

November 1, 2016

CIRCULAR LETTER TO ALL MEMBER COMPANIES

Re: Workers Compensation Insurance

CompScope™ Medical Benchmarks for North Carolina
17th Edition

The North Carolina Rate Bureau is pleased to inform you that the CompScope™ Medical Benchmarks for North Carolina, 17th Edition has been released by the Workers Compensation Research Institute (WCRI). This study examines trends in payments, prices, and utilization of medical care for injured workers in North Carolina, as compared to 17 other states. It is a summary of current costs and historic trends for policymakers and other system stakeholders, reporting how medical payments per claim and cost components vary over time.

WCRI indicates in their summary of major findings that the results reported in this study examine how metrics of medical costs and care have changed from 2009 to 2014 for claims at 12 months of experience. The study reflects the 2013 interim fee schedule changes for North Carolina requiring reimbursement for medical care based on Medicare. Phased –in decreases in reimbursement for hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers (ASC's) went into effect in April 2015, while changes in reimbursement for professional services became effective in July 2015. WCRI states that the 2015 changes are not reflected in the data used for this study. Future editions of the study will monitor the impact of the new fee schedule rules.

An executive summary of the report is available at:

http://www.wcrinet.org/studies/protected/exec_summaries/csmed17_NC-es.html

A full copy of the report may be ordered from WCRI at:

http://www.wcrinet.org/order_publications.html

For assistance with ordering the report, please contact WCRI at 617-661-9274 or via email at wcri@wcrinet.org.

We trust that this report will provide additional insight into the workers compensation cost drivers in North Carolina.

If you have questions, contact the NCRB Information Center at 919-582-1056 or via email at winfo@ncrb.org.

Sincerely,

Joanna Biliouris

Chief Operating Officer

JBdms
C-16-28