section:¶¶

(a) Normal deductions including but not limited to, taxes, benefits, and voluntary deductions, must be withheld;¶¶

(b) The claim must be classified as disabling;¶¶

(c) The self-insured employer must report to the division the rate and duration of temporary disability that would have been paid had wages not continued; and¶¶

(d) If the pay interval changes or the amount of wages decreases, the worker must be paid temporary disability as otherwise prescribed by the workers' compensation law.¶¶

(3) Rate of compensation, generally. Except when payments are made under section (2) of this rule, the worker must receive compensation as calculated under ORS 656.210 during the period of temporary total disability, subject to the following:¶¶

(a) The benefits of a worker who incurs an injury must be based on the worker's wages at the time of injury and may include regular wages, irregular wages, or both;¶¶

(b) The benefits of a worker who incurs an occupational disease must be based on the worker's wages at the time there is medical verification ~~that~~ the worker is unable to work because of the disability caused by the occupational disease and may include regular wages, irregular wages, or both. If the worker is not working at the time ~~that~~ there is medical verification ~~that~~ the worker is unable to work because of the disability caused by the occupational disease, the benefits must be based on the worker's wages at the worker's last regular employment;¶¶

(c) The benefits of a worker who was employed in multiple jobs at the time of injury, and who is eligible for supplemental disability under ORS 656.210(2)(b) and OAR 436-060-0035, must be based on the worker's earnings from all eligible subject employment under OAR 436-060-0035;¶¶

(d) For a worker with a cyclic schedule, the cycle must be considered to have no scheduled days off; and¶¶

- (e) When a work shift extends into another calendar day, the date of injury used to determine the wage under this section is the date the employer used for payroll purposes.¶
- (4) Calculation of irregular wages. If the worker receives irregular wages, the insurer must calculate the worker's irregular wages to determine the worker's average weekly wage based on the weekly average of the worker's irregular wages for the period up to 52 weeks before the date of injury or verification of disability caused by occupational disease, subject to the following:¶
- (a) As used in this section:¶
- (A) "New wage earning agreement" means the worker's wage earning agreement changed for reasons other than only a pay rate change, including but not limited to a change of hours worked or a change of job duties. A job assignment from a temporary service provider or worker leasing company as defined in OAR 436-180 is not considered to be a new wage earning agreement.¶
- (B) "Pay rate change" means an increase or decrease in a previously established pay rate.¶
- (b) If, on the date of injury or verification of disability caused by occupational disease, the worker had been employed by the employer at injury for four weeks or more, and the most recent new wage earning agreement had been in place for four weeks or more, the insurer must average the worker's irregular wages for the period up to 52 weeks of employment before the date of injury or verification of disability caused by occupational disease, subject to the following:¶
- (A) The insurer must exclude any gap in earnings of more than 14 consecutive calendar days that was not anticipated in the wage earning agreement, ~~when calculating the average wages;~~¶
- (B) If the worker began work under a new wage earning agreement in the 52 weeks before the date of injury or verification of disability caused by occupational disease, and there has been no pay rate change since the beginning of that work, the insurer must average irregular wages only for the weeks worked under the most recent wage earning agreement; and¶
- (C) When there has been a pay rate change during the 52 weeks before the date of injury or verification of disability caused by occupational disease, and paragraph (b)(B) of this section does not apply, the insurer must calculate the worker's average weekly hours worked at each pay rate since a new wage earning agreement went into place, but not to exceed 52 weeks. The average weekly hours worked at each pay rate must then be multiplied by the pay rate(s) at the time of injury or verification of disability caused by occupational disease to determine the worker's average weekly wage for these wages. For the purpose of this rule, the "average weekly hours worked" includes all hours paid at an hourly rate which resulted in payment of irregular wages since the new wage earning agreement went into place, but not to exceed 52 weeks. This may include, but is not limited to, pay for regular hours, overtime, vacation, sick leave, paid time off, or bereavement leave. If there are irregular wages not paid at an hourly rate, the worker's average weekly wage under this paragraph must be added to the average of all of those other irregular wages paid at something other than an hourly rate.¶
- (c) If, on the date of injury or verification of disability caused by occupational disease, the worker ~~had been~~was employed by the employer at injury for less than four weeks, or the worker's most recent new wage earning agreement had been in place for less than four weeks, the insurer must base the rate of compensation on the intent of the worker's wage earning agreement in place at the time of injury or verification of disability caused by occupational disease, as confirmed by the employer and ~~the~~ worker.¶
- (5) Calculation of regular wages. If the worker receives regular wages, the insurer must calculate the worker's regular wages to determine the worker's average weekly wage:¶
- (a) Daily wages must be multiplied by the number of days per week the worker was regularly employed;¶
- (b) Monthly wages must be divided by 4.35;¶
- (c) Wages for other pay intervals must be calculated on an equivalent basis; or¶
- (d) For workers employed through a union hiring hall, the insurer must calculate the rate of compensation on the basis of a five-day work week at 40 hours a week, regardless of the number of days actually worked per week.¶
- (A) The rate of compensation for workers employed through a union hiring hall with dates of injury on or after January 1, 2018 must be calculated under this subsection.¶
- (B) The rate of compensation for workers employed through a union hiring hall with dates of injury from January

1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 must be calculated under this subsection, unless such calculation would result in a reduction of benefits.¶

(6) Workers with no wages. If the worker is a volunteer, adult in custody, or other covered worker that receives no wages, the insurer must calculate the rate of compensation based on the assumed wage used to determine the employer's premium.¶

(7) Owners and corporate officers. If the worker is a sole proprietor, partner, officer of a corporation, or limited liability company member, the insurer must calculate the rate of compensation based on the assumed wage used to determine the employer's premium.¶

(8) Wage disputes. If the worker disputes the wage used to calculate the rate of compensation, the insurer must attempt to resolve the dispute by reviewing its records and mathematical calculations, or by contacting the employer to confirm the correct wage ~~and, The insurer must then contacting the worker with that information results of its review and, if the wage was corrected, the new calculation.~~ If the worker ~~still~~ does not agree with the wage calculated by the insurer, the worker may request a hearing under OAR 436-060-0008.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 656.210(2), ORS 656.704, 656.726(4)

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 656.704, 656.210

AMEND: 436-060-0030

RULE SUMMARY: Amended rule 0030 includes minor wording and punctuation changes that enhance clarity and consistency with other rules in OAR chapter 436.

CHANGES TO RULE:

436-060-0030

Payment of Temporary Partial Disability Compensation ¶

(1) Rate of temporary partial disability. The amount of temporary partial disability compensation due a worker must be determined by multiplying the worker's rate of compensation for temporary total disability by the percentage of wages lost by the worker post injury.¶

(a) To calculate the rate of temporary disability, the insurer must:¶

(A) Subtract the worker's post-injury wages from any kind of work from the worker's wages at the time of injury under OAR 436-060-0025;¶

(B) Divide the difference under paragraph (A) by the worker's wages at the time of injury under OAR 436-060-0025 to arrive at the percentage of loss of wages; and¶

(C) Multiply the worker's current rate of compensation for temporary total disability by the percentage of loss of wages in paragraph (B).¶

(b) As used in this rule "post-injury wages" means the sum of:¶

(A) The wages the worker could have earned by accepting a job offer, or actual wages earned, whichever is greater;¶

(B) Any unemployment benefits received; and¶

(C) Any wages received for paid leave, except wages paid in addition to temporary disability compensation with the worker's consent under OAR436-060-0025(1);¶

(c) Wages from a secondary employer must only be included in post-injury wages to the extent that the wages from the secondary employer post-injury exceed the wages from the secondary employer at the time of injury.¶

(d) If the worker's rate of temporary total disability compensation is based on an assumed wage, the rate of temporary partial disability must be calculated by multiplying the rate of temporary total disability by the percentage of hours lost by the worker post injury.¶

(2) If the worker returns to employment. The insurer must stop paying temporary total disability compensation and start paying temporary partial disability compensation from the date an injured worker returns to regular or modified employment, prior to claim closure.¶

(a) If the worker is with a new employer, and the insurer asks the worker to provide wage information, the worker is responsible for providing documented evidence of the amount of any wages being earned; and¶

(b) If the worker fails to provide documentation, the insurer may assume that post-injury wages are the same as or higher than the worker's wages at time of injury.¶

(3) If the worker fails to begin employment. Except when the worker refuses modified work under ORS 656.268(4)(c), the insurer must stop paying temporary total disability compensation and start paying temporary partial disability compensation as if the worker had begun the employment from the date a worker fails to begin regular or modified employment, and the following conditions have been met:¶

(a) The employer or insurer:¶

(A) Notified sd the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner of the physical tasks to be performed by the injured worker;¶

(B) Notified sd the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner of the location of the modified work offer; and¶

(C) Asked sd the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner if the worker can, as a result of the compensable injury, physically commute to and perform the job.¶

(b) The attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner has agreed the employment appears to be within the worker's capabilities, and considering the compensable injury the worker is physically able to commute the lesser

of:¶

~~(A) The distance from:~~¶

(A) The worker's residence at the time of injury to the work site; or¶

(B) The distance from a worker's residence at the time of the modified work offer to the work site; and¶

(c) The employer or insurer has confirmed the offer of employment in writing to the worker stating:¶

(A) The beginning time, date, and place;¶

(B) The duration of the job, if known;¶

(C) The wages;¶

(D) An accurate description of the physical requirements of the job;¶

(E) That the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner has found the job to be within the worker's capabilities and the commute to be within the worker's physical capacity;¶

(F) The worker's right to refuse the offer of employment without termination of temporary total disability if any of the following conditions apply:¶

(i) The offer is at a site more than 50 miles from the location where the worker was injured or where the worker customarily reported for work, unless the work site is less than 50 miles from the worker's residence, or the job at the time of injury involved multiple or mobile work sites as established by the intent of the employer and worker at the time of hire or the employment pattern before the injury;¶

(ii) The offer is not with the employer at injury;¶

(iii) The offer is not at a work site of the employer at injury;¶

(iv) The offer is not consistent with existing written shift change policy or common practice of the employer at injury or aggravation; or¶

(v) The offer is not consistent with an existing shift change provision of an applicable union contract; and¶

(G) The following notice, in prominent or bold face type:¶

"If you refuse this offer of work for any of the reasons listed in this notice, you should write to the insurer or employer and tell them your reasons for refusing the job. If the insurer reduces or stops your temporary total disability and you disagree with that action, you have the right to request a hearing. To request a hearing you must send a letter objecting to the insurer's actions to the Worker's Compensation Board, 2601 25th Street SE, Suite 150, Salem, Oregon 97302-1282."¶

(4) If the worker has been terminated from employment. The insurer must stop paying temporary total disability compensation and start paying temporary partial disability compensation as if the worker had begun the employment from the date the worker's attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner approves employment in a modified job that would have been offered to the worker if the worker had not been terminated from employment for violation of work rules or other disciplinary reasons, under the following conditions:¶

(a) The employer has a written policy of offering modified work to injured workers;¶

(b) The insurer has written documentation of the hours available to work and the wages that would have been paid if the worker had returned to work in order to determine the amount of temporary partial disability compensation under section (1) of this rule;¶

(c) The attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner has been notified by the employer or insurer of the physical tasks to be performed by the injured worker; and¶

(d) The attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner agrees the employment appears to be within the worker's capabilities.¶

(5) If the worker is in violation of federal immigration law. The insurer must stop paying temporary total disability compensation and start paying temporary partial disability compensation as if the worker had begun the employment when the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner approves employment in a modified job whether or not such a job is available if the worker is a person present in the United States in violation of federal immigration laws, under the following conditions:¶

(a) The insurer has written documentation of the hours available to work and the wages that would have been paid if the worker had returned to work in order to determine the amount of temporary partial disability compensation under section (1) of this rule;¶

- (b) The attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner has been notified by the employer or insurer of the physical tasks that would have been performed by the injured worker; and¶¶
- (c) The attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner agrees the employment appears to be within the worker's capabilities.¶¶
- (6) If the modified job no longer exists or offer is withdrawn. Temporary partial disability must be paid at the full temporary total disability rate as of the date a modified job no longer exists or the job offer is withdrawn by the employer.¶¶
- (a) This section applies to situations including, but not limited to, termination of temporary employment, layoff, or plant closure.¶¶
- (b) A worker who has been released to and doing modified work at the same wage as at the time of injury from the onset of the claim is subject to this section.¶¶
- (c) For the purpose of this rule, when a worker who has been doing modified work quits the job, or the employer terminates the worker for violation of work rules or other disciplinary reasons, it is not a withdrawal of a job offer by the employer, but must be considered the same as the worker refusing wage earning employment under ORS 656.325(5)(a).¶¶
- (d) This section does not apply to those situations described in sections (3), (4), and (5) of this rule.¶¶
- (7) Termination of temporary partial disability. When the worker's disability is partial only and temporary in character, temporary partial disability compensation under ORS 656.212 must continue until:¶¶
 - (a) The attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner verifies ~~that~~ the worker can no longer perform the modified job and is again temporarily totally disabled;¶¶
 - (b) The compensation is terminated by order of the director or by claim closure under ORS 656.268; or¶¶
 - (c) The compensation is lawfully suspended, withheld, or terminated for any other reason.¶¶
- (8) Verbal release to work. If temporary disability benefits end because the insurer or employer negotiates a verbal release of the worker to return to any type of work with the worker's attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner, and the worker has not ~~already~~ been informed of the release by the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner or returned to work, the insurer must:¶¶
 - (a) Document the facts;¶¶
 - (b) Communicate the release to the worker by mail within seven days; ~~t.~~ The communication to the worker of the negotiated return-to-work release may be contained in an offer of modified employment; and¶¶
 - (c) Advise the worker of their reinstatement rights under ORS chapter 659A.¶¶
- (9) Changes in the rate of compensation. When the insurer stops paying temporary total disability compensation and starts paying temporary partial disability compensation, or ~~otherwise~~ changes the compensation rate or the method of computation of benefits under this rule, the insurer must send written notice to the worker and worker's attorney, if any, under OAR 436-060-0015.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 656.212, 656.704, 656.726(4)

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 656.212, 656.268, ~~704~~, 656.325(~~5~~726(4)), 656.704, ~~212~~, 656.726(~~48~~, 656.325(5))

AMEND: 436-060-0035

RULE SUMMARY: Amended rule 0035:

- Provides that the insurer is not required to inform the director if it elects to process and pay supplemental disability, unless the insurer has previously provided notice otherwise;
- Eliminates the provision that states the insurer may change its election once after the director's first audit of supplemental disability payments made by the insurer and once each following year;
- Specifies that the insurer must "mail," not "send," the worker a request for verifiable documentation of the worker's wages from any secondary jobs; and
- Includes minor wording and punctuation changes that enhance clarity and consistency with other rules in OAR chapter 436.

CHANGES TO RULE:

436-060-0035

Supplemental Disability for Workers with Multiple Jobs at the Time of Injury ¶¶

(1) ~~Definitions.~~ For the purpose of this rule:¶¶

(a) "Primary job" means the job at which the injury occurred, or the job where the worker was employed at the time of medical verification that the worker is unable to work because of disability caused by occupational disease;¶¶

(b) "Secondary job" means any other job held by the worker in Oregon subject employment at the time of injury;¶¶

(c) "Temporary disability" means wage loss replacement for the primary job;¶¶

(d) "Supplemental disability" means wage loss replacement for the secondary jobs that exceeds the temporary disability, up to, but not exceeding, the maximum established by ORS 656.210; and¶¶

(e) "Insurer" has the same meaning as OAR 436-060-0005(142), and also includes service companies.¶¶

(2) Election to process and pay supplemental disability. An insurer may elect to be responsible for payment and processing of supplemental disability benefits to a worker employed in more than one job at the time of injury. The insurer ~~must report their~~ is not required to inform the director of its election if it elects to process and pay supplemental disability, unless the insurer's last notice to the director was that it would not process and pay supplemental disability. If the insurer informs the director of its election, the insurer must report its election to the director under OAR 436-060-0011(12).¶¶

(a) The election must be made by the insurer, and applies to all service companies an insurer may use for processing claims.¶¶

(b) The election remains in effect for all supplemental disability claims the insurer receives until the insurer changes its election. ~~An insurer may change its election once after the director's first audit of supplemental disability payments made by the insurer and once each following year.~~¶¶

(c) If the insurer has elected to process and pay supplemental disability benefits:¶¶

(A) The insurer must determine the worker's ongoing entitlement to supplemental disability;¶¶

(B) The insurer must pay the worker supplemental disability benefits simultaneously with any temporary disability benefits due;¶¶

(C) The insurer must maintain a record of supplemental disability benefits paid to the worker, separate from temporary disability benefits paid as a result of the job at injury; and¶¶

(D) The director will reimburse the insurer for supplemental disability paid under OAR 436-060-0500.¶¶

(d) If the insurer has elected not to process and pay supplemental disability benefits:¶¶

(A) The director will select an assigned processing administrator who is authorized to process and pay supplemental disability benefits on behalf of the director;¶¶

(B) The assigned processing administrator must determine the worker's ongoing entitlement to supplemental disability and must pay the worker supplemental disability benefits due once each 14 days; and¶¶

(C) The insurer and assigned processing administrator must cooperate and communicate, as necessary, to

coordinate benefits due.¶

(i) The assigned processing administrator must provide the insurer with any verifiable documentation of wages from a secondary job received from the worker; and¶

(ii) The insurer and assigned processing administrator must retain documentation of shared information.¶

(3) Eligibility for supplemental disability. A worker who was employed at one or more secondary jobs with Oregon subject employers at the time of injury or medical verification of an occupational disease may be eligible to receive supplemental disability if:¶

(a) The worker provides notification of the secondary job to the insurer within 30 days of the insurer's receipt of the initial claim;¶

(b) The rate of compensation for wages at the primary job under OAR 436-060-0025 is less than the maximum temporary disability rate established under ORS 656.210; and¶

(c) The worker provides verifiable documentation of the wages from any secondary jobs at the time of injury or medical verification of an occupational disease within 60 days of the mailing date of the request for documentation sent under section (4) of this rule. For each secondary job, the documentation must:¶

(A) Identify the Oregon subject employer for each secondary job;¶

(B) Establish that the worker held the secondary job, in addition to the primary job, at the time of injury or medical verification of occupational disease; and¶

(C) Provide adequate information to calculate the average weekly wage under OAR 436-060-0025.¶

(4) Determination of eligibility. Upon receiving notification of a worker's secondary job the insurer must determine the rate of temporary disability compensation for wages at the primary job under OAR 436-060-0025, and:¶

(a) If the rate of temporary disability compensation meets or exceeds the maximum temporary disability rate, the worker is not eligible for supplemental disability benefits; or¶

(b) If the rate of temporary disability is less than the maximum temporary disability rate, the worker may be eligible for supplemental disability benefits. If the worker may be eligible for supplemental disability benefits, the insurer must:¶

(A) ~~Send Mail~~ the worker a request for verifiable documentation of the worker's wages from any secondary jobs within five business days of notice or knowledge that the worker may be eligible for supplemental disability benefits;¶

(i) The request must inform the worker what verifiable documentation the worker must submit to the insurer or assigned processing administrator, to determine the worker's eligibility for supplemental disability;¶

(ii) The request must clearly state that if the insurer or assigned processing administrator does not receive the required documentation within 60 days of the mailing date of the request, the insurer will determine the worker's temporary disability rate based only on the job at which the injury occurred, and the worker will be found ineligible for supplemental disability;¶

(B) If the insurer has elected not to process and pay supplemental disability benefits under section (2) of this rule, the insurer must also send a copy of the request to the assigned processing administrator. In addition to the requirements of this section, the request must also:¶

(i) Contain the name, address, email address, and telephone number of the assigned processing administrator;¶

(ii) Clearly advise the worker that the verifiable documentation must be sent to the assigned processing administrator; and¶

(C) The insurer or assigned processing administrator must determine the worker's eligibility for supplemental disability within 14 days of:¶

(i) Receipt of the worker's verifiable documentation; or¶

(ii) The end of the 60-day period in the insurer's request, if the worker does not provide verifiable documentation.¶

(c) Any delay in the payment of a higher disability rate because of the worker's failure to provide verifiable documentation under this section will not result in a penalty under ORS 656.262(11).¶

(5) Notification of eligibility determination. The insurer or the assigned processing administrator must determine

the worker's eligibility for supplemental disability and must communicate the determination to the worker and the worker's attorney, if any, in writing. If the worker is found ineligible for supplemental disability, the letter must also advise the worker of the reason why they are not eligible, and how to appeal if the worker disagrees with the determination.¶

(6) Calculation of supplemental disability. The insurer or the assigned processing administrator must calculate supplemental disability for an eligible worker by adding the weekly averages of the worker's wages from each secondary job as calculated under OAR 436-060-0025. For the purposes of calculating and payment of supplemental disability:¶

(a) The total rate of supplemental disability may not exceed the difference between the maximum rate of temporary disability under ORS 656.210(1) and the rate of compensation for wages under the worker's primary job;¶

(b) No supplemental disability is due for jobs where the rate of compensation is based on an assumed wage;¶

(c) In no case may an eligible worker receive less compensation than would be paid if based solely on wages from the primary employer;¶

(d) The worker's scheduled days off for the primary job must be used to calculate and pay supplemental disability; and¶

(e) No three-day waiting period applies to supplemental disability benefits.¶

(7) Partial disability. When a worker who is eligible to receive supplemental disability benefits has post-injury wages from either the primary job or any secondary job:¶

(a) The insurer or the assigned processing administrator must calculate the rate of temporary partial disability due to the worker under OAR 436-060-0030 based on the worker's wages from both the primary and secondary jobs;¶

(b) The insurer or the assigned processing administrator must calculate the amount of supplemental disability by subtracting the rate of partial disability due based on wages from only the primary job from the total rate of compensation due to the worker;¶

(c) If the worker receives post-injury wages from the secondary job equal to or greater than the secondary wages at the time of injury, no supplemental disability is due; and¶

(d) If the worker returns to a job not held at the time of the injury, the insurer or the assigned processing administrator must process supplemental disability under the same terms, conditions and limitations as OAR 436-060-0030.¶

(8) If temporary disability is not due from the primary job. Supplemental disability may be due on a nondisabling claim even if temporary disability is not due from the primary job.¶

(a) A nondisabling claim will not change to disabling status due to payment of supplemental disability.¶

(b) When supplemental disability payments cease on a nondisabling claim, the insurer or the assigned processing administrator must send the worker written notice advising the worker that their supplemental disability payments have stopped and of the worker's right to appeal that action to the Workers' Compensation Board within 60 days of the notice, if the worker disagrees.¶

(9) Worker's responsibilities. A worker who is eligible for supplemental disability under this rule has an ongoing responsibility to provide information and documentation to the insurer or the assigned processing administrator, even if temporary disability is not due from the primary job.¶

(10) Hearings. If a worker disagrees with the insurer's or the assigned processing administrator's decision about the worker's eligibility for supplemental disability or the rate of supplemental disability, the worker may request a hearing under OAR 436-060-0008.¶

(a) If the worker requests a hearing on the insurer's decision concerning the worker's eligibility for supplemental disability, the worker must submit an appeal of the insurer's or the assigned processing administrator's decision within 60 days of the notice in section (5) of this rule.¶

(b) The insurer for the primary job is not required to contact the secondary job employer. The worker is responsible to provide any necessary documentation.¶

(11) Sanctions. An insurer that elects not to process and pay supplemental disability benefits may be sanctioned

upon a worker's complaint if the insurer delays sending necessary information to the assigned processing administrator and that delay causes a delay in the worker receiving supplemental disability benefits.¶¶

(12) Third party recovery. In the event of a third party recovery:¶¶

(a) Previously reimbursed supplemental disability benefits are a portion of the paying agency's lien; and¶¶

(b) Remittance on recovered benefits must be made to the department in the quarter following the recovery in amounts determined in accordance with ORS 656.591 and ORS 656.593.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 656.210, ~~ORS 656.726(4)~~

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 656.210, ~~ORS 656.726(4)~~, 656.212, ~~ORS 656.325(5)~~, ~~ORS 656.704~~, ~~ORS 656.726(4)~~

AMEND: 436-060-0040

RULE SUMMARY: Amended rule 0040 replaces the term "training program" with "authorized training plan under OAR 436-120."

CHANGES TO RULE:

436-060-0040

Payment of Permanent Partial Disability Compensation ¶¶

(1) General. A permanent partial disability award exceeding \$6,000 may be paid monthly by the insurer. If it is paid monthly, it must be paid at 4.35 times the weekly temporary disability rate at the time of closure. A permanent partial disability award less than \$6,000 must be paid under OAR 436-060-0060.¶¶

(2) Reopened claims. If a claim is reopened as a result of a new medical condition, or an aggravation of the conditions resulting from the worker's compensable injury:¶¶

(a) Any permanent partial disability benefits due must continue; and¶¶

(b) If any temporary disability benefits are due, permanent partial disability benefits must be paid concurrently.¶¶

(3) ~~Vocational training programs~~ans. If the worker begins a ~~training program~~ authorized training plan under OAR 436-120 after claim closure, the insurer must suspend the payment of any work disability award, but continue to pay any impairment award. The insurer must stop temporary disability compensation payments and resume any award payments suspended under ORS 656.268(10) upon the worker's completion or ending of the training, unless the worker is not then medically stationary.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 656.726(4)

Statutes/Other Implemented: ~~656.704~~, ORS 656.726(4), ~~ORS 656.216, 656.268(10), 656.704~~

AMEND: 436-060-0045

RULE SUMMARY: Amended rule 0045 includes a minor wording change that enhances clarity.

CHANGES TO RULE:

436-060-0045

Payment of Compensation During Worker Incarceration ¶¶

(1) General. A worker is not eligible to receive temporary disability compensation for periods of time during which the worker is incarcerated for commission of a crime. All other compensation ~~benefits~~ must be provided the worker as if the worker were not incarcerated, except as provided in OAR 436-120. For the purpose of this rule:¶¶

(a) A worker is incarcerated for commission of a crime when:¶¶

(A) In pretrial detention; or¶¶

(B) Imprisoned following conviction for a crime; and¶¶

(b) A worker is not incarcerated if the worker is on parole or work release status.¶¶

(2) Initiation of payments after incarceration. Temporary disability compensation, if due and payable, must be paid the worker within 14 days of the date the insurer becomes aware the worker is no longer incarcerated.¶¶

(3) Right to claim closure. A worker who is incarcerated has the same right to claim closure under ORS 656.268 as a worker who is not incarcerated. Any permanent disability awarded must be paid the same as if the worker were not incarcerated.

Statutory/Other Authority: ~~ORS 656.160~~, 656.704, 656.726(4), ORS 656.160

Statutes/Other Implemented: ~~ORS 656.160~~, 656.704, 656.726(4), ORS 656.160

AMEND: 436-060-0055

RULE SUMMARY: Amended rule 0055 clarifies its reference to penalty provisions by referencing rule 0200, rather than rule 0200, section (7).

CHANGES TO RULE:

436-060-0055

Payment of Medical Services on Nondisabling Claims; Employer/Insurer Responsibility ¶

(1) General. Notwithstanding the choice made by the employer under this rule, the employer and insurer must process nondisabling claims in accordance with all statutes and rules governing claims processing. The employer, however, may reimburse the medical service costs paid by the insurer as prescribed in section (3) of this rule.¶

(2) Notice to employers. Before the beginning of each policy year, the insurer must notify the insured or prospective insured employer of the employer's right to reimburse medical service costs on accepted, nondisabling claims up to the maximum amount as published in Bulletin 345. The notice must advise the employer:¶

(a) Of the procedure for making such payments as outlined in section (3) of this rule;¶

(b) Of the general impact on the employer if the employer chooses to make such payments;¶

(c) That the employer is choosing not to participate if the employer does not respond in writing within 30 days of receipt of the insurer's notice;¶

(d) That the employer's written election to participate in the reimbursement program remains in effect, without further notice from the insurer, until the employer advises otherwise in writing or is no longer insured by the insurer; and¶

(e) That the employer may participate later in the policy period upon written request to the insurer, however, the earliest reimbursement period is the first completed period, established under subsection (3)(a) of this rule, following receipt of the employer's request.¶

(3) Procedure for reimbursement. If the employer wishes to reimburse the medical service costs paid by the insurer, and has advised the insurer of their election to participate in the reimbursement program in writing under section (2) of this rule:¶

(a) Within 30 days following each three month period after policy inception or a period mutually agreed upon by the employer and insurer, the insurer must provide the employer with a list of all accepted nondisabling claims for which payments were made during that period and the respective cost of each claim;¶

(b) The employer, no later than 30 days after receipt of the list, must identify those claims and the dollar amount the employer wishes to pay for that period and reimburse the insurer accordingly. The employer and insurer may, by written agreement, establish a period in excess of 30 days for the employer to reimburse the insurer;¶

(c) Failure by the employer to reimburse the insurer within the 30 days allowed by subsection (b) will be deemed notice to the insurer that the employer does not wish to make a reimbursement for that period; and¶

(d) The insurer must continue to bill the employer for any payments made on the claims within 27 months of the inception of the policy period. Any further billing and reimbursement will be made only by mutual agreement between the employer and the insurer.¶

(4) Records. The insurer must maintain records of amounts reimbursed by employers for medical services on nondisabling claims. For medical service costs reimbursed under this rule:¶

(a) The insurer may not modify an employer's experience rating or otherwise make charges against the employer based on the costs; and¶

(b) If the employer is on a retrospective rated plan, the medical costs paid by the employer on nondisabling claims must be included in the retrospective premium calculation, but the insurer must apply the amount paid by the employer as credits against the resulting retrospective premium.¶

(5) Reclassified claims. If a claim changes from a nondisabling to a disabling claim and the insurer has recovered reimbursement from the employer for medical costs billed by the insurer before the change, the insurer must exclude those amounts reimbursed from any experience rating, or other individual or group rating plans of the

employer. If the employer is on a retrospective rated plan, the premium must be calculated as provided in section (4) of this rule.¶

(6) Penalties. Insurers that do not comply with the requirements of this rule or in any way prohibit an employer from reimbursing the insurer under section (3) of this rule, may be subject to a penalty as provided by OAR 436-060-0200(7).¶

(7) Self-insured employers. Self-insured employers must maintain records of all amounts paid for medical services on nondisabling claims under OAR 436-050-0220. When reporting loss data for experience rating, the self-insured may exclude costs for medical services paid on nondisabling claims in amounts not to exceed the maximum amount published in Bulletin 345.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 656.262(5), 656.704, 656.726(4), 656.745

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 656.262(5), 656.704 & 656.726(4), ~~Ch. 518-OL-2007~~656.745

AMEND: 436-060-0060

RULE SUMMARY: Amended rule 0060:

- Clarifies that the training that affects eligibility for lump sum payment of permanent partial disability awards is an authorized training plan under OAR 436-120; and
- Includes minor wording changes to enhance clarity.

CHANGES TO RULE:

436-060-0060

Lump Sum Payment of Permanent Partial Disability Awards ¶¶

(1) General. When an award for permanent partial disability is \$6,000 or less, the insurer must pay the total amount of the award to the worker in a lump sum. When the award for permanent partial disability exceeds \$6,000, the worker or worker's attorney may request a lump sum payment of all or part of the award. The insurer may only deny the request for lump sum payment if any of the following apply:¶¶

(a) The worker has not waived the right to appeal the adequacy of the award;¶¶

(b) The award has not become final by operation of law;¶¶

(c) The payment of compensation has been stayed pending a request for hearing or review under ORS 656.313; or¶¶

(d) The worker is enrolled and actively engaged in ~~training according to the rules adopted under ORS 656.340 and 656.726~~an authorized training plan under OAR 436-120. For dates of injury before January 1, 2005, the insurer may not approve a request for lump sum payment of unscheduled permanent disability. For dates of injury on or after January 1, 2005, the insurer may not approve a request for lump sum payment of work disability when the worker:¶¶

(A) Has been found eligible for a ~~vocational training program~~ authorized training plan under OAR 436-120 and will start the ~~program~~lan within 30 days of the date of the decision on the lump sum request;¶¶

(B) Is actively enrolled and engaged in a ~~vocational~~ authorized training program lan under OAR 436-120; or¶¶

(C) Has temporarily withdrawn from a ~~vocational training program~~ authorized training plan under OAR 436-120.¶¶

(2) Application for approval. When an insurer receives a request for a lump sum payment from the worker or the worker's attorney, the insurer must send Form 1174, "Application for Approval of Lump-sum Payment of Award," to the requestor within 10 business days.¶¶

(3) Reopening of claims. For the purpose of this rule, each opening of the claim is considered a separate claim and any subsequent permanent partial disability award from a claim reopening is a new and separate award. Additional award of permanent partial disability obtained through the appeal process is considered part of the total cumulative award for the open period of that claim.¶¶

(4) Approved requests. If the insurer approves the worker's request for lump sum payment of a permanent partial disability award in excess of \$6,000, the insurer must make the lump sum payment within 14 days of receipt of the signed application.¶¶

(5) Denied requests. If the insurer denies the worker's request for lump sum payment of a permanent partial disability award in excess of \$6,000, the insurer must respond to the requestor within 14 days of receiving the request explaining the reason for denying the lump sum request.¶¶

(6) Claim disposition agreements. A lump sum payment ordered in a litigation order or that is a part of a claim disposition agreement under ORS 656.236 does not require further approval by the insurer.¶¶

(7) Partial payments. When a lump sum payment for only part of an award is approved by the insurer, it must be paid in addition to the regularly scheduled monthly payment. The remaining balance must be paid under ORS 656.216. Denial or partial approval of a request does not preclude another request by the worker for a lump sum payment of all or part of any remainder of the award, provided additional information is submitted.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 656.704, 656.726(4)

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS ~~656.230~~, 656.704, 656.726(4), 656.230

AMEND: 436-060-0075

RULE SUMMARY: Amended rule 0075 specifies that the insurer must "mail," not "send," the dependent a request for verifiable documentation of support the dependent received from the worker.

CHANGES TO RULE:

436-060-0075

Payment of Death Benefits

If death results from a worker's compensable injury or occupational disease, benefits must be paid as follows:¶

(1) Final disposition of the body and funeral expenses.¶

(a) The insurer must pay the cost of final disposition of the body and funeral expenses, up to the maximum benefit under ORS 656.204(1); and¶

(b) The worker's estate, beneficiaries, or other parties may submit bills related to final disposition of the body and funeral up to 60 days after the date of death or date of claim acceptance, whichever is later. Any portion of the benefit that remains unpaid after this period must be paid to the worker's estate.¶

(2) Payments to surviving beneficiaries. The following applies to benefits paid under sections (3) through (5) of this rule:¶

(a) Benefits payable for a partial month must be calculated by dividing the monthly benefit by the actual number of days in the month and multiplying that result by the number of days payable;¶

(b) Unless otherwise specified, monthly benefits to beneficiaries must be paid up to the date of any status change; and¶

(c) Payments must be paid within the timeframes established in OAR 436-060-0150(6).¶

(3) Benefit to surviving spouse. If a worker is survived by a spouse, the insurer must pay monthly benefits in an amount equal to 4.35 times 66-2/3 percent of the state average weekly wage to the surviving spouse. Benefits under this section must be paid through the end of the month in which the spouse is no longer eligible to receive benefits under ORS 656.204(2).¶

(4) Benefit to surviving child. If a worker is survived by a child under 19 years of age, the insurer must pay a monthly benefit to each child equal to 4.35 times 25 percent of the state average weekly wage, subject to the following:¶

(a) Total monthly benefits paid under this section must not exceed 4.35 times 133-1/3 percent of the state average weekly wage. If the sum of the individual benefits exceeds this maximum, the insurer must reduce the benefit for each child proportionally;¶

(b) The insurer may make payment of benefits due under this section to the child's parent, legal guardian, or person having custody of the child. If the child becomes sui juris, the insurer must begin making payment of benefits directly to the child immediately upon the child's written request; and¶

(c) The insurer must send each child Form 5332, "Notice to Beneficiary of Entitlement to Benefits" at least 90 days before their 18th birthday, informing the child of his or her right to receive benefit payments directly under subsection (b), and of his or her entitlement to higher education benefits.¶

(5) Benefit to surviving dependent. If a worker is survived by a dependent, the insurer must pay a monthly benefit to each dependent that is equal to 50 percent of the average monthly support the dependent actually received from the worker during the 12 months preceding the occurrence of the accidental injury, subject to the following:¶

(a) Payments to the dependent must continue until:¶

(A) The dependent becomes 19 years of age, if the dependent is under the age of 19 years at the time of the accidental injury; or¶

(B) The time the dependency would have terminated had the injury not happened, if the dependent is 19 years of age or older at the time of the accidental injury;¶

(b) Within five business days after the date of receipt of a request for benefits from an eligible dependent, the insurer must ~~send~~mail the dependent a request for verifiable documentation of the support the dependent actually received from the worker during the 12 months preceding the occurrence of the accidental injury. The

request must:

- (A) Inform the dependent what verifiable documentation the dependent must submit to the insurer to calculate the dependent's benefit; and
- (B) Clearly state that if the insurer does not receive the required documentation within 60 days of the mailing date of the request, the insurer will determine the dependent's monthly benefit based only on the information in the insurer's possession;
- (c) Upon receipt of verifiable documentation or the expiration of the 60-day period in paragraph (5)(b)(B) of this rule, the insurer must:
 - (A) Determine the dependent's monthly benefit and begin payment under OAR 436-060-0150(6); or
 - (B) Notify the dependent that the information in the insurer's possession was not sufficient to determine the dependent's monthly benefit and provide information about how the dependent may appeal this decision; and
 - (d) As used in this section, "verifiable documentation" means any written record of financial support provided to the dependent by the worker including, but not limited to, receipts, billing statements, bank account statements, or signed affidavits.
- (6) Benefit to child or dependent attending higher education. The insurer must pay up to 48 months of benefits during any period in which an eligible child or dependent is between the ages of 19 and 26 and is completing secondary education, is obtaining a general educational development certificate, or is attending a program of higher education, including vocational or technical training.
 - (a) Benefits under this section must be paid for an entire month. The child or dependent may claim a full month's benefit for any month in which the child is completing secondary education, obtaining a general educational development certificate, or attending a program of higher education for at least one day.
 - (b) The child or dependent must provide the insurer with documentation that enables the insurer to determine the child's or dependent's eligibility for monthly benefits.
 - (A) As used in this section, "documentation" includes, but is not limited to, verification of enrollment in a secondary school, general education development certificate program, or program of higher education.
 - (B) The child or dependent may use Form 5332, "Notice to beneficiary of entitlement to benefits," to satisfy the requirements of this section.
- (7) Death during permanent total disability. If a worker dies during a period of permanent total disability:
 - (a) The insurer must pay the costs of final disposition of the body and funeral expenses in the same manner and same amounts as provided in section (1) of this rule, subject to the following:
 - (A) For claims with a date of injury before July 1, 1973, burial benefits are due only if death results from the accidental injury causing the permanent total disability; and
 - (B) For claims with a date of injury on or after July 1, 1973:
 - (i) Burial benefits are due if death results from the accidental injury causing the permanent total disability; or
 - (ii) Burial benefits are due regardless of the reason for death, if the worker was survived by an eligible beneficiary;
 - (b) The insurer must pay benefits to surviving beneficiaries in the same manner and same amounts as provided in sections (2) through (6) of this rule:
 - (A) Permanent total disability benefits must be paid through the date of death. Benefits under this section begin to accrue the following calendar day; and
 - (B) Benefits payable for a partial month must be calculated by dividing the monthly benefit by the actual number of days in the month and multiplying that result by the number of days payable;
 - (c) The insurer is not required to reopen and close the claim to begin making payments under this section; and
 - (d) The insurer may not recover an overpayment of permanent total disability benefits from benefits payable to a beneficiary other than the beneficiary that received the overpayment.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 656.726(4)

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 656.204~~[OL 2017, ch. 71]~~, ORS, 656.208, ~~ORS 656.268(14)~~

AMEND: 436-060-0095

RULE SUMMARY: Amended rule 0095:

- Replaces specific requirements for the insurer's reimbursement to the worker for costs to attend an independent medical examination with a reference to requirements under OAR 436-009-0025, "Worker Reimbursement";
- Replaces "days, excluding weekends and legal holidays," with "business days";
- Revises the required notice to worker of a request to suspend compensation to include that the time within which a worker may object may run from the date the suspension request was mailed or "personally served on you";
- Clarifies that when the worker makes no effort to reinstate compensation in an accepted claim within 60 days of the mailing date of the consent to suspend order, the insurer must close the claim OAR 436-030-0034, rather than referencing section (8) of OAR 436-030-0034; and
- Includes other minor changes to wording and punctuation that enhance clarity and consistency with other rules in OAR chapter 436.

CHANGES TO RULE:

436-060-0095

Medical Examinations; Suspension of Compensation; and Independent Medical Examination Notice ¶¶

(1) General. A worker must submit to independent medical examinations reasonably requested by the insurer or the director.¶¶

(a) The conditions of the examination must be consistent with conditions described in OAR 436-010-0265.¶¶

(b) If the worker refuses or fails to submit to, or otherwise obstructs, an independent medical examination reasonably requested by the insurer or the director under ORS 656.325(1), the director may suspend compensation by order:¶¶

(A) The worker must have the opportunity to dispute the suspension of compensation before the director will issue the order; and¶¶

(B) Compensation will be suspended until the examination has been completed. The worker is not entitled to compensation during or for the period of suspension.¶¶

(c) Any action of a worker's observer allowed under OAR 436-010-0265(56) that obstructs the examination may be considered an obstruction of the examination by the worker for the purpose of this rule.¶¶

(d) The director may determine whether special circumstances exist that would not warrant suspension of compensation for failure to attend or obstruction of the examination.¶¶

(2) Number of examinations. The insurer may request no more than three separate independent medical examinations for each opening of a claim, except as provided under OAR 436-010. Examinations after the worker's claim is closed are subject to limitations in ORS 656.268(8).¶¶

(3) Scheduling and notice to worker. The insurer may contract with a third party to schedule independent medical examinations. When an examination is scheduled by the insurer, or by a third party at the request of the insurer:¶¶

(a) The worker and the worker's attorney, if any, must be simultaneously notified in writing of the scheduled medical examination;¶¶

(b) The notice must be mailed at least 10 days before the examination;¶¶

(c) If the third party notifies the worker of a scheduled examination on behalf of the insurer, the appointment notice must be sent on the insurer's stationery; and¶¶

(d) The notice sent for each appointment, including those which have been rescheduled, must contain the following:¶¶

(A) The name of the examiner or facility;¶¶

(B) A statement of the specific purpose for the examination and, identification of the medical specialties of the examiners;¶¶

(C) The date, time, and place of the examination;¶¶

(D) The first and last name of the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner and verification that the

attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner was informed of the examination by, at least, a copy of the appointment notice, or a statement that there is no attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner, whichever is appropriate;¶

(E) If applicable, confirmation that the director has approved the examination;¶

(F) A statement that the reasonable cost of public transportation or use of a private vehicle will be reimbursed and that, when necessary, reasonable cost of child care, meals, lodging and other related services will be reimbursed. A request for reimbursement must be accompanied by a sales slip, receipt or other evidence necessary to support the request. Should an advance of these costs be necessary for attendance, a request for advancement must be made in sufficient time to ensure a timely appearance;¶

(G) A statement that an amount will be paid equivalent to net lost wages for the period during which it is necessary to be absent from work to attend the medical examination if benefits are not received under ORS 656.210(4) during the absence;¶

(H) A statement that the worker has the right to have an observer present at the examination, but the observer may not be compensated in any way for attending the exam; however, for a psychological examination, the notice must explain that an observer is allowed to be present only if the examination provider approves the presence of an observer; and¶

(I) The following notice in prominent or bold face type:¶

"You must attend this examination. If there is any reason you cannot attend, you must tell the insurer as soon as possible before the date of the examination. If you fail to attend and do not have a good reason for not attending, or you fail to cooperate with the examination, your workers' compensation benefits may be suspended in accordance with the workers' compensation law and rules, ORS 656.325 and OAR 436-060. You may be charged a \$100 penalty if you fail to attend without a good reason or if you fail to notify the insurer before the examination. The penalty is taken out of future benefits.¶

If you object to the location of this appointment you must contact the Workers' Compensation Division at 1-800-452-0288 or 503-947-7585 within six business days of the mailing date of this notice. If you have questions about your rights or responsibilities, you may call the Workers' Compensation Division at 1-800-452-0288 or 503-947-7585 or the Ombudsman for Injured Workers at 1-800-927-1271."¶

(e) The insurer must include with each appointment notice it sends to the worker:¶

(A) Form 3921, "Request for Reimbursement of Expenses," or a similar form for requesting reimbursement; and¶

(B) Form 3923, "Important Information about Independent Medical Exams."¶

(4) Reimbursement of costs. ~~The insurer must reimburse the worker for a reasonable cost of public transportation or use of a private vehicle and, when necessary, a reasonable cost of child care, meals, lodging and other related services.~~¶

~~(a) To be a worker attends an independent medical examination the insurer must reimburse, the worker must submit a request for reimbursement accompanied by a sales slip, receipt or other evidence necessary to support the request.~~¶

~~(b) If an advance of these costs is necessary for attendance, a request for advancement must be made in sufficient time to ensure a timely appearance.~~¶

~~(c) Child care costs reimbursed at the rate prescribed by the State of Oregon Department of Human Services for reasonable costs in accordance with OAR 436-009-0025 regardless of claim acceptances, are considered to be reasonable under this rule deferral, or denial.~~¶

(5) Forwarding of reports from provider. Following completion of the examination, the insurer must forward a copy of the examiner's signed report to the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner within three days, excluding weekends and legal holidays, of the insurer's receipt of the report.¶

(6) Requests to authorize suspension. The director will consider requests to authorize suspension of benefits on accepted claims, deferred claims, and denied claims in which the worker has appealed the insurer's denial. The request for suspension must be sent to the division. A copy of the request, including all attachments, must be sent simultaneously to the worker and the worker's attorney by registered or certified mail or by personal service in the same manner as a summons. The request must include the following information:¶

- (a) That the insurer requests suspension of compensation under ORS 656.325 and OAR 436-060-0095;¶
 - (b) The claim status and any accepted or newly claimed conditions;¶
 - (c) What specific actions of the worker prompted the request;¶
 - (d) The dates of any prior independent medical examinations the worker has attended in the current open period of the claim and the names of the examining physicians or facilities, or a statement that there have been no prior examinations, whichever is appropriate;¶
 - (e) A copy of any approvals given by the director for more than three independent medical examinations, or a statement that no approval was necessary, whichever is appropriate;¶
 - (f) Any reasons given by the worker for failing to comply, whether or not the insurer considers the reasons invalid, or a statement that the worker has not given any reasons, whichever is appropriate;¶
 - (g) The date and with whom failure to comply was verified. Any written verification of the worker's refusal to attend the exam received by the insurer from the worker or the worker's attorney will be sufficient documentation with which to request suspension;¶
 - (h) A copy of the notice required in section (3) and a copy of any written verification received under subsection (6)(g) of this rule;¶
 - (i) Any other information that supports the request; and¶
 - (j) The following notice in prominent or bold face type:¶
 "Notice to worker: If you think this request to suspend your compensation is wrong, you should immediately write to the Workers' Compensation Division, 350 Winter Street NE, PO Box 14480, Salem, Oregon 97309-0405. Your letter must be mailed within 10 days of the ~~mailing date of this request~~ was mailed or personally served on you. If the division grants this request, you may lose all or part of your benefits. If your claim has not yet been accepted, your future benefits, if any, will be jeopardized."¶
 - (7) Effective date of suspension. If the director authorizes the suspension of compensation, the suspension will be effective from the date the worker fails to attend an examination or such other date the director deems appropriate until the date the worker undergoes an examination scheduled by the insurer or director. Any delay in requesting consent for suspension may result in authorization being denied or the date of authorization being modified.¶
 - (8) Reinstatement of benefits. The insurer must assist the worker in meeting requirements necessary for the resumption of compensation payments. When the worker has undergone the independent medical examination, the insurer must verify the worker's participation and reinstate compensation effective the date of the worker's compliance.¶
 - (9) Claim closure. If the worker makes no effort to reinstate compensation in an accepted claim within 60 days of the mailing date of the consent to suspend order, the insurer must close the claim under OAR 436-030-0034~~(8)~~.¶
 - (10) Denial of suspension. If the director denies the insurer's request for suspension of compensation, the insurer will be notified of the reason for denial. Failure to comply with one or more of the requirements addressed in this rule may be grounds for denial of the insurer's request.¶
 - (11) Other actions by the director. The director may also take the following actions concerning the suspension of compensation:¶
 - (a) Modify or set aside the order of consent before or after a request for hearing is filed;¶
 - (b) Order payment of compensation previously suspended when the director finds the suspension to have been made in error; and¶
 - (c) Reevaluate the necessity of continuing a suspension.¶
 - (12) Final orders. An order becomes final unless, within 60 days after the date of mailing of the order, a party files a request for hearing on the order with the Hearings Division board.
- Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 656.325, ~~ORS 656.704~~, ~~ORS 656.726(4)~~
 Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 656.325, ~~ORS 656.704~~, ~~ORS 656.726(4)~~

AMEND: 436-060-0105

RULE SUMMARY: Amended rule 0105:

- Revises the required notice to worker of a request to suspend compensation to include that the time within which a worker may object may run from the date the suspension request was mailed or "personally served on you"; and
- Includes other minor wording changes that enhance clarity and consistency with other rules in OAR chapter 436.

CHANGES TO RULE:

436-060-0105

Suspension of Compensation for Insanitary or Injurious Practices, Refusal of Treatment or Failure to Participate in Rehabilitation; Reduction of Benefits ¶¶

(1) General. The director may suspend compensation by order when the worker commits insanitary or injurious acts that imperil or delay recovery; refuses to submit to medical or surgical treatment reasonably required to promote recovery; or fails or refuses to participate in a physical rehabilitation program.¶¶

(a) The worker must have the opportunity to dispute the suspension of compensation before the director will issue an order.¶¶

(b) The worker is not entitled to compensation during or for the period of suspension.¶¶

(2) Notice to worker. The insurer must demand in writing the worker either immediately cease all actions which imperil or delay recovery or immediately begin to change the inappropriate behavior, and participate in activities needed to help the worker recover from the injury. Each time the insurer sends such a notice to the worker, the written demand must contain the following information, and a copy must be sent simultaneously to the worker's attorney and attending physician:¶¶

(a) A description of the unacceptable actions;¶¶

(b) Why such conduct is inappropriate, including the fact that the conduct is harmful or delays the worker's recovery, as appropriate;¶¶

(c) The date by which the inappropriate actions must stop, or the date by which compliance is expected, including what the worker must specifically do to comply; and,¶¶

(d) The following notice of the consequences should the worker fail to correct the problem, in prominent or bold face type:¶¶

"If you continue to do insanitary or injurious acts beyond the date in this letter, or fail to consent to the medical or surgical treatment which is needed to help you recover from your injury, or fail to participate in physical rehabilitation needed to help you recover as much as possible from your injury, then we will request the suspension of your workers' compensation benefits. In addition, you may also have any permanent disability award reduced in accordance with ORS 656.325 and OAR 436-060."¶¶

(3) Failure or refusal to accept medical treatment. For the purposes of this rule, failure or refusal to accept medical treatment means the worker fails or refuses to remain under a physician's or authorized nurse practitioner's care or abide by a treatment regimen. A treatment regimen includes, but is not limited to a prescribed diet, exercise program, medication or other activity prescribed by the physician or authorized nurse practitioner that is designed to help the worker reach maximum recovery and become medically stationary.¶¶

(4) Request for suspension of benefits. The insurer must verify whether the worker complied with the request for cooperation on the date specified in subsection (2)(c) of this rule. If the worker initially agrees to comply, or complies and then refuses or fails to continue doing so, the insurer is not required to send further notice before requesting suspension of compensation.¶¶

(a) The request for suspension must be sent to the division. A copy of the request, including all attachments, must be sent simultaneously to the worker and the worker's attorney, if any, by registered or certified mail or by personal service as for a summons.¶¶

(b) The request must include the following information:¶¶

(A) That the request for suspension is made in accordance with ORS 656.325 and OAR 436-060-0105;¶¶

(B) A description of the actions of the worker that prompted the request, including whether such actions

continue;¶

(C) Any reasons offered by the worker to explain the behavior, or a statement that the worker has not provided any reasons, whichever is appropriate;¶

(D) How, when, and with whom the worker's failure or refusal was verified;¶

(E) A copy of the notice required in section (2) of this rule;¶

(F) Any other relevant information including, but not limited to; chart notes, surgical or physical therapy recommendations/prescriptions, and all recommendations from the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner; and¶

(G) The following notice in prominent or bold face type:¶

"Notice to worker: If you think this request to suspend your compensation is wrong, you should immediately write to the Workers' Compensation Division, 350 Winter Street NE, PO Box 14480, Salem, Oregon 97309-0405. Your letter must be mailed within 10 days of the mailing date of this request was mailed or personally served on you. If the division authorizes suspension of your compensation and you do not correct your unacceptable actions or show us a good reason why they should be considered acceptable, we will close your claim."¶

(c) Any delay in obtaining confirmation or in requesting the suspension of compensation may result in authorization being denied or the date of authorization being modified by the date of actual confirmation or the date the request is received by the division.¶

(d) If the director approves authorization of suspension of compensation:¶

(A) An order will be issued suspending compensation from a date established under subsection (2)(c) of this rule until the worker complies with the insurer's request for cooperation. Where the worker is suspended for a pattern of noncooperation, the director may require the worker to demonstrate cooperation before reinstating compensation;¶

(B) The insurer must make all reasonable efforts to assist the worker to reinstate benefits when the worker demonstrates the willingness to make such efforts;¶

(C) The insurer must monitor the claim to determine if and when the worker complies with the insurer's requests;¶

(i) When cooperation resumes, payment of compensation must resume effective the date cooperation was resumed;¶

(ii) If the worker makes no effort to reinstate benefits within 60 days of the mailing date of the suspension order, the insurer must close the claim under OAR 436-030-0034;¶

(D) The director may modify or set aside the suspension order before or after filing of a request for hearing;¶

(E) The director may order payment of compensation previously suspended where the director finds the suspension to have been made in error;¶

(F) The director may re-evaluate the necessity of continuing a suspension; and¶

(G) The order will become final unless, within 60 days after the date of mailing of the order, a party files a request for hearing on the order with the ~~Hearings Division~~ board.¶

(e) If the director denies the insurer's request for suspension of compensation, the insurer will be notified of the reason for denial. The insurer's failure to comply with one or more of the requirements addressed in this rule may be grounds for denial of the insurer's request.¶

(5) Requests to reduce benefits. The director may reduce any benefits awarded the worker under ORS 656.268 when the worker has unreasonably failed to follow medical advice, or failed to participate in a physical rehabilitation program or vocational assistance program prescribed for the worker under ORS chapter 656 and OAR chapter 436. Such benefits must be reduced by the amount of the increased disability reasonably attributable to the worker's failure to cooperate.¶

(a) When an insurer submits a request to reduce benefits under this section, the insurer must:¶

(A) Specify the basis for the request;¶

(B) Include all supporting documentation;¶

(C) Send a copy of the request, including the supporting documentation, to the worker and the worker's attorney, if any, by certified mail; and¶

(D) Include the following notice in prominent or bold face type:¶

"Notice to worker: If you think this request to reduce your compensation is wrong, you should immediately write to the Workers' Compensation Division, 350 Winter Street NE, PO Box 14480, Salem, Oregon 97309-0405. Your letter must be mailed within 10 days of the mailing date of this request. If the division grants this request, you may lose all or part of your benefits."¶

(b) The director will make a decision on a request to reduce benefits and notify the parties of the decision. The insurer's failure to comply with one or more of the requirements addressed in this rule may be grounds for denial of the request to reduce benefits.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 656.325, 656.704, 656.726(4)

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 656.325, 656.704, 656.726(4)

AMEND: 436-060-0135

RULE SUMMARY: Amended rule 0135:

- Requires notices of required interviews or depositions to include the date, time, and place of the interview "or deposition, if scheduled";
- Specifies that several of the time limitations of "days" or "working days" mean "business days";
- Specifies that the suspension of compensation will remain in effect until the worker "reasonably" cooperates with the investigation; and
- Requires the insurer to reinstate suspended compensation if the worker "reasonably cooperates," instead of "begins cooperating," with the investigation.

CHANGES TO RULE:

436-060-0135

Injured Worker, Workers Attorney Responsible to Assist in Investigation; Suspension of Compensation and Notice to Worker ¶¶

(1) Worker's responsibility to assist in investigation. A worker must submit to and fully cooperate with in person or telephone interviews and other formal or informal information gathering techniques reasonably requested by the insurer. Interviews may be recorded on audio or video by one or more of the parties if prior written notice is given of the intent to record an interview.¶¶

(2) Request to suspend compensation. The insurer may request for the director to suspend compensation by order when the worker refuses or fails to cooperate in an investigation of an initial claim for compensation, a claim for a new medical condition, a claim for an omitted medical condition, or an aggravation claim as required by ORS 656.262(14), under the following conditions:¶¶

(a) The insurer must notify the worker in writing that an interview or deposition has been scheduled, or of other investigation requirements:¶¶

(A) The notice must be sent to the worker and copied to the worker's attorney, if any, and must contain the following:¶¶

(i) The date, time, and place of the interview or deposition, if scheduled;¶¶

(ii) Any other reasonable investigation requirements;¶¶

(iii) That the interview, deposition, or any other investigation requirements are related to the worker's compensation claim; and¶¶

(iv) The following statement in prominent or bold face type:¶¶

"The workers' compensation law requires injured workers to cooperate and assist the insurer or self-insured employer in the investigation of claims for compensation. Injured workers are required to submit to and fully cooperate with personal and telephonic interviews and other formal or informal information gathering techniques. If you do not reasonably cooperate with the investigation of this claim, payment of your compensation benefits may be suspended and your claim may be denied in accordance with ORS 656.262 and OAR 436-060."¶¶

(B) If the insurer contracts with a third party to investigate the claim, the notice must be on the insurer's stationery and must meet the requirements of this section; and¶¶

(C) The worker must be given 14 days to cooperate with the notice.¶¶

(b) The director will consider requests to authorize suspension of benefits only after the worker has been given at least 14 days to cooperate with the notice under subsection (a) of this rule; and under the following conditions:¶¶

(A) The director will only consider requests in claims on which no acceptance or denial has been issued;¶¶

(B) The worker must have the opportunity to submit information disputing the insurer's request for suspension of compensation before the director will issue an order;¶¶

(C) The director may determine whether special circumstances exist that would not warrant suspension of compensation for failure to cooperate with an investigation;¶¶

(D) The insurer must make the request to suspend benefits to the director in writing, and must send a copy of the

request, including all attachments, simultaneously to the worker and the worker's attorney, if any by registered or certified mail or by personal service;¶

(E) The insurer's request must include the following information sufficient to show the worker's failure to cooperate:¶

(i) That the insurer requests suspension of benefits under ORS 656.262(15) and this rule;¶

(ii) Documentation of the specific actions of the worker or worker's attorney that prompted the request;¶

(iii) Any reasons given by the worker for failure to comply, or a statement that the worker has not given any reasons;¶

(iv) A copy of the notice required in section (2) of this rule; and¶

(v) All other pertinent information, including, but not limited to, a copy of the claim for a new or omitted condition when that is what the insurer is investigating;¶

(c) After receiving the insurer's request to suspend benefits, the director will notify all parties that:¶

(A) The worker's benefits will be suspended in five workingbusiness days unless:¶

(i) The worker or the worker's attorney contacts the division by telephone or mails a letter documenting that the failure to cooperate was reasonable; or¶

(ii) The insurer notifies the division that the worker is now cooperating;¶

(B) The insurer's obligation to accept or deny the claim within 60 days is suspended unless the insurer's request is filed with the division after the 60 days to accept or deny the claim has expired;¶

(d) If the worker cooperates within five business days of the director's notice under subsection (c), the insurer must notify the director immediately to withdraw the suspension request. Upon receiving the insurer's notification:¶

(A) The director will notify all the parties of the withdrawal; and¶

(B) The director may issue an order identifying the dates during which the insurer's obligation to accept or deny the claim was suspended;¶

(e) If the worker contacts the divisions and documents the failure to cooperate was reasonable within five business days of the director's notice under subsection (c), the director will not suspend payment of compensation. However, an order may be issued identifying the dates during which the insurer's obligation to accept or deny the claim was suspended; and¶

(f) If the worker has not cooperated with the investigation, or has not documented that the failure to cooperate was reasonable within five business days of the director's notice under subsection (c), the director will issue an order suspending all or part of the payment of compensation to the worker:¶

(A) The suspension of compensation will be effective from the fifth workingbusiness day after the date of the director's notice under subsection (c), and will remain in effect until the worker reasonably cooperates with the investigation;¶

(B) If the worker begins reasonably cooperating ing with the investigation, the insurer must reinstate the worker's benefits immediately; or¶

(C) If the worker makes no effort to cooperate within 30 days of the date of the notice, the insurer may deny the claim under ORS 656.262(15) and OAR 436-060-0140(8).¶

(3) Request for penalty against worker's attorney. An insurer that believes that a worker's attorney's unwillingness or unavailability to participate in an interview is unreasonable may notify the director in writing and the director will consider assessment of a civil penalty against the attorney of not more than \$1,000.¶

(a) The worker's attorney must have the opportunity to dispute the allegation before a penalty is assessed.¶

(b) A copy of the notice must be sent simultaneously to the worker and the worker's attorney. Notice to the division by the insurer must contain the following information:¶

(A) What specific actions of the attorney prompted the request;¶

(B) Any reasons given by the attorney for failing to participate in the interview; and¶

(C) A copy of the request for interview sent to the attorney.¶

(4) Failure to comply with this rule. Failure to comply with the requirements of this rule will be grounds for denial of the insurer's request. Any delay in requesting suspension under section (2) of this rule may result in

authorization being denied.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 656.704, 656.726(4)

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS ~~656.262~~, 656.704, 656.726(4), 656.262

AMEND: 436-060-0137

RULE SUMMARY: Amended rule 0137:

- Revises the required notice to worker of a request to suspend compensation to include that the time within which a worker may object may run from the date the suspension request was mailed or "personally served on you"; and
- Includes other minor wording changes that enhance clarity and consistency with other rules in OAR chapter 436.

CHANGES TO RULE:

436-060-0137

Vocational Evaluations for Permanent Total Disability Benefits; and Suspension of Compensation ¶¶

- (1) Requests for vocational evaluations. A worker receiving permanent total disability benefits must attend a vocational evaluation reasonably requested by the insurer or the director.¶¶
- (2) Allowed number of vocational evaluations. The insurer may request no more than three separate vocational evaluations without authorization from the director. Insurers that fail to obtain authorization from the director for additional vocational evaluations may be assessed a civil penalty.¶¶
- (a) To request authorization the insurer must:¶¶
- (A) Submit a written request for authorization that includes:¶¶
- (i) The reasons for an additional vocational evaluation;¶¶
 - (ii) The conditions to be evaluated;¶¶
 - (iii) The dates, times, places, and purposes of previous evaluations;¶¶
 - (iv) Copies of previous vocational evaluation notification letters to the worker; and¶¶
 - (v) Any other information requested by the director;¶¶
- (B) Provide a copy of the request to the worker and the worker's attorney, if any.¶¶
- (b) The director will review the request and determine if additional information is needed.¶¶
- (A) Upon receipt of a request for additional information from the director, the parties will have 14 days to respond.¶¶
- (B) If the parties do not provide the requested information, the director will approve or disapprove the request for authorization based on available information.¶¶
- (c) The director's decision approving or denying more than three vocational evaluations may be appealed to the ~~Hearings Division~~board within 60 days of the order.¶¶
- (d) For purposes of determining the number of insurer required vocational evaluations, any evaluations scheduled but not completed are not counted as a statutory vocational evaluation.¶¶
- (3) Notice to worker. The insurer must notify the worker of the evaluation at least 10 days before the date of evaluation.¶¶
- (a) The notice sent for each evaluation, including evaluations that have been rescheduled, must contain the following:¶¶
- (A) The name of the vocational assistance provider or facility;¶¶
 - (B) A statement of the specific purpose for the evaluation;¶¶
 - (C) The date, time and place of the evaluation;¶¶
 - (D) The first and last name of the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner or a statement that there is no attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner, whichever is appropriate;¶¶
 - (E) If applicable, confirmation that the director has approved the evaluation;¶¶
 - (F) Notice to the worker that the reasonable cost of public transportation or use of a private vehicle will be reimbursed; when necessary, reasonable cost of child care, meals, lodging and other related services will be reimbursed; a request for reimbursement must be accompanied by a sales slip, receipt or other evidence necessary to support the request; should an advance of costs be necessary for attendance, a request for advancement must be made in sufficient time to ensure a timely appearance; and¶¶
 - (G) The following notice in prominent or bold face type:¶¶
- "You must attend this vocational evaluation. If there is any reason you cannot attend, you must tell the insurer as

soon as possible before the date of the evaluation. If you do not attend or do not cooperate, or do not have a good reason for not attending, your compensation benefits may be suspended in accordance with the workers' compensation law and rules, ORS 656.206 and OAR 436-060. If you have questions about your rights or responsibilities, you may call the Workers' Compensation Division at 1-800-452-0288 or the Ombudsman for Injured Workers at 1-800-927-1271."¶

(b) The insurer may contract with a third party to schedule vocational evaluations. If the third party notifies the worker of a scheduled evaluation on behalf of the insurer, the third party must send the notice on the insurer's stationery and the notice must meet the requirements of this section.¶

(4) Reimbursements of costs. The insurer must pay the costs of the vocational evaluation and related services necessary to allow the worker to attend the evaluation, including a reasonable cost of public transportation or use of a private vehicle, and when necessary, a reasonable cost of child care, meals, lodging and other related services. Child care costs reimbursed at the rate prescribed by the State of Oregon Department of Human Services, comply with this rule.¶

(5) Suspension of compensation. When the worker refuses or fails to attend, or otherwise obstructs, a vocational evaluation reasonably requested by the insurer or the director, the director may suspend the worker's compensation by order, under the following conditions:¶

(a) The insurer must send the request for suspension to the division. A copy of the request, including all attachments, must be sent simultaneously to the worker and the worker's attorney by registered or certified mail or by personal service;¶

(b) The request must include the following information:¶

(A) That the insurer requests suspension of benefits under ORS 656.206 and OAR 436-060-0137;¶

(B) What specific actions of the worker prompted the request;¶

(C) The dates of any prior vocational evaluations the worker has attended and the names of the vocational assistance provider or facilities, or a statement that there have been no prior evaluations, whichever is appropriate;¶

(D) A copy of any approvals given by the director for more than three vocational evaluations, or a statement that no approval was necessary, whichever is appropriate;¶

(E) Any reasons given by the worker for failing to attend, whether or not the insurer considers the reasons invalid, or a statement that the worker has not given any reasons, whichever is appropriate;¶

(F) The date and with whom failure to comply was verified. Any written verification of the worker's refusal to attend the vocational evaluation received by the insurer from the worker or the worker's attorney will be sufficient documentation with which to request suspension;¶

(G) A copy of the letter required in section (3) of this rule and a copy of any written verification received under paragraph (F) of this subsection;¶

(H) Any other information that supports the request; and¶

(I) The following notice in prominent or bold face type:¶

"Notice to worker: If you think this request to suspend your compensation is wrong, you should immediately write to the Workers' Compensation Division, 350 Winter Street NE, PO Box 14480, Salem, Oregon 97309-0405. Your letter must be mailed within 10 days of the ~~mailing date of this request~~ was mailed or personally served on you. If the division grants this request, you may lose all or part of your benefits."¶

(c) If the director suspends compensation:¶

(A) The suspension will be effective from the date the worker fails to attend a vocational evaluation or such other date the director determines is appropriate until the date the worker attends the evaluation;¶

(B) The worker is not entitled to compensation during or for the period of suspension;¶

(C) The insurer must assist the worker to meet requirements necessary for the resumption of compensation payments. When the worker has attended the vocational evaluation, the insurer must verify the worker's participation and resume compensation effective the date of the worker's compliance;¶

(D) The director may modify or set aside the suspension order before or after filing of a request for hearing;¶

(E) The director may order payment of compensation previously suspended where the director finds the

suspension to have been made in error; and¶

(F) The director may re-evaluate the necessity of continuing a suspension;¶

(d) If the insurer fails to comply with this rule, the director may deny the request for suspension. Any delay in requesting suspension may result in suspension being denied or the date of suspension being modified; and¶

(e) A suspension order becomes final unless, within 60 days after the date of mailing of the order, a party files a request for hearing on the order with the ~~Hearings Division~~board.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 656.726

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 656.206

AMEND: 436-060-0140

RULE SUMMARY: Amended rule 0140:

- Removes some wording regarding the "Updated Notice of Acceptance at Closure" that is addressed in OAR 436-030-0015 and in 436-060-0075; and
- Includes other minor wording changes that enhance clarity and consistency with other rules in OAR chapter 436.

CHANGES TO RULE:

436-060-0140

Acceptance or Denial of a Claim ¶¶

(1) Claim investigations. The insurer is required to conduct a "reasonable" investigation based on all available information in determining whether to deny a claim.¶¶

(a) A reasonable investigation is whatever steps a reasonably prudent person with knowledge of the legal standards for determining compensability would take in a good faith effort to ascertain the facts underlying a claim, giving due consideration to the cost of the investigation and the likely value of the claim.¶¶

(b) In determining whether an investigation is reasonable, the director will only look at information contained in the insurer's claim record at the time of denial. The insurer may not rely on any fact not documented in the claim record at the time of denial to establish that an investigation was reasonable.¶¶

(2) Notice to worker. The insurer must give the worker written notice of acceptance or denial of a claim within the following time frames:¶¶

(a) For claims with a date of injury before January 1, 2002, within 90 days of:¶¶

(A) The employer's notice or knowledge of an initial claim;¶¶

(B) The insurer's receipt of a Form 827 signed by the worker or the worker's attorney, and the worker's attending physician indicating an aggravation claim; or¶¶

(C) Written notice of a new medical condition claim;¶¶

(b) For claims with a date of injury on or after January 1, 2002, within 60 days after:¶¶

(A) The employer's notice or knowledge of an initial claim;¶¶

(B) The insurer's receipt of a Form 827 signed by the worker or the worker's attorney and the worker's attending physician indicating an aggravation claim; or¶¶

(C) Written notice of a new medical or omitted condition claim; or¶¶

(c) For claims with any date of injury, if the worker challenges the location of an independent medical examination under OAR 436-010-0265 and the challenge is upheld, within 90 days after the employer's notice or knowledge of the claim.¶¶

(3) Penalty for untimely acceptance and denials. The director may assess a penalty under OAR 436-060-0200 against any insurer delinquent in accepting or denying a claim beyond the time frame required under section (2) of this rule.¶¶

(4) Notice of acceptance. A notice of acceptance must comply with ORS 656.262(6)(b) and OAR chapter 438. It must include a current mailing date, be addressed to the worker, be copied to the worker's attorney, if any, and the worker's attending physician, and describe to the worker:¶¶

(a) What conditions are compensable;¶¶

(b) Whether the claim is disabling or nondisabling;¶¶

(c) The Expedited Claim Service, of hearing and aggravation rights concerning nondisabling injuries including the right to object to a decision that the injury is nondisabling by requesting the insurer review the status;¶¶

(d) The employment reinstatement rights and responsibilities under ORS chapter 659A;¶¶

(e) Assistance available to employers from the Re-employment Assistance Program under ORS 656.622;¶¶

(f) That claim related expenses paid by the worker must be reimbursed by the insurer when requested in writing and accompanied by sales slips, receipts, or other reasonable written support, for meals, lodging, transportation, prescriptions and other related expenses. The worker must be advised of the two year time limitation to request reimbursement as provided in OAR 436-009-0025 and that reimbursement of expenses may be subject to a

maximum established rate;¶

(g) That if the worker believes a condition has been incorrectly omitted from the notice of acceptance, or the notice is otherwise deficient, the worker must first communicate the objection to the insurer in writing specifying either that the worker believes the condition has been incorrectly omitted or why the worker feels the notice is otherwise deficient; and¶

(h) That if the worker wants the insurer to accept a claim for a new medical condition, the worker must put the request in writing, clearly identify the condition as a new medical condition, and request formal written acceptance of the condition.¶

(5) Notice of acceptance, fatal claims. In the case of a fatal claim, the notice must be addressed "to the estate of" the worker and the requirements of subsection (4)(a) through (h) of this rule must not be included.¶

(6) Initial, ~~update~~modified, and ~~modified~~updated notices of acceptance.¶

(a) The first acceptance issued on the claim must contain the title "Initial Notice of Acceptance" near the top of the notice. Any notice of acceptance must contain all accepted conditions at the time of the notice.¶

~~(b) When an insurer closes a claim, it must issue an "Updated Notice of Acceptance at Closure" under OAR 436-030-0015.¶~~

~~(A) To correct an omission or error in an "Updated Notice of Acceptance at Closure," the insurer must add the word "Corrected" to the notice.¶~~

~~(B) An "Updated Notice of Acceptance at Closure" is not required to begin payment of benefits following a worker's death during a period of permanent total disability under OAR 436-060-0075(7).¶~~

~~(c) An insurer must issue a "Modified Notice of Acceptance" (MNOA) when the insurer:¶~~

~~(A) Accepts a new or omitted condition on a nondisabling claim, while a disabling claim is open or after claim closure;¶~~

~~(B) Accepts an aggravation claim;¶~~

~~(C) Changes the disabling status of the claim; or¶~~

~~(D) Amends a notice of acceptance, including correcting a clerical error, except for an error or omission on an "Updated Notice of Acceptance at Closure."¶~~

(c) When an insurer closes a claim, it must issue an "Updated Notice of Acceptance at Closure" under OAR 436-030-0015.¶

(7) Acceptance of new or omitted conditions. When an insurer accepts a new or omitted condition on a closed claim, the insurer must reopen the claim and process it to closure under ORS 656.262 and 656.267. When a claim is reopened, the notice of acceptance must specify the conditions for which the claim is being reopened.¶

(8) Notice of denial to worker. A notice of denial must comply with OAR chapter 438 and the following:¶

(a) The notice must specify the factual and legal reasons for the denial, including a specific statement indicating if the denial was based in whole or part on an independent medical examination under ORS 656.325;¶

(b) If the denial was based in whole or part on an independent medical examination under ORS 656.325:¶

(A) The notice must include one of the following statements, as appropriate:¶

(i) "Your attending physician agreed with the independent medical examination report";¶

(ii) "Your attending physician did not agree with the independent medical examination report"; or¶

(iii) "Your attending physician has not commented on the independent medical examination report"; and¶

(B) If subparagraph (8)(b)(A)(ii) or (iii) of this rule apply, the notice must include the division's website address and toll-free phone number for the worker's use in obtaining a brochure about the worker requested medical examination.¶

(c) The notice must inform the worker of the Expedited Claim Service and of the worker's right to a hearing under ORS 656.283; and¶

(d) If the denial is under ORS 656.262(15), the notice must inform the worker that a hearing may occur sooner if the worker requests an expedited hearing under ORS 656.291.¶

(9) Notice of denial to provider of medical services and health insurance. The insurer must send notice of the denial to each medical service provider and provider of health insurance as defined under ORS 731.162 when compensability of any portion of a claim for medical services is denied. The notice must be sent:¶

(a) At the same time the denial is sent to the worker;¶¶

(b) Within 14 days of receipt of any billings from medical providers not previously notified of the denial. The notice must advise the medical provider of the status of the denial; or¶¶

(c) Within 60 days of the date when compensability of the claim has been finally determined or when disposition of the claim has been made. The notification must include the results of the proceedings under ORS 656.236 or 656.289(4) and the amount of any settlement.¶¶

(10) Payment of compensation. The insurer must pay compensation due under ORS 656.262 and 656.273 until the claim is denied, except where there is an issue concerning the timely filing of a notice of accident as provided in ORS 656.265(4). The employer may elect to pay compensation under this section in lieu of the insurer doing so. The insurer must report to the division payments of compensation made by the employer as if the insurer had made the payment.¶¶

(11) Medical benefits and funeral expenses. Compensation payable to a worker or the worker's beneficiaries while a claim is pending acceptance or denial does not include:¶¶

(a) The costs of medical benefits; or¶¶

(b) The cost of final disposition of the body or funeral expenses.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 656.726(4)

Statutes/Other Implemented: ~~ORS 656.7262, ORS 656.325, ORS 656.726(4)(4), 656.262, 656.325~~

AMEND: 436-060-0147

RULE SUMMARY: Amended rule 0147:

- Specifies that a worker's eligibility for a worker-requested medical examination will be based on the evidence available at the time of the director's order;
- Clarifies that the insurer must "send," as opposed to "mail," to the director the names and addresses of physicians and nurse practitioners who have treated the worker; and
- Includes other minor wording changes that enhance clarity and consistency with other rules in OAR chapter 436.

CHANGES TO RULE:

436-060-0147

Worker Requested Medical Examination ¶¶

(1) Eligibility. The worker is eligible for a worker requested medical examination if the evidence at the time of the director's order demonstrates:¶¶

(a) The worker has made a timely request for a ~~Workers' Compensation Board~~ hearing on a denial of compensability;¶¶

(b) The denial is based on one or more independent medical examination reports; and¶¶

(c) The attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner does not concur with the report or reports.¶¶

(2) Request for exam. The worker must submit a request for the exam to the division. A copy of the request must be sent simultaneously to the insurer.¶¶

(a) The request must include:¶¶

(A) The name, address, and claim identifying information of the worker;¶¶

(B) A list of physicians, including names and addresses, who have previously provided medical services to the worker on the claim, or who have previously provided medical services to the worker related to the claimed conditions;¶¶

(C) The date the worker requested a hearing and a copy of the hearing request;¶¶

(D) A copy of the insurer's denial letter; and¶¶

(E) Documents that demonstrate that the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner does not concur with the independent medical examination report or reports, if available.¶¶

(b) The director will determine the worker is eligible for an exam if the eligibility criteria in section (1) of this rule are met and:¶¶

(A) The worker or insurer provides documents that demonstrate that the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner does not concur with the independent medical examination report or reports; or¶¶

(B) The director has not received documents that demonstrate the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner does or does not concur with the report or reports, and at least 30 days after the worker's request for hearing under subsection (1)(a) of this rule have passed.¶¶

(3) Required documentation. The insurer must ~~mail~~send to the director no later than the 14th day following the insurer's receipt of the worker's request, the names and addresses of all physicians or nurse practitioners who have:¶¶

(a) Acted as the worker's attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner;¶¶

(b) Provided medical consultations or treatment to the worker;¶¶

(c) Examined the worker at an independent medical examination requested by the insurer under ORS 656.325; or¶¶

(d) Reviewed the worker's medical records on the claim.¶¶

(4) Penalty for failure to provide documentation. Failure to provide the required documentation described in section (3) of this rule in a timely manner may subject the insurer to civil penalties under OAR 436-060-0200.¶¶

(5) Selection of physicians. If the director determines the worker is eligible for the exam, the director will notify all parties in writing of the physician selected, or will provide the worker or the worker's attorney a list of appropriate

physicians. If the director provides a list of physicians, the following applies:¶¶

- (a) The worker's or the worker's attorney's response must be in writing, signed, and delivered to the director within 14 days of the mailing date of the list;¶¶
- (b) The worker or the worker's attorney may eliminate the name of one physician from the list;¶¶
- (c) If the worker or the worker's attorney does not respond as provided in this section, the director will select a physician; and¶¶
- (d) The director will notify the parties in writing of the physician selected.¶¶
- (6) Scheduling the exam. The worker or the worker's attorney must schedule the exam with the selected physician, and notify the insurer and the ~~Workers' Compensation Board~~ of the scheduled exam date within 14 days of the date of the director's notice in section (5) of this rule. The exam is not required to take place within the 14-day notification period. An unrepresented worker may consult with the Ombudsman for Injured Workers for assistance.¶¶
- (7) Required medical records. The insurer must send the physician the worker's complete medical and diagnostic record on the claim and the original questions asked of the independent medical examination physicians no later than 14 days before the date of the scheduled exam. If the diagnostic records are not in the insurer's possession, the insurer must request that the medical provider send the diagnostic records to the selected physician at least 14 days before the scheduled exam.¶¶
- (8) Exam questions. The worker, or the worker's attorney, must communicate questions related to the compensability denial in writing to be answered by the physician at the exam to the physician at least 14 days before the scheduled date of the exam. An unrepresented worker may consult with the Ombudsman for Injured Workers for assistance.¶¶
- (9) Physician's response. Upon completion of the exam the physician must address the original independent medical examination questions and the questions from the worker or the worker's attorney under section (8) of this rule and send the report to the worker's attorney, if any, or the worker, and the insurer within 14 days.¶¶
- (10) Payment of physician. The insurer must pay the physician selected under this rule in accordance with OAR 436-009. Medical services to workers must be delivered in accordance with OAR 436-010.¶¶
- (11) Failure to attend exam. If the worker does not attend the scheduled worker requested medical exam, the insurer must pay the physician for the missed exam under OAR 436-009-0010(13). The insurer is not required to pay for another exam unless the worker did not attend the missed examination for reasons beyond the worker's reasonable control.¶¶
- (12) Reimbursement for services. The insurer must reimburse the worker for all necessary related services under ORS 656.325(1).

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 656.726(4)

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 656.325(1)

AMEND: 436-060-0150

RULE SUMMARY: Amended rule 0150:

- Requires that first payment of temporary disability on a claim must also include all benefits due as of the date of payment, unless there is a reasonable basis to exclude those benefits at the time the payment issued;
- Clarifies that "payment," not only "first payment," of temporary disability benefits must be made no later than the 14th day after certain events; and
- Includes other minor changes to wording that enhance clarity and consistency with other rules in OAR chapter 436.

CHANGES TO RULE:

436-060-0150

Timely Payment of Compensation ¶

(1) General. Benefits are considered paid when addressed to the last known address of the worker or beneficiary and deposited in the U.S. Mail, or when funds are transferred to a financial institution for deposit in the worker's or beneficiary's account by approved electronic equivalent. Payments due on a weekend or legal holiday under ORS 187.010 and 187.020 may be paid on the last working day before, or the first working day after, the weekend or legal holiday. Subsequent payments may revert back to the payment schedule in place before the weekend or legal holiday.¶

(2) Holidays. For the purpose of this rule, legal holidays in the State of Oregon are:¶

(a) Each Sunday;¶

(b) New Year's Day on January 1;¶

(c) Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday on the third Monday in January;¶

(d) Presidents Day, ~~for the purpose of commemorating Presidents Washington and Lincoln~~, on the third Monday in February;¶

(e) Memorial Day on the last Monday in May;¶

(f) Independence Day on July 4;¶

(g) Labor Day on the first Monday in September;¶

(h) Veterans Day on November 11;¶

(i) Thanksgiving Day on the fourth Thursday in November;¶

(j) Christmas Day on December 25;¶

(k) Each time a holiday, other than Sunday, falls on Sunday, the succeeding Monday;¶

(l) Each time a holiday falls on Saturday, the preceding Friday; and¶

(m) Every day appointed by the Governor as a legal holiday and every day appointed by the President of the United States as a day of mourning, rejoicing or other special observance only when the Governor also appoints that day as a holiday.¶

(3) Withheld compensation. Compensation withheld under ORS 656.268(13) and (14), and ORS 656.596(2), will not be considered late if the insurer notifies the worker in writing why benefits are being withheld and the amount that must be offset before any further benefits are payable.¶

(4) Timely payment of temporary disability. ~~Insurers must timely process the first payment of temporary disability compensation must be timely.~~ The first payment of temporary disability on a claim must also include all temporary disability benefits due as of the date of payment, unless there is a reasonable basis to exclude those benefits at the time the payment issued. The director may assess a penalty under OAR 436-060-0200 against an insurer that does not make the first payment of temporary disability under the time frames of this section, or does not accurately report timeliness of first payment information.¶

(a) The ~~first~~ payment of temporary disability benefits must be made no later than the 14th day after:¶

(A) The date of the employer's notice or knowledge of the claim and of the worker's disability, if the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner has authorized temporary disability compensation. Temporary disability accrued before the date of the employer's notice or knowledge of the claim is due within 14 days of claim

acceptance;¶

(B) The date the attending physician or authorized nurse practitioner authorizes temporary disability, if the authorization is more than 14 days after the date of the employer's notice or knowledge of the claim and of the worker's disability;¶

(C) The start of authorized vocational training under ORS 656.268(10), if the insurer has previously closed the claim;¶

(D) The date the insurer receives medical evidence supported by objective findings that shows the worker is unable to work due to a worsening of the compensable condition under ORS 656.273;¶

(E) The date of any director's order, including, but not limited to, a reconsideration order, that orders payment of temporary disability. If the insurer has appealed a reconsideration order, the appeal stays payment of temporary disability benefits except those that accrue from the date of the order, under ORS 656.313;¶

(F) The date of a notice of claim closure issued by the insurer that finds the worker entitled to temporary disability;¶

(G) The date a notice of closure is set aside by a reconsideration order;¶

(H) The date any litigation authorizing retroactive temporary disability becomes final. Temporary disability accruing from the date of the order must begin no later than the 14th day after the date the order is filed. For the purpose of this rule, the "date the order is filed" for litigation from the ~~Workers' Compensation Board~~ is the signature date, and from the courts, it is the date of the appellate judgment;¶

(I) The date the director refers a claim to the insurer for processing under ORS 656.029;¶

(J) The date the director refers a noncomplying employer claim to an assigned claims agent under ORS 656.054;¶

(K) The date a claim disposition agreement is disapproved by the Worker's Compensation Board or administrative law judge, if temporary disability benefits are otherwise due;¶

(L) The date the director designates a paying agent under ORS 656.307;¶

(M) The date a claim is reclassified from nondisabling to disabling, if temporary disability is due and payable; or¶

(N) The date an insurer voluntarily rescinds a denial of a disabling claim.¶

(b) Subsequent payments of temporary disability benefits must:¶

(A) Be made at least once each 14 days, unless the employer is making payments under OAR 436-060-0020(1) and the payments are made concurrently with the payroll schedule of the employer; and¶

(B) Include all benefits due for the period ending no more than seven days before the payment date;¶

(5) Timely payment of permanent disability. ¶

(a) The first payment of permanent disability must be paid no later than the 30th day after:¶

(A) The date of a notice of claim closure issued by the insurer;¶

(B) The date of any litigation order that orders payment of permanent total disability. Permanent total disability benefits accruing from the date of the order must begin no later than the 30th day after the date the order is filed. For the purpose of this rule, the "date the order is filed" for litigation from the ~~Workers' Compensation Board~~ is the signature date, and from the courts, it is the date of the appellate judgment;¶

(C) The date of any director's order, including, but not limited to, a reconsideration order, that orders payment of compensation for permanent disability;¶

(D) The date any litigation order authorizing permanent partial disability becomes final;¶

(E) The date a claim disposition agreement is disapproved by the ~~Workers' Compensation Board~~ or administrative law judge, if permanent disability benefits are otherwise due; or¶

(F) The date authorized training ends if the worker is medically stationary and any previous award remains unpaid, under ORS 656.268(10) and OAR 436-060-0040(3).¶

(b) Subsequent payments of permanent disability must be made on a regular and predictable monthly schedule.¶

(A) The insurer may adjust the monthly payment schedule, but must inform the worker or beneficiary before making the adjustment.¶

(B) No payment period may exceed one month without the director's approval.¶

(6) Timely payment of death benefits.¶

(a) Payment of bills submitted under OAR 436-060-0075(1) must be made no later than the 30th day after the

date of the insurer's receipt the bill, or the date of claim acceptance, whichever is later.¶

(b) The first payment of monthly benefits to eligible beneficiaries under OAR 436-060-0075 must be paid no later than the 30th day after:¶

(A) The date of a notice of acceptance issued by the insurer; or¶

(B) The date of any litigation order that orders death benefits. Death benefits accruing from the date of the order must begin no later than the 30th day after:¶

(i) The signature date of an order from the ~~Workers' Compensation Board~~; or¶

(ii) The date of an appellate judgment from the courts.¶

(c) Subsequent payments of monthly benefits to eligible beneficiaries under OAR 436-060-0075 must be made on a regular and predictable schedule, subject to the following:¶

(A) The insurer may adjust the monthly payment schedule, but must inform the beneficiary before making the adjustment; and¶

(B) No payment period may exceed one month without the director's approval.¶

(d) Notwithstanding subsection (c), the insurer may make a payment in advance with the consent of the beneficiary.¶

(e) Payment of monthly benefits due to a worker's death during a period of permanent total disability under OAR 436-060-0075(7) must follow the monthly schedule established under subsection (5)(b) of this rule.¶

(7) Notice to worker or beneficiary regarding payments. The insurer must provide an explanation in writing to the worker or beneficiary when the benefit amount, time period covered, or payment schedule changes, and must:¶

(a) Notify the worker or beneficiary in writing of the specific purpose and the time period covered by each payment of temporary disability benefits; and¶

(b) Notify the worker or beneficiary in writing of the specific purpose of the payment, the schedule of future payments, and the time period each payment will cover with the first payment of permanent disability or death benefits. The insurer is not required to provide an explanation in writing with each subsequent permanent disability or death benefit payment.¶

(8) Maintenance of records. The insurer must maintain records of compensation paid for each claim in which benefits are due and payable.¶

(9) Request for reimbursement. If the worker submits a request for reimbursement of multiple items and full reimbursement is not made, the insurer must provide specific reasons for non-payment or reduction of each item.¶

(10) Claim disposition agreements. Any amounts due under a claim disposition agreement must be paid no later than the 14th day after the ~~Workers' Compensation Board~~ or administrative law judge provides notice of its approval under OAR 438-009-0028, unless otherwise stated in the agreement.¶

(11) Claims under other jurisdictions. When a worker has a claim under the workers' compensation law of another state, territory, province or foreign nation for the same injury or occupational disease as the claim filed in Oregon:¶

(a) The worker is entitled to the full amount of compensation due under Oregon law;¶

(b) The total amount paid or awarded under the other jurisdiction's law must be credited against the compensation due under Oregon law;¶

(c) If Oregon compensation is more than the compensation paid or awarded under the other jurisdiction's law, or compensation paid the worker under another law is recovered from the worker, the insurer must pay any unpaid compensation to the worker up to the amount required by the claim under Oregon law;¶

(d) Upon learning that the worker has a claim under the jurisdiction of another workers' compensation law, the insurer must request written documentation of the amount paid or awarded to the worker; and¶

(e) Payment under this section is due within 14 days of receipt of written documentation supporting the underpayment of Oregon compensation.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 656.726(4)

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 656.126, ~~ORS 656.204 [OL 2017, ch. 71], ORS 656.206 [OL 2017, ch. 70], ORS, 656.208, ORS 656.262(4), ORS 656.268(10), ORS 656.273, ORS 656.278, ORS 656.289, ORS 656.307, ORS~~

656.313

AMEND: 436-060-0155

RULE SUMMARY: Amended rule 0155:

- Clarifies that penalties paid under this rule are paid to the worker;
- Deletes the provision that if the worker has not provided sufficient information to assess a penalty under this rule, the director may assess a civil penalty under rule 0200 instead;
- Reduces the time for the insurer to provide to the director a written explanation of the reasons for delayed benefits and additional information requested by the director from 21 days to 14 days;
- Clarifies that in a stipulation submitted under section (6) of this rule, the amount of the penalty cannot exceed 25 percent of the "amounts then due under ORS 656.262(11)(a)" rather than of the "amount of compensation delayed;" and
- Includes other minor changes to wording and punctuation that enhance clarity and consistency with other rules in OAR chapter 436.

CHANGES TO RULE:

436-060-0155

Penalty to Worker for Untimely Processing ¶¶

- (1) General. If the insurer unreasonably delays or unreasonably refuses to pay compensation, attorney fees or costs, or unreasonably delays acceptance or denial of a claim:¶¶
- (a) The director may require the insurer to pay:¶¶
- (A) A penalty, payable to the worker, of up to 25 percent of the amounts then due ~~to the worker~~, determined by the matrix attached to these rules in Appendix "B," ~~and the following:~~¶¶
- (i) ~~When there are no "amounts then due" upon which to assess a penalty, no penalty will be issued under this rule; and~~¶¶
- (ii) ~~If the worker has not provided sufficient information to assess a penalty, the director may assess a civil penalty under OAR 436-060-0200 instead; and [See attached Appendix "B."]~~¶¶
- (B) A fee to the worker's attorney under ORS 656.262(11) and OAR 436-001-0420.¶¶
- (b) For the purpose of this rule, and the matrix attached to these rules in Appendix "B," a "violation" is:¶¶
- (A) The late payment or the nonpayment of any single payment due;¶¶
- (B) A continuous underpayment, such as with yearly cost of living increases for temporary disability compensation. In the case of a continuous underpayment, all prior underpayments will be considered as one violation, regardless of when the first underpayment occurred; or¶¶
- (C) The late issuance of an acceptance or denial notice under OAR 436-060-0140(2).¶¶
- (2) Requests for penalties and attorney fees. Requests for penalties and attorney fees under this rule must:¶¶
- (a) Be made in writing;¶¶
- (b) State, in the request, what benefits have been delayed or remain unpaid; and¶¶
- (c) Be mailed or delivered to the division within 180 days of the date of the alleged violation. For the purpose of this rule, the date of the alleged violation is:¶¶
- (A) For the late payment or nonpayment of any single payments, the date payment was due;¶¶
- (B) For a continuous underpayment, the date of the last underpayment; or¶¶
- (C) For a late issuance of an acceptance or denial notice, the date the notice was due under OAR 436-060-0140(2).¶¶
- (3) Required response from the insurer. When notified by the director that additional amounts may be due to the worker as a penalty under this rule:¶¶
- (a) The insurer must respond in writing to the division:¶¶
- (A) The response must include a reason for the delay, and any additional information or documentation requested by the director;¶¶
- (B) The response must be mailed or delivered to the division within ~~21~~14 days of the mailing date of the director's

inquiry letter; and¶¶

(C) Copies of the response, including any attachments, must be simultaneously sent to the worker and the worker's attorney, if any;¶¶

(b) If the insurer fails to meet the requirements of this section, the director may assess an ~~additional~~ civil penalty under OAR 436-060-0200.¶¶

(4) Jurisdiction over proceedings. The director has exclusive jurisdiction when the assessment and payment of penalties and attorney fees described in ORS 656.262(11) are the only issues of the proceedings between the parties. The director will not issue an order assessing a penalty or attorney fee under this rule when the same parties have initiated proceedings before the ~~Hearings Division~~board.¶¶

(a) If the director receives a request for penalties and attorney fees under this rule, and is aware of proceedings between the parties before the ~~Hearings Division~~board, the director will refer the request to the ~~Hearings Division~~board.¶¶

(b) If the director has not been made aware of the proceeding before the ~~Hearings Division~~board and issues a penalty order that becomes final, the director's penalty will stand.¶¶

(5) Timely payment of penalties. Penalties ordered under this rule must be paid to the worker no later than the 30th day after the date of the order, unless the order is appealed. If the order is appealed and later upheld, the penalty will be due within 14 days of the date the order upholding the penalty becomes final. If the insurer does not pay penalties in a timely manner the insurer will be subject to civil penalties under OAR 436-060-0200.¶¶

(6) Dispute resolution. Disputes regarding unreasonable delay or unreasonable refusal to pay compensation, attorney fees or costs, or unreasonable delay in acceptance or denial of a claim may be resolved by the parties.¶¶

(a) In cases where the director has exclusive jurisdiction under section (4) of this rule, and the violations occurred within the last 180 days as described in subsection (2)(c) of this rule, then the parties must submit a stipulation to the division for approval. The stipulation must specify:¶¶

(A) The benefits, attorney fees, or costs delayed and the amounts;¶¶

(B) The time periods involved;¶¶

(C) If applicable, the name of the medical providers and the dates of services relating to medical bills;¶¶

(D) The amount of the penalty not to exceed 25 percent of the amount ~~of compensation delayed~~ then due under ORS 656.262(11)(a); and¶¶

(E) The attorney fees, if applicable.¶¶

(b) Any other agreements between the parties to pay a penalty or attorney fee must have a stipulation approved by the director to be acknowledged as a violation as it applies to the matrix in Appendix "B" of these rules.¶¶

(c) Payment of a penalty due under this section is due within 14 days after the date the director approves the stipulation, unless otherwise stated in the stipulation. If the insurer does not pay penalties in a timely manner the insurer will be subject to civil penalties under OAR 436-060-0200.¶¶

~~[ED-NOTE: Appendices referenced are available from the agency.]~~

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 656.262(11), 656.704, 656.726(4), 656.745

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 656.262(11), 656.704, 656.745

RULE ATTACHMENTS DO NOT SHOW CHANGES. PLEASE CONTACT AGENCY REGARDING CHANGES.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND BUSINESS SERVICES
 WORKERS' COMPENSATION DIVISION
Proposed CLAIMS ADMINISTRATION

APPENDIX "B"
 436-060-0155 Matrix for Assessing Penalties

VIOLATION NUMBER

NUMBER OF DAYS LATE	1	2	3	4
1-2	0%	10%	20%	25%
3-7	5%	15%	25%	
8-14	10%	20%	25%	
15-21	15%	25%		
22 +	25%			

AMEND: 436-060-0170

RULE SUMMARY: Amended rule 0170 includes a minor wording change consistent with the revised definition of "Board" in rule 0005.

CHANGES TO RULE:

436-060-0170

Recovery of Overpayment of Benefits ¶

(1) Benefits paid a worker. An insurer may only recover overpayment of benefits paid to a worker as specified by ORS 656.268(14), unless authority is granted by an administrative law judge or the ~~Workers' Compensation Board~~ Board.

(2) Benefits due a worker. An insurer may recover an overpayment from any benefits currently due on any claim the worker has with that insurer. The insurer must explain in writing the reason, the amount, and the method of recovery to the worker and the worker's attorney, if any, or to the worker's beneficiaries.

(3) Permanent partial disability offsets. When overpaid benefits are offset against monthly permanent partial disability award payments, the insurer must recover the benefits from the total amount of the award. The insurer must pay out the remainder of the award at 4.35 times the temporary total disability rate, or at least \$108.75, starting with the first month's payment.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 656.726(4)

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 656.268(13)(14)

AMEND: 436-060-0180

RULE SUMMARY: Amended rule 0180 includes minor wording changes consistent with the revised definition of "Board" in rule 0005.

CHANGES TO RULE:

436-060-0180

Designation and Responsibility of a Paying Agent ¶

(1) For the purpose of this rule:¶

(a) "Compensable injury" means an accidental injury or damage to a prosthetic appliance, or an occupational disease arising out of and in the course of employment with any Oregon employer, and which requires medical services or results in disability or death.¶

(b) "Exposure" means a specific incident or period during which a compensable injury may have occurred.¶

(c) "Responsibility" means liability under the law for the acceptance and processing of a compensable claim.¶

(2) General. The director will designate by order which insurer must pay a claim if the employers and insurers admit that the claim is otherwise compensable, and where there is an issue regarding:¶

(a) Which subject employer is the true employer of the worker;¶

(b) Which of more than one insurer of a certain employer is responsible for payment of compensation to the worker;¶

(c) Which of two or more employers or their insurers is responsible for paying compensation for one or more on-the-job injuries or occupational diseases; or¶

(d) Which of two or more employers is responsible when there is joint employment.¶

(3) Own motion claims. With the consent of the ~~Workers' Compensation Board~~ Board, own motion claims under ORS 656.278(1) are subject to this rule.¶

(4) Determination of compensability. Upon learning of any of the issues described in section (2) of this rule, the insurer must expedite the processing of the claim by immediately investigating the claim to determine responsibility and whether the claim is otherwise compensable.¶

(a) For the purposes of this rule, insurers identified in a potential responsibility dispute under ORS 656.307 must, upon request, share claim related medical reports and other information pertinent to the injury without charge in order to expedite claim processing.¶

(b) The act of the worker applying for compensation benefits from any employer identified as a party to a responsibility dispute constitutes authorization for the involved insurers to share the pertinent information in accordance with the criteria and restrictions provided in OAR 436-060-0017 and 436-010-0240.¶

(c) Copies of claims documents must be mailed under the time frames established in OAR 436-060-0017(4).¶

(d) An insurer that shares information under this rule bears no legal liability for disclosure of the information.¶

(5) Notification of affected insurers. Upon learning of any of the issues described in section (2) of this rule, the insurer must immediately notify any other affected insurers of the situation. Such notice must identify the compensable injury and include a copy of all medical reports and other information pertinent to the injury. The notice must identify each period of exposure that the insurer believes responsible for the compensable injury by the following:¶

(a) Name of employer;¶

(b) Name of insurer;¶

(c) Specific date of injury or period of exposure; and¶

(d) Claim number, if assigned.¶

(6) Request for designation of a paying agent. Upon deciding that the responsibility for an otherwise compensable injury cannot be determined, the insurer must request designation of a paying agent from the director in writing and mail a copy of the request to the worker and the worker's attorney, if any.¶

(a) The insurer may not attach the request to, or include the request in, any form or report the insurer is required to submit under OAR 436-060-0011 or in the denial letter to the worker required by OAR 436-060-0140.¶

(b) The request, or agreement to designation of a paying agent, is not an admission that the insurer is responsible for the compensable injury; it is solely an assertion that the injury is compensable against a subject Oregon employer.¶

(c) The insurer's written request must contain the following information:¶

(A) Identification of the compensable injuries or occupational diseases;¶

(B) That the insurer is requesting designation of a paying agent under ORS 656.307;¶

(C) That the insurer acknowledges the claim is otherwise compensable;¶

(D) That responsibility is the only issue;¶

(E) Identification of the specific claims or exposures involved by:¶

(i) Employer;¶

(ii) Insurer;¶

(iii) Date of injury or specific period of exposure; and¶

(iv) Claim number, if assigned;¶

(F) Acknowledgment that medical reports and other material pertinent to the injury have been provided to the other parties; and¶

(G) Confirmation the worker has been advised of the actions being taken on the worker's claim.¶

(d) The director will not designate a paying agent when:¶

(A) It has not been determined if the injury is compensable against a subject Oregon employer;¶

(B) An insurer included in the question of responsibility opposes designation of a paying agent because it has received no claim; or¶

(C) The 60 day appeal period of a denial expired and:¶

(i) No request for hearing had been received by the Board; or¶

(ii) No request for a designation of paying agent order had been received by the director.¶

(7) Failure to respond to request for clarification. When notified by the director that there is a reasonable doubt as to the status of the claim or intent of a denial, the insurer must provide written clarification to the director, the worker, the other insurers involved and other interested parties within 21 days of the mailing date of the notification. If an insurer fails to respond timely or provides an inadequate response (e.g., failing to answer specific questions or provide requested documents), the director may assess a civil penalty under OAR 436-060-0200.¶

(8) Insurer responsibilities. Insurers receiving notice from the director of a worker's request for designation of a paying agent must immediately process the request in accordance with sections (4) through (6) of this rule.¶

(9) Factors for designation. Upon receipt of written acknowledgment from the insurers that the only issue is responsibility for an otherwise compensable injury claim, the director will issue an order designating a paying agent under ORS 656.307. The director will designate the insurer with the lowest compensation considering the following factors:¶

(a) The claim with the lowest temporary total disability rate;¶

(b) If the temporary total disability rates and the rates per degree of permanent disability are the same, the earliest claim;¶

(c) If there is no temporary disability or the temporary total disability rates are the same, but the rates per degree of permanent disability are different, the claim with the lowest rate per degree of permanent disability;¶

(d) If one or more claims have disposed of benefits in accordance with ORS 656.236(1), the claim providing the lowest compensation not released by the claim disposition agreement;¶

(e) If one claim is under own motion jurisdiction, that claim, even if it is not the claim with the lowest temporary total disability rate; and¶

(f) If more than one claim is under own motion jurisdiction, the own motion claim with the lowest temporary total disability rate.¶

(10) Referral to the Worker's Compensation Board. By copy of its order, the director will refer the matter to the ~~Workers' Compensation Board~~ Board to set a proceeding under ORS 656.307 to determine which insurer is responsible for paying benefits to the worker.¶

(11) Responsibilities of designated paying agent. The designated paying agent must process the claim as an

accepted claim through claim closure under OAR 436-030-0015 unless it is relieved of the responsibility by an order of the administrative law judge or resolution through mediation or arbitration under ORS 656.307(6).¶

(a) The parties to an order under this section may not settle any part of a claim under ORS 656.236 or 656.289, except to resolve the issue of responsibility, unless prior approval and agreement is obtained from all potential responsible insurers.¶

(b) Resolution of a dispute by mediation or arbitration by a private party cannot obligate the Consumer and Business Services Fund without the director's prior approval.¶

(c) The Consumer and Business Services Fund is not obligated when one party declines to participate in a legitimate settlement conference under an ORS 656.307 order.¶

(d) Compensation paid under the order must include all benefits, including medical services, provided for a compensable injury to a subject worker or the worker's beneficiaries. The payment of temporary disability due must be for periods subsequent to periods of disability already paid by any insurer.¶

(12) Change in compensability or claims status. After a paying agent is designated, if any of the insurers determine compensability may be an issue at hearing, the insurer must notify the director.¶

(a) Any insurer must notify the director and all parties to the order of any change in claim acceptance status after the designation of a paying agent.¶

(b) When the director receives notification of a change in the acceptance of a claim or notification that compensability is an issue after designation of a paying agent, the director will order termination of any further benefits due from the original order designating a paying agent.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 656.307, 656.726(4), 656.745

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 656.307, 656.745, 656.308

AMEND: 436-060-0190

RULE SUMMARY: Amended rule 0190 includes a minor wording change to enhance clarity and consistency with other rules in OAR chapter 436.

CHANGES TO RULE:

436-060-0190

Monetary Adjustments among Parties and Department of Consumer and Business Services ¶¶

(1) General. An order of the director under ORS 656.307 and OAR 436-060-0180 applies only to the period before the order of the administrative law judge determining the responsible paying party. Payment of compensation made after the order may not be recovered from the Consumer and Business Services Fund, unless the director concludes payment was made before the administrative law judge's order was received by the paying agent designated under OAR 436-060-0180. After the administrative law judge's order, any necessary monetary adjustments must be made under OAR 436-060-0195.¶¶

(2) Determination of benefits paid. When all litigation on the issue of responsibility is final, the insurer ultimately held to be responsible must, before paying any compensation, contact any nonresponsible insurer to determine what compensation has already been paid. When contacted by the responsible insurer, the nonresponsible insurer must provide the requested information necessary for the responsible insurer to make a timely payment to the worker, medical providers or others, but in any case no later than 20 days after the date of contact. Failure to respond to the responsible insurer's inquiry in a timely manner may result in non-reimbursement otherwise due from the responsible insurer or from the Consumer and Business Services Fund.¶¶

(3) Reimbursement of nonresponsible insurers. The responsible insurer must reimburse any nonresponsible insurers for compensation the nonresponsible insurer paid that the responsible insurer is responsible for, but has not already paid, within 30 days of receiving enough information to determine the benefits paid and the relationship to the conditions involved. Any balance remaining due to the worker, medical providers or others must be paid in a timely manner under OAR 436-009 and 436-060-0150. Payment of compensation that results in duplicate payment to the worker, medical providers or others as a result of failing to contact the nonresponsible insurer does not release the responsible insurer from the requirement to reimburse any nonresponsible insurers for its costs.¶¶

(4) Direction of unresolved adjustments. The director may direct any necessary monetary adjustment between the parties that is not otherwise ordered by the administrative law judge or voluntarily resolved by the parties. The director will not order an insurer to pay compensation above that required by law, as it relates to the insurer's claim, except in the situation described in section (3) of this rule. Any insurer that fails to make monetary adjustments within 30 days of an order by the director may be subject to civil penalties under OAR 436-060-0200. Only compensation paid as a result of an order by the director under OAR 436-060-0180 and consistent with this rule is recoverable from the Consumer and Business Services Fund when such compensation is not reimbursed to the nonresponsible insurer by the responsible insurer.¶¶

(5) Unnecessary costs. When the director determines improper or untimely claim processing by the designated paying agent has resulted in unnecessary costs, the director may deny reimbursement from the responsible insurer and the Consumer and Business Services Fund.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 656.726(4)

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 656.307(3)

AMEND: 436-060-0500

RULE SUMMARY: Rule 0500:

- Clarifies that Form 3504, "Supplemental Disability Benefits Quarterly Reimbursement Request," must include the worker's Social Security number "(if known)"; and
- Includes a minor wording and punctuation change to enhance clarity.

CHANGES TO RULE:

436-060-0500

Reimbursement of Supplemental Disability for Workers with Multiple Jobs at the Time of Injury ¶¶

(1) General. When an insurer elects to pay supplemental disability due a worker with multiple jobs at the time of injury, the director will reimburse the supplemental amount quarterly, after receipt and approval of documentation of compensation paid by the insurer or service company. The director will reimburse the insurer, in care of the service company, if applicable.¶¶

(2) Requests for reimbursement. Requests for reimbursement must be submitted on Form 3504, "Supplemental Disability Benefits Quarterly Reimbursement Request," and must include at least:¶¶

- (a) Identification and address of the insurer responsible for processing the claim;¶¶
- (b) The worker's name, WCD file number, date of injury, Social Security number (if known), and the insurer claim number;¶¶
- (c) Whether the claim is disabling or nondisabling;¶¶
- (d) The primary and secondary employers' legal names;¶¶
- (e) The primary and secondary employers' policy numbers;¶¶
- (f) The weekly wage of all jobs at the time of the injury separated by employer;¶¶
- (g) The start and end dates for the periods of supplemental disability due and payable to the worker;¶¶
- (h) The amount of supplemental disability paid for the periods in subsection (g);¶¶
- (i) The quarter and year in which the payment was made;¶¶
- (j) A signed payment certification statement verifying the payments; and¶¶
- (k) Any other information the director requires.¶¶

(3) Administrative fee. In addition to the supplemental disability reimbursement, the director will pay the insurer an administrative fee based on the annual claim processing administrative cost factor, as published in Bulletin 316.¶¶

(4) Repayment of invalid or incorrect payments. The director may require the insurer to repay reimbursements made for invalid or incorrect payments.¶¶

(a) The director may periodically audit the insurer's files to validate the amount reimbursed.¶¶

(b) Invalid amounts include, but are not limited to:¶¶

(A) Payments exceeding statutory amounts due to the insurer, excluding reasonable overpayments, as determined by the director;¶¶

(B) Compensation paid as a result of untimely or inaccurate claims processing;¶¶

(C) Payments of compensation that were not documented as required by OAR 436-050; or¶¶

(D) Amounts in a third-party recovery that result in overpayment.¶¶

(5) Benefits due workers of a noncomplying employer. Supplemental disability benefits due subject workers of a noncomplying employer as defined in ORS 656.052 are not eligible for separate reimbursement under this rule, but remain a cost recoverable from the employer as provided by ORS 656.054(2).¶¶

(6) Claim disposition agreements and stipulated claims settlements. Claim disposition agreements or stipulated claims settlements, under ORS 656.236 or 656.289, that include amounts for supplemental disability benefits due to multiple jobs, are not eligible to receive reimbursement from the Workers' Benefit Fund unless they receive written confirmation from the director before the disposition or settlement is approved by the Worker's Compensation Board.¶¶

(a) To receive written confirmation of a proposed disposition or settlement, the insurer must submit a request to

the division. The request for written confirmation must include:¶¶

(A) A copy of the proposed disposition or settlement that specifies the exact amount of the proposed contribution to be made from the Workers' Benefit Fund;¶¶

(B) A statement from the insurer indicating how the amount of the contribution was calculated; and¶¶

(C) Any other information required by the director.¶¶

(b) The director will not confirm the disposition for reimbursement if the proposed contribution exceeds a reasonable projection of that claim's future liability to the Workers' Benefit Fund.¶¶

~~[Publications: Publications referenced are available from the agency.]~~

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 656.726(4)

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 656.210