

The primary goal of the Policy Research Section is to use all available data and information sources to enhance policy decision making within the Division of Workers' Compensation. The section consists of two units, Medical Policy and Research and Statistics.

## MEDICAL POLICY UNIT

The Medical Policy Unit (formerly Medical Cost Containment) works to ensure quality health care to injured workers while controlling medical and disability costs to employers. The unit:

- ◆ Develops and updates medical treatment guidelines in consultation with the Medical Director, medical researchers and multidisciplinary medical task force members.
- ◆ Develops and updates the medical fee schedule in consultation with insurers, business representatives, and workers' compensation service providers.
- ◆ Facilitates participation of the Medical Care Advisory Committee in its recommendations to the Director regarding the medical treatment guidelines and the medical fee schedule.
- ◆ Clarifies Division policies and procedures concerning health care billing, utilization and review practices and medical treatment guidelines.

- ◆ Monitors federal and state health care legislation to determine its impact on Colorado's workers' compensation system.
- ◆ Facilitates dialogue between insurers and medical providers regarding billing disputes.
- ◆ Provides physicians with training on medical treatment guidelines and the medical fee schedule through the Physicians Accreditation Program.
- ◆ Participates actively with national industry associations promoting the interests of workers' compensation systems and services to benefit employers and injured workers.



## RESEARCH AND STATISTICS UNIT

The Research and Statistics Unit works to produce quality information products and services for the Division and its customers. The unit:

- ◆ Produces an annual report on work-related injuries in Colorado that has been published since 1994.
- ◆ Writes research reports for management and the Legislature.
- ◆ Writes ad-hoc reports on a wide range of workers' compensation topics for a variety of customers including attorneys, employers, insurance carriers, students, local news organizations, and other state workers' compensation agencies.
- ◆ Develops and implements procedures aimed at improving the quality of the Division's database.
- ◆ Advises and assists other units in the Division on research projects.

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Department of Labor and Employment

**DIVISION OF WORKERS'  
COMPENSATION**



**Policy Research  
Section**

**Medical Policy  
and  
Research and Statistics**