



ATTORNEYS AT LAW



Trenier Wright
Senior Attorney

Trenier Wright is currently a Senior Attorney in Homan & Stone Workers' Compensation Department. His practice is 100% devoted to Workers' Compensation cases, and he regularly appears at the Workers' Compensation Appeals Boards. Mr. Wright represents Self-Insured Employers, Public Entities, and Insurance Companies, and Third Party Administrators, both regional and national, relating to Workers' Compensation, including the defense of Labor Code Section 132a Claims and Serious and Willful Misconduct Claims.

EVENTS



RIMS ANNUAL
CONFERENCE AND
EXHIBITION

Date:
April 21-24
Location:
Los Angeles Convention
Center
1201 South Figueroa Street |
Los Angeles, CA 90015

CALIFORNIA'S 2012 WORKERS COMP REFORMS SEE MIXED RESULTS: STUDY

Published 2.25.13



(Photo courtesy of Google)

(In a news release, California Insurance Commissioner, Dave Jones, has recommended that workers' compensation rates in California increase slightly. Mr. Jones suggests that insurers should raise their pure premium rates for 2013 by a modest 2.8%)

California's workers compensation reforms adopted in 2012 could increase the price paid for primary medical care but decrease the price paid for specialty medical services, according to a Workers Compensation Research Institute report.

The reforms also may lead to more timely medical treatments for injured workers, faster dispute resolution and lower medical-legal expenses, among other changes, according to the Wednesday report intended to set a baseline to evaluate California's reforms.

To that end, the Cambridge, Mass.-based WCRI studied how California compared with 15 other states before adopting S.B. 863 last year.

"Medical payments per claim in the state were fairly typical, masking several offsetting factors," WCRI said in the report. "Prices paid were lower than in the typical study state, while utilization of nonhospital services was higher. Hospital outpatient/ambulatory surgical center costs in California were lower than in many study states.

There was also more frequent use of chiropractic care and services from physical therapists."

WCRI also found that injured worker medical care costs in California grew rapidly from 2005 to 2010 following a decrease of more than 30% from 2002 to 2004. The decreases were due to a prior round of California workers comp reforms..

DIVISION OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION POSTS UPDATED FACT SHEETS FOR INJURED WORKERS

<http://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/iwguides.html>

The Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) has posted updated fact sheets for injured workers on its website. The updated fact sheets provide injured workers with answers to frequently asked questions about issues affecting their benefits, and include changes mandated by Senate Bill 863.

"The fact sheets help injured workers and other parties understand the sometimes complicated process of workers' compensation," said DWC acting Administrative Director Destie Overpeck. "We have updated the fact sheets to reflect the changes made by SB 863."

The fact sheets cover such topics as temporary disability benefits, permanent disability benefits, supplemental job displacement benefits, and medical care. They are available to employers and insurers who are required to comply with benefit notice regulations.

The updated fact sheets are available for immediate use in English and Spanish.

For further reading visit www.Homan-Stone.com