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BREAKING NEWS

July 28, 2014

Dear Healthcare Provider:

On July 15, 2014, House Bill 373 became effective. Per the Delaware Department of Labor's summary of the bill, here are some of the highlights:

1. This Act makes substantial changes to Titles 18 and 19 of the Delaware Code designed to control the level of workers' compensation premiums in Delaware. The most significant changes are:

a) a 33% reduction in medical costs to the workers' compensation system, phased in over a period of three years;

b) absolute caps, expressed as a percentage of Medicare per-procedure reimbursements, on all workers' compensation medical procedures beginning on January 1, 2017; and,

c) increased independence for the Ratepayer Advocate who represents ratepayers during the workers' compensation rate approval process and for the committee that oversees the cost control practices of individual workers' compensation insurance carriers.

2. Pharmacy: Last year's pharmacy changes will be remain in effect. You will find that language in HA2 (see below link).

3. Reduction Timeline: The reductions mentioned in HB373 will be

phased into the new itemized fee schedules over the next three years (January 2015, January 2016 and January 2017) beginning with the January 2015 fee schedule. The caps will become effective in the year 3, January 2017 iteration.

4. Continue to use the current fee schedules until the new schedules are established and become effective on January 31, 2015.

A copy of HB373, as well as the two amendments (HA1 and HA2) can be viewed here:

<http://www.legis.delaware.gov/LIS/LIS147.NSF/vwLegislation/HB+373?Opendocument>.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR 11th EMPLOYER CONFERENCE- Workers' Compensation Session:

On October 23, 2014, the Delaware Department of Labor will host its 11th Employer Conference at the Chase Center on the Riverfront. One of the scheduled workshops is an expert panel discussion about these changes to the Workers' Compensation Health Care Payment System. Health care providers may attend this session in lieu of completing their next required Continuing Education Course (just bring a completed application and current insurance document). More information on this seminar will be provided once it becomes available.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

ERIC M. DOROSHOW
Attorney at Law

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