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Commissioner's Bulletin # B-0004-21

January 29, 2021

To: All Texas workers' compensation system participants

Re: Coronavirus (COVID-19) - authorizing pharmacy prescriptions and resuming medical billing timelines

On March 13, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott declared COVID-19 a statewide public health disaster. In response to this declaration and the impact COVID-19 was having on the workers' compensation system, on March 25, 2020, the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation issued Commissioner's [Bulletin # B-0010-20](#). The bulletin required insurance carriers to authorize payments to pharmacies for up to a 90-day supply of any prescription medication and tolled (paused) medical billing deadlines.

These specific requirements are no longer necessary, and the 90-day prescription requirement and the tolling of medical billing deadlines will be lifted **effective March 1, 2021**.

The effect of lifting the tolling period means that the "clock" for submitting a medical bill will resume "ticking" on the effective date the tolling period is lifted.

For example, if a medical service was provided on April 1, 2020, the 95-day billing deadline would begin to run on March 1, 2021, the day the tolling period will be lifted.

The result of lifting the 90-day prescription requirement means that effective March 1, 2021, insurance carriers are no longer required to pay for up to a 90-day supply for any prescription medication refill dispensed after this date, regardless of the date the prescription was most recently filled.

This bulletin supersedes the requirements in Commissioner's [Bulletin #B-0010-20](#) related to those requirements for authorizing pharmacy prescriptions and medical billing timelines.

For more information, please use the contact information below.

Health care providers

CompConnection@tdi.texas.gov

800-252-7031, Option 3

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution

MDRIquiry@tdi.texas.gov

800-252-7031, Option 3

Claims and Customer Service

800-252-7031, Option 1

Cassie Brown

Commissioner of Workers' Compensation

Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation

For more information, contact: Accessibility@tdi.texas.gov

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