

From: Katharine Rathbun [<mailto:dr-kate@dr-kate.com>]
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2011 11:22 AM
To: 'Gary Patureau'; 'Robert L. Marier, MD'; KRathbun@LWCC.COM; 'Malcolm Broussard'
Cc: pbuffone@lwcc.com; lcolvin@lwcc.com
Subject: RE: Workgroup on Electronic Prescribing

Gentlemen;

Since I am representing LWCC on the committee, I spoke to Paul Buffone, VP for Risk Management Services at LWCC, about the issue of patient choice of pharmacy. He and I are agreed that any report from the committee should include an exemption for Worker's Compensation from patient or physician choice of pharmacy, if patient choice is included in the committee report.

The Office of Workers' Compensation Administration of the Louisiana Department of Labor has recently promulgated regulations establishing the Louisiana Medical Treatment Guidelines. These Guidelines include medication utilization review for workers' comp which will include medications. OWCA also has a task force working on changes that affect the program, including a possible formulary or other UR process governing dispensing medications to injured workers. All of this work is being done in compliance with new statutes governing workers' comp that are in line with their requirements.

Freedom of choice of pharmacy by the patient or physician has many pitfalls for the Louisiana healthcare system in general. As we discussed in the first meeting, it interferes with formulary systems and increases the cost to the system in general. If a recommendation is made to give injured workers choice of pharmacy in the system, it would be a complete change in the current system, and will be in direct conflict with the current laws governing the operations of the Louisiana OWCA.

I will be unable to participate in a conference call as suggested by Mr. Patureau, but I would be happy to discuss my concerns with the members of the committee when the preliminary report has been drafted. I intend to be at the second meeting, and will be happy to provide some insight on the possible conflicts with the workers' comp system.

Thank you.

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