

From: WCRI
Sent: 10/8/2015 10:03:13 AM
To: Haley, Nikki
Cc:
Subject: Studies Examine Medical Costs and Reforms in 17 State Workers' Comp Systems

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Dear Ms. Haley,

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The factors behind trends of medical payments per claim in 17 state workers' compensation systems and the impact of legislative and regulatory changes on those costs are examined in the 16th edition of CompScope™ Medical Benchmarks.

The studies cover the period from 2008 through 2013, with claims experience through March 2014, and examine trends in payments, prices, and utilization of medical care for injured workers. They provide a baseline of current costs and trends for policymakers and other system stakeholders, reporting how medical payments per claim and cost components vary over time and from state to state.

"The reports are useful to identify where medical cost and care patterns may be changing," said Ramona Tanabe, executive vice president and counsel for WCRI. "They also help identify where medical payments per claim or utilization may differ from other states. In addition, where there may be concerns about restrictions on access to care, the studies can help identify potential underutilization of medical services."

The 17 states in the study --- Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin --- represent more than 60 percent of the nation's workers' compensation benefit payments. There are individual reports for every state except Arkansas and Iowa.

As an elected official who makes public policy decisions regarding workers' compensation, you and your staff have complimentary access to these reports. If you would like copies of the reports or have any questions, please contact us at wcri@wcrinet.org <<mailto:wcri@wcrinet.org>>.

Thank you,

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Richard A. Victor, J.D., Ph.D.
President and CEO

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