

BRUYNS Fred H * DCBS

From: Connie Whelchel <Conniew@kpdinsurance.com>
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 3:58 PM
To: BRUYNS Fred H * DCBS
Cc: KUNZ Juerg * DCBS
Subject: RE: Proposed rules published: OAR 436-009, 010, and 015

Hi Fred,

Thank you for the explanation. In that case, here's what I'd like to submit for written testimony:

=====

It is heartening to see the amended 436-010-0240 rule that encourages medical providers to discuss work duties/restrictions with employers. The communication between providers and the employers-at-injury is not only reasonable, but ideal as employers are constantly yearning for work releases ASAP so they can create/offer modified work accordingly. When employers don't receive work releases timely, it can needlessly extend workers' disabilities and claims (i.e., Time Loss) costs. And when the employers must rely on their insurers to get work releases, using a middle person (i.e., the insurer) can unnecessarily extend the disability time and claims costs, too. Eventually, I'd like to see an additional rule(s) that provides medical providers with clear timelines regarding when they need to provide work release information to employers, especially following their exams of injured workers. (Maybe for the next rule-making session.) Even though employers will enact policies for their workers to provide them with copies of their work releases, workers don't always comply with these, or they are not timely providing their work releases to their employers. Consequently, there are claims that go disabling that could have stayed non-disabling if only the providers sent the work release information directly to the employer vs. relying on the insurer or worker to be the go-between. It is, after all, the employer who is responsible for creating/offering the modified work.

=====

Please let me know if there's anything else I need to do.

Thank you for your guidance!
Connie



CONNIE WHELCHER MBA | NPN #6243330

WORKERS' COMP CLAIMS RISK ADVISOR

1111 Gateway Loop, Springfield, OR 97477

OFFICE | 541-741-0550

MOBILE | 541-852-3444

conniew@kpdinsurance.com | kpdinsurance.com

k.p.d. Insurance LLC CA #6005451

WE'RE NOW PART OF IMA FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. [LEARN MORE](#)

This communication, including attachments, is for the exclusive use of addressee and may contain proprietary, confidential or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, copying, disclosure, dissemination or distribution is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately by return mail and delete this communication and destroy all copies. **Please remember requests to bind or change coverage cannot be considered bound until you have received confirmation from an authorized IMA representative.** CORnerstone Risk Solutions, LLC; IMA Acumen, LLC; California Licenses: IMA, Inc dba IMA Insurance Services #0H64724; Towerstone, Inc. dba Towerstone Insurance Services #0F60676; IMA Select LLC dba IMA Select Insurance Services LLC 0G50619