



2026 WORKERS' COMPENSATION CONFERENCE

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

OCTOBER 16 — ALBANY, NY



Workers'
Compensation
Board



Workers'
Compensation
Board

NAVIGATING COMP MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE UPDATES



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ACCREDITATION STATEMENT



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AGENDA

- 1 Who Can Do What Today
- 2 Expanding Access for the Future
- 3 Medical Fee Schedule & Other Improvements
- 4 Medical Treatment Guidelines
- 5 Health Care Provider Resources





Who Can Do What Today





WHO CAN BE AUTHORIZED TODAY?



Acupuncturists

Chiropractors

Licensed Clinical Social Workers

Nurse Practitioners

Occupational Therapists

Physical Therapists

Physicians

Physician Assistants

Podiatrists

Psychologists

AUTHORIZED PROVIDERS: WHO CAN DO WHAT

Provider Type	Treat	Treat via Telehealth*	Initial C/R and Diagnosis	Initial Disability	Ongoing Disability	Permanency	Depositions	IMEs	Prior Authorization Requests (PARs)
Acupuncturists	YES with referral	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	U1K, O1K
Chiropractors	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	C, V, U1K, O1K, DME
Licensed Clinical Social Workers	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	C, V, U1K, O1K
Nurse Practitioners	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	All PARs
Occupational Therapists	YES with referral	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	U1K, O1K
Physical Therapists	YES with referral	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	U1K, O1K
Physicians	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	All PARs
Physician Assistant**	YES	YES	YES**	YES**	YES	YES**	YES	NO	M, C, V, U1K, O1K, DME
Podiatrists	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	All PARs
Psychologists	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	C, V, U1K, O1K

KEY FOR PARs	
M	Medication PAR
C	Confirmation PAR
V	Variance PAR
U1K	Non-MTG Under or = to \$1,000
O1K	Non-MTG Over \$1,000
SS	MTG Special Services
DME	Durable Medical Equipment



*Please see the Telehealth page on Board's website for information on appropriate uses.

**PA services may only be supplied under the direct supervision of a physician.

TREATMENT BY RESIDENT AND FELLOW PHYSICIANS

- The Chair adopted subdivision (e) of Section 329-1.3 of Title 12 of the NYCRR to implement NYS law regarding services provided by residents and fellows under the supervision of a New York State Workers' Compensation Board-authorized physician. The regulation establishes billing procedures for these services.
- Residents/fellows must be part of an ACGME* training program and be under the supervision of a Board-authorized physician, billable at full physician rates per the *Official New York Workers' Compensation Fee Schedule (Fee Schedule)*



*Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)



Expanding Access for the Future



[illegible]

UNIVERSAL AUTHORIZATION



- Any eligible primary health care provider can treat their patients with work-related injuries or illnesses and refer to any eligible specialist of their choice.
- Patients can stay with their familiar and trusted provider networks.
- The Board will provide short/simple training modules and have staff available to help health care providers.



Medical Fee Schedule & Other Improvements





MEDICAL FEE SCHEDULE: UPDATES

The Board is updating fee schedules to make workers' compensation more competitive than ever.



- A proposal to update the *Official New York Workers' Compensation Medical Fee Schedule (Medical Fee Schedule)* was published in the September 2, 2026, edition of the State Register.



- *Official New York Workers' Compensation Dental Fee Schedule (Dental Fee Schedule)* was updated and became effective November 13, 2025, and can be found in the November 12, 2025, edition of the State Register.

MEDICAL FEE SCHEDULE: WHAT'S CHANGING

- The list of Common Procedural Technology (CPT) codes has been updated in the *Medical Fee Schedules*.
- The proposed regulation includes a significant increase in the reimbursement for nine evaluation and management (E&M) codes and includes both initial and follow-up clinic visits.
- The fee increases make payments for those clinic visits comparable to private insurance and significantly greater than Medicare payments.





MEDICAL FEE SCHEDULE: MORE INFO ON WEBSITE

The Board maintains an updated Medical Fee Schedule webpage, which provides the latest news about Medical Fee Schedules, links to view and/or purchase them, and more.

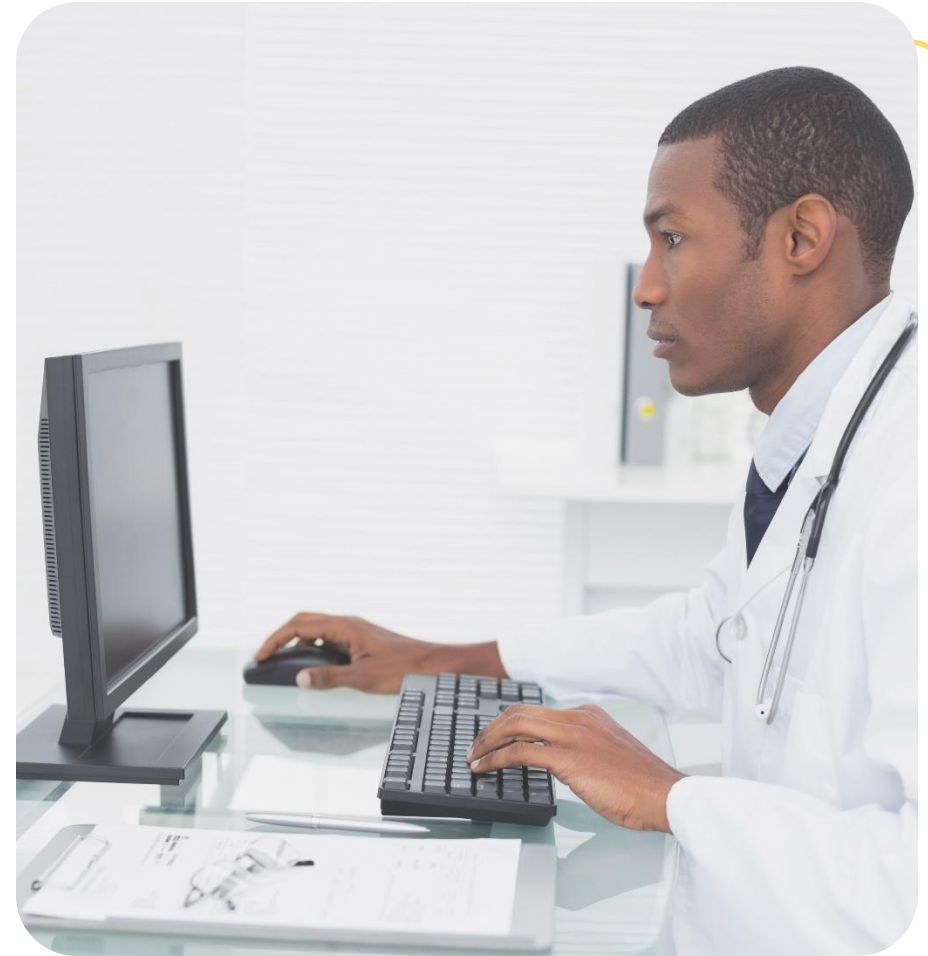
wcb.ny.gov/feeschedules

The screenshot shows the 'Medical Fee Schedules' page on the Workers' Compensation Board website. The page has a teal header with the board's name and navigation links. A yellow banner below the header states 'CMS-1500 electronic submission is now mandatory'. The main content area is divided into a left sidebar with a 'SECTIONS' menu and a main content area. The sidebar menu includes 'Overview', 'Latest news', 'Fee schedules', 'How to purchase', 'Where to view', and 'Additional resources'. The main content area features an 'Overview' section, a 'Latest news' section with two bullet points about fee schedule amendments, and an 'Official New York Workers' Compensation Fee Schedules' section. This section includes a table listing various fee schedules and how they can be accessed.

Fee schedule	How to access
Acupuncture and Physical & Occupational Therapy	May purchase from RefMed or view in person at the locations listed in the Where to view section of this page.
Ambulatory Surgery	See Workers' Compensation Enhanced Ambulatory Patient Group (EAPG) Fee Schedules
Behavioral Health	May purchase from RefMed or view in person at the locations listed in the Where to view section of this page.

PROVIDER IMPROVEMENTS: MEDICAL BILLING

- *CMS-1500* – Elimination of 12 Board-specific forms
 - Electronic submission
 - Cost offset
- OnBoard submission of requests to review medical billing disputes process — *Request for Decision on Unpaid Medical Bill(s) (Form HP-1.0)*
 - Disputes now resolved within 2-3 months on average



PROVIDER IMPROVEMENTS: PARs THROUGH ONBOARD

- Online submission for **all** medical prior authorization requests (PARs)
 - **Over 75 PAR** process enhancements since May 2022 rollout
 - To date: **3,500,000+ PARs** handled
 - **90%** without escalation to MDO
 - Fewer than **1%** needed a hearing
 - **95%** of medication, DME, Special Services, and mental health PARs resolved within one day, with the remaining 5% resolved within two days
 - Authorization is significantly **expedited** compared to prior paper requests
- Ability to use delegates to perform most actions





PROVIDER IMPROVEMENTS: DEPOSITIONS REGULATION

- Fees for depositions increased
- The billing process has been streamlined:
 - Upon completion of testimony, payments are automatic. Payers do not need to wait for the Workers' Compensation Law Judge's (WCLJ's) order
 - Billing disputes are through the **HP-1** process
 - The provider does not need to submit a bill for the deposition fee



PROVIDER IMPROVEMENTS: INFO & EDUCATION

- Website enhancements
 - Discipline-specific webpages
 - Medical billing disputes webpage with arbitration scenarios
 - Provider toolkit
- Regular webinars, education opportunities





Medical Treatment Guidelines





UPDATES COMING SOON: MTGs

- Reconvening the Medical Advisory Committee (MAC)
- Will be updating the *New York Workers' Compensation Drug Formulary (Drug Formulary)* and the Workers' Compensation Board's *New York Medical Treatment Guidelines (MTGs)* based on:
 - Age of the *MTG*
 - Frequency of the underlying pathology
 - Recent medical developments within the *MTG*
 - Input from the MAC



NEW DETAILS: MTGs

■ How are the *MTGs* developed?

■ Reconvening the MAC

- Three physicians designated by “labor” and by “business”
- Three physicians designated by the Board
 - e.g., from MSSNY, NYSSOS, NYSOHCN
- SMEs for specific body parts or conditions



■ *MTG* Development

- Board compares current *MTG* to updated/national/evidenced-based *MTG*
 - SMEs preview, comment, edit, then full MAC reviews
 - Public review and comment; revise if necessary



Updated MTGs mean fewer PAR controversies, lower frictional costs for health care providers/payers/employers, and FASTER CARE!



Health Care Provider Resources





MAKING THE BOARD BETTER FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

As we continue to implement improvements for health care providers, we're committed to:



**INCREASED
COMMUNICATION**

**REGULAR
ENGAGEMENT**



WEBSITE RESOURCES

Workers' Compensation Board

[Workers](#) [Employers](#) [Providers](#) [Payers](#) [Representatives](#) [About the Board](#) [Forms](#) [eForms](#) [Paid Family Leave](#) [↗](#)

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LOG IN

Search WCB

Governor Hochul's legislation to increase injured workers' access to medical care has been enacted in the NYS Budget. [Learn more!](#)
Reminder: [CMS-1500](#) electronic submission is mandatory.

Health Care Providers

CMS-1500 mandatory electronic submission took effect August 1, 2025.

[CMS-1500 MANDATE](#) → [PROVIDER TOOLKIT](#) →



Popular Services



HEALTH CARE PROVIDER AND IME SEARCH



MEDICAL PORTAL



CMS-1500



ONBOARD



PROVIDER UPDATES



FUNDAMENTALS FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

- **Fundamentals for Health Care Providers** page offers brief, introductory primers on several topics, including:
 - *MTGs*
 - *Drug Formulary*
 - *OnBoard*
 - *Official New York Workers' Compensation Fee Schedules*
 - *Impairment Guidelines*
- Also includes a section on understanding your obligations as a Board-authorized health care provider

Sections

Overview

Training

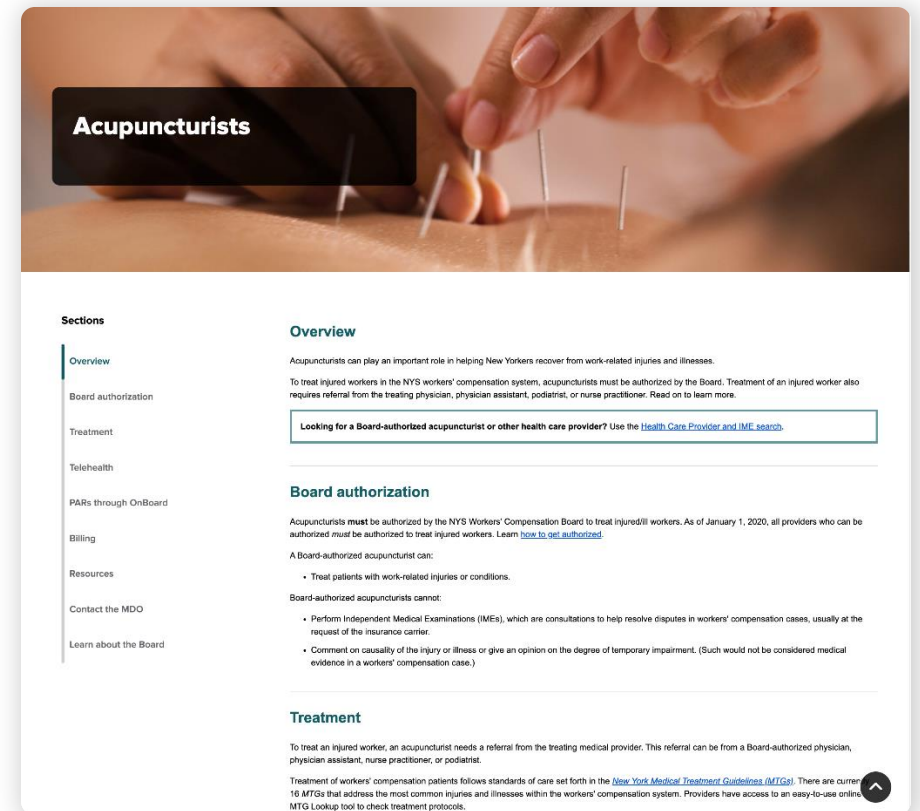
Understanding your obligations

Related pages

Contact

DISCIPLINE-SPECIFIC WEB PAGES

- Gives providers and other stakeholders discipline-specific information on topics such as:
 - Board authorization requirements and scope of practice
 - Treatment standards under the *MTGs*
 - Telehealth rules and required in-person visit intervals, where applicable
 - PARs submitted/tracked through OnBoard
 - Billing requirements, including information about the *CMS-1500* form
 - Direct links to training, webinars, and additional health care provider resources





EFFICIENCY ENHANCEMENTS

- Efficiency enhancement notifications are issued quarterly
- They contain updates, guidance, and reminders
- Visit **wcb.ny.gov** and select “Get WCB Notifications”



efficiency enhancements
BEST PRACTICES FROM THE BOARD

Health Care Efficiencies

Issue 3

MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

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 wcb.ny.gov (“Get WCB Notifications”)



THANK YOU

