



October 14, 2021

CIRCULAR LETTER TO ALL MEMBER COMPANIES

Re: Workers Compensation Insurance

CompScope™ Medical Benchmarks for North Carolina, 22<sup>nd</sup> Edition

The North Carolina Rate Bureau is pleased to inform you that the CompScope™ Medical Benchmarks for North Carolina, 22<sup>nd</sup> Edition has been released by the Workers Compensation Research Institute (WCRI). This study continues to monitor the results of recent policy changes in North Carolina, particularly medical reimbursement rules that became effective in 2015 and interim fee schedule changes in 2013. Medical payments per claim, prices and utilization of medical care for injured workers in North Carolina are 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 2014 to 2019 for claims at an average of 12 months of experience. The study reflects the 2015 medical fee schedule rules for North Carolina requiring reimbursement for medical care based on a percentage of 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. Medical reimbursement rules, along with interim fee schedule changes in 2013, targeted hospital costs, a key driver of workers compensation claims in North Carolina.

WCRI’s CompScope™ Medical Benchmarks for North Carolina, 22<sup>nd</sup> Edition includes experience on claims through March 2020, the very beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, these results are a pre-COVID-19 baseline or evaluating the impact of the virus on workers compensation claims in North Carolina.

An executive summary of the report is available at:

<https://www.wcrinet.org/reports/compscope-medical-benchmarks-for-north-carolina-22nd-edition>

For assistance with ordering the report, please contact WCRI at 617-661-9274 or via email at [wcri@wcrinet.org](mailto: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 [support@ncrb.org](mailto:support@ncrb.org).

Sincerely,

Joanna Biliouris

Chief Operating Officer

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C-21-18