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State of California

DWCNewsline

Division of Workers' Compensation

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Division of Workers' Compensation pharmaceutical pricing calculator and file downloads are now repaired

The Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC), in cooperation with the Department of Health Care Services and Hewlett-Packard company (HP), which maintains the Medi-Cal drug pricing database, has corrected a database file download error. The corrected [calculator](#), the first corrected database file for download, and instructions have now been posted on [the](#) DWC's Web site.

As of today, the calculator now returns the correct price for a "Dispensed as Written" (DAW or "no substitutions") prescription. Reimbursement rates for pharmaceuticals in workers' compensation have been tied to Medi-Cal's pricing scheme pursuant to Labor Code section 5307.1 (a). Since 2004, the Department of Health Care Services has sent its drug-pricing data to DWC in the form of a large database file, which has been used to publish the DWC calculator of drug prices for workers' compensation. DWC has merely published the portion of the Medi-Cal database it receives, and the calculator accesses the data base directly. Volume users are able to download the entire data set from DWC.

In December 2010, the Medi-Cal database changed, so that the pricing database field which originally reported the workers' compensation "Dispensed as Written" (DAW or "no substitutions") price (for a drug for which a cheaper substitute was available) no longer contained this information. The database displayed a "zero" amount for many of the most recent dates of service (the date of service varying with the drug in question). The calculator on DWC's Web site returned a "zero" base price for those drugs. When DWC became aware of the problem, the Web site calculator was disabled from returning a price. However, the database continued to be downloaded so that those who downloaded the database still received incorrect pricing for many drugs.

Pharmacy providers can use the updated information to re-bill prescriptions for which they were underpaid or not paid during the time that the DWC Web site had inaccurate information for DAW prescriptions.

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