



Latest update from SIRA and icare

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SIRA

- The State Insurance Regulatory Authority (SIRA) is the NSW Government organisation responsible for regulating and administering the Workers' Compensation system in NSW
- New SIRA guidelines effective 1 August 2016



Main Impacting Changes



Changes to the minimum requirements for initial notification of a claims

- Removal of an injured workers DOB and some employer details

Removal of “Notification Only” status

- An initial decision must be made on all notifications of injury including:
 1. Accept liability;
 2. Provisional liability;
 3. Declinature; or
 4. Reasonable Excuse.

Main Impacting Changes



- Previously claim could be coded as “Notification Only”
- Now coded as “Reasonable Excuse – no requirement for weekly payments” (claim can be closed)
- For all claims under this code, your insurer must contact you and the worker by phone and letter, including a claim form

Application of Reasonable Excuse only applies to weekly payments

- A Reasonable Excuse status only applies to weekly payments
- Medical expenses must be provisionally accepted and reasonable necessary expenses paid when a claim is in Reasonable Excuse - this is not an admission of liability

Main Impacting Changes



Exemptions to treatment pre-approval

- Access to any treatment within 48 hours
- Nominated treating specialist
- Diagnostic investigations
- Pharmacy
- Physical treatment
- Psychology treatment
- Hearing needs assessment



Main Impacting Changes



Reasonable necessary treatment- what is it?

An approach that encourages sound decision making and reduces the requirement for further medical information that isn't necessary

Case-by-case analysis

Reasonable and necessary does not mean absolutely necessary

Main Impacting Changes



Work capacity assessment appointments

- A worker cannot be required to attend more than four appointments per work capacity assessment
- Can only attend one appointment with the same type of medical specialists e.g. can't see 2 different orthos
- Can only attend one appointment with the same type of health care professional

icare Workers Insurance



icare will directly undertake the policy and billing requirements under the NSW Workers' Compensation Scheme by March 2017

- Employers will buy and renew their workers' compensation insurance policies via the icare online self-service portal
- Able to access policy information at any time via the portal
- No change to claims handling and scheme agent involvement in claims

Questions



DISCLAIMER

While the information is believed to be correct, no responsibility is accepted for any statements of opinion or any error or omission. The information set out is of a general nature and cannot be a substitute for professional financial or legal advice tailored to specific situations.

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