

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND BUSINESS SERVICES
WORKERS' COMPENSATION DIVISION



**Preferred Worker Program
Oregon Administrative Rules
Chapter 436, Division 110**

Effective July 1, 2008

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NOTE: Significant revisions are marked with vertical lines in the right margins.

HISTORY LINES: These rules include only the most recent “History” lines. A rule's history line shows when the rule was last revised and its effective date. To obtain a "Chapter 436 revision history index," please call the Workers’ Compensation Division, (503) 947-7627, or visit the division’s Web site: <http://www.wcd.oregon.gov/policy/rules/history.html>

**BEFORE THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND BUSINESS SERVICES
WORKERS' COMPENSATION DIVISION**

In the Matter of the Amendment of Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR):)	ORDER OF ADOPTION No. 08-058
)	
436-110, Preferred Worker Program)	
)	

The Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, under the general rulemaking authority in ORS 656.726(4), and in accordance with the procedure provided by ORS 183.335, amends OAR chapter 436, division 110, "Preferred Worker Program."

On April 10, 2008, the Workers' Compensation Division filed with the Secretary of State a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Hearing* and *Statement of Need and Fiscal Impact*. The division mailed copies of the *Notice* and *Statement* to interested persons and legislators in accordance with ORS 183.335 and OAR 436-001-0009, and posted copies to its Web site. The Secretary of State included notice of the public hearing in its May 2008 *Oregon Bulletin*.

On May 19, 2008, a public hearing was held as announced. In addition, the record was held open for written testimony through May 22, 2008. Public testimony is on file and available for public inspection upon request during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, in the Administrator's Office, Workers' Compensation Division, Labor & Industries Building, 350 Winter Street NE, PO Box 14480, Salem, Oregon 97309-0405.

RULE SUMMARY

Revised rules:

- Allow issuance of a Preferred Worker card to a worker determined eligible before claim closure, even if the worker does not have available, immediate employment (436-110-0320)
- Provide additional time for insurers to request claim cost reimbursement (from the Workers' Benefit Fund) if an employer informs an insurer about an injury to a preferred worker after the existing reimbursement deadlines have passed (436-110-0330)

FINDINGS

Having reviewed and considered the record and being fully informed, I make the following findings:

- a) The applicable rulemaking procedures have been followed.
- b) These rules are within the director's authority.
- c) The rules being adopted are a reasonable administrative interpretation of the statutes and are required to carry out statutory responsibilities.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT

- 1) Amendments to OAR chapter 436, as set forth in Exhibit "A", are attached, incorporated by reference, and **adopted on this 12th day of June 2008, to be effective July 1, 2008.**

Order of Adoption
OAR 436-110

- 2) A certified copy of the adopted rules will be filed with the Secretary of State.
- 3) A copy of the amended rules with revision marks will be filed with the Legislative Counsel under ORS 183.715 within ten days after filing with the Secretary of State.

DATED this 12th day of June 2008.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER
AND BUSINESS SERVICES

/s/ John L. Shilts

John L. Shilts, Administrator
Workers' Compensation Division

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines, alternative format copies of the rules will be made available to qualified individuals upon request.

If you have questions about these rules or need them in an alternate format, contact the Workers' Compensation Division at (503) 947-7810.

Distribution: WCD-ID, S0, S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6, S7, S8, ML, ME

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**EXHIBIT "A"
OREGON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES
CHAPTER 436, DIVISION 110**

436-110-0001 Authority for Rules

The director has adopted OAR Chapter 436, Division 110 under authority of ORS 656.622 and 656.726.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.622, 656.726(4)
Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.622
Hist: Amended 8/14/01 as WCD Admin. Order 01-056, eff. 10/1/01

436-110-0002 Purpose of Rules

(1) These rules explain what assistance and reimbursements are available from the Preferred Worker Program, who is qualified, and how to receive assistance and reimbursements.

(2) The Preferred Worker Program encourages the reemployment of workers whose on-the-job injuries result in disability which may be a substantial obstacle to employment by providing assistance from the Workers' Benefit Fund to eligible injured workers and to the employers who employ them.

(3) The Preferred Worker Program is a worker and employer-at-injury -activated program.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.622, 656.726(4)
Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.622
Hist: Amended 12/5/05 as WCD Admin. Order 05-079, eff. 1/1/06

436-110-0003 Applicability of Rules

(1) These rules apply to all requests for Preferred Worker Program reemployment assistance received by the division on or after the effective date of these rules.

(2) Applicable to this chapter, the director may, unless otherwise obligated by statute, in the director's discretion waive any procedural rules as justice so requires.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.622, 656.726(4)
Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.622
Hist: Amended 11/1/07 as WCD Admin. Order 07-066, eff. 12/1/07

436-110-0005 Definitions

For the purpose of these rules, unless the context requires otherwise:

(1) "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Workers' Compensation Division, or the administrator's delegate for the matter.

(2) "Client" means a person to whom workers are provided under contract and for a fee on a temporary or leased basis.

(3) "Date of hire" means the date the worker started work for the employer in the job for which benefits are requested.

(4) "Director" means the Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, or the director's delegate for the matter.

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(5) "Disability" means permanent physical or mental restriction(s) or limitation(s) caused by an accepted disabling Oregon workers' compensation claim which limits the worker from performing one or more of the worker's regular job duties.

(6) "Division" means the Workers' Compensation Division of the Department of Consumer and Business Services.

(7) "Division approval" means a Preferred Worker agreement signed by an authorized division representative.

(8) "Employer at injury" means the organization in whose employ the worker sustained the injury or occupational disease.

(9) "Exceptional disability" means a disability equal to or greater than the complete loss, or loss of use, of both legs. Exceptional disability also includes brain injury which results in impairment equal to or greater than a Class III as defined in OAR 436-035. The division will determine whether a worker has an exceptional disability based upon the combined effects of all of the worker's Oregon compensable injuries resulting in permanent disability.

(10) "Fund" means the Workers' Benefit Fund.

(11) "Insurer" means the insurance company or self-insured employer responsible for the workers' compensation claim.

(12) "Premium" means premium which results from a calculation which takes payroll multiplied by applicable rates of the employer's individual insurer multiplied by the employer's experience rating modification less any discounts, assessments, surcharges, or taxes.

(13) "Regular employment" means the job the worker held at the time of the injury, claim for aggravation, or own motion opening.

(14) "Reimbursable wages" means the gross taxable wages paid a worker for services performed.

(15) "Worksite" means a primary work area which is in Oregon, already constructed and available for a worker to use to perform the required job duties. The worksite may be the employer's, worker's, or worker leasing company's client's premises, property, and equipment used to conduct business under the employer's or client's direction and control. A worksite may include a worker's personal property or vehicle if required to perform the job. If the "worksite" is mobile, it must be available in Oregon for inspection and modification.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.622, 656.726(4)

Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.622

Hist: Amended 11/1/07 as WCD Admin. Order 07-066, eff. 12/1/07

436-110-0006 Administration of Rules

(1) Orders issued by the division to enforce ORS 656.622 or these rules are orders of the director.

(2) The department maintains the financial integrity of the fund and all reimbursement is subject to the availability of funds. If the funds are too low for all reimbursements, the director has final authority to determine how the funds will be disbursed.

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(3) The director may use moneys from the fund for activities to provide information about and encourage reemployment of injured workers. A maximum of \$250,000 may be used in a fiscal year, July 1 to June 30. The director must approve all expenditures. Activities include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Advertisements and promotion of reemployment assistance programs and associated production costs; and
- (b) Public reemployment assistance program conferences and workshops.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.622, 656.726(4)
Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.622
Hist: Amended 8/14/01 as WCD Admin. Order 01-056, eff. 10/1/01

436-110-0007 Reconsideration/Appeal to the Director

(1) The division will deny any request for Preferred Worker Program assistance it finds is in violation of these rules. The division has the discretion to deny a request it determines is not reasonable, practical, or feasible, or considers an abuse of the program.

(2) Parties directly affected by a division reemployment assistance decision may request a reconsideration by sending a written request for reconsideration to the administrator no later than 60 days after the date the decision is issued. Facsimiles that are legible and complete are acceptable and will be processed the same as originals. Reconsideration must precede a director's review.

(3) The request for reconsideration must specify the reasons why the decision is appealed. No reconsideration will be granted unless the request meets the requirements of this subsection.

(4) The division will reconsider the decision prior to a director's review and will notify all affected parties of its decision upon reconsideration.

(5) If, upon reconsideration, the division upholds the original decision, the director's review will begin.

(6) The director may require any affected party to provide information or to participate in the director's review. If the party requesting the director's review fails to participate without reasonable cause as determined by the director, the director may dismiss the review.

(7) The director's review decision will be issued in writing. The director's review decision is final and not subject to further review by any court or other administrative body.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.622, 656.726(4)
Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.622
Hist: Amended 11/1/07 as WCD Admin. Order 07-066, eff. 12/1/07

436-110-0240 Insurer Participation in the Preferred Worker Program

(1) The insurer of the employer at injury must be an active participant in providing reemployment assistance. Participation includes issuing notices of the assistance available from the Preferred Worker Program.

(2) The insurer must notify the worker and employer at injury in writing of the reemployment assistance available from the fund. A notice must be issued:

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(a) Within five days of a worker's release for work after the worker has been declared medically stationary by the attending physician;

(b) Upon determination of eligibility or ineligibility of the worker for vocational assistance under OAR 436-120; and

(c) Upon approval of a Claim Disposition Agreement.

(3) Pursuant to section (2) of this rule, the Notice to the Worker must appear in bold type and contain the following language:

The Preferred Worker Program helps Oregon's injured workers get back to work. To find out whether you qualify, contact the Preferred Worker Program at one of the telephone numbers, fax numbers, or addresses listed below.

For the Salem office call: (503) 947-7588, 1-800-445-3948, or FAX (503) 947-7581.

For the Medford office call: (541) 776-6032, 1-800-696-7161, or FAX (541) 776-6022.

Or write the Preferred Worker Program at: 350 Winter Street NE, P.O. Box 14480, Salem, Oregon 97309-0405; or 1840 Barnett Road, Suite C, Medford, Oregon 97504-8293.

(4) Under section (2) of this rule, the Notice to the Employer must appear in bold type and contain the following language:

If your worker is unable to return to regular work because of injury-caused limitations, you may be eligible for the Preferred Worker Program incentives including Premium Exemption, Claim Cost Reimbursement, Wage Subsidy, and Worksite Modification, which you may use to re-employ your worker. You must request Preferred Worker Program assistance from the Workers' Compensation Division within 180 days of the worker's claim closure date. To find out about the Preferred Worker Program, contact the program at one of the telephone numbers, fax numbers, or addresses listed below.

For the Salem office call: (503) 947-7588, 1-800-445-3948, or FAX (503) 947-7581.

For the Medford office call: (541) 776-6032, 1-800-696-7161, or FAX (541) 776-6022.

Or write the Preferred Worker Program at: 350 Winter Street NE, P.O. Box 14480, Salem, Oregon 97309-0405; or 1840 Barnett Road, Suite C, Medford, Oregon 97504-8293.

(5) The insurer must provide the division with Preferred Worker information in the form and format the director prescribes in OAR 436-030, upon the following:

(a) Claim closure according to ORS 656.268;

(b) Within 30 calendar days from the insurer's receipt of the earliest Opinion and Order of an Administrative Law Judge, Order on Reconsideration, Order on Review by the Board, decision of the Court of Appeals, or stipulation which grants initial permanent disability after the latest opening of the worker's claim; and

(c) Approval of a Claim Disposition Agreement according to ORS 656.236 and

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documented medical evidence indicates permanent disability exists as a result of the injury or disease, and the worker is unable to return to regular employment.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.340, 656.622, 656.726(4)
Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.340(1), (2), (3); 656.622; 656.726(4)
Hist: Amended 6/12/08 as WCD Admin. Order 08-058, eff. 7/1/08

436-110-0290 Employer at Injury Use of the Preferred Worker Program

The conditions for the employer at injury to activate the Preferred Worker Program include:

(1) The employer at injury must request Preferred Worker Program assistance from the division within 180 days of the worker's claim closure date, with the following exception. When Worksite Modifications are provided, and the modifications are completed and verified by the division more than 150 days after the worker's claim-closure date, the employer at injury will have 30 calendar days from the verification date to request other assistance.

(2) In calculating the 180-day period under this rule, the claim closure date will not be included, and if the 180th day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the next business day will be considered the end of the 180-day period.

(3) The worker must agree to accept the new or modified regular job in writing. The job offer must include:

- (a) The start date. If the job starts after the modifications are in place, so note;
- (b) Wage and hours;
- (c) Job site location; and
- (d) Description of job duties.

(4) If the employer at injury uses Worksite Modification assistance and the employer or worker later requests additional modifications for the same job, the employer's Worksite Modification benefit will be exhausted before using the worker's Worksite Modification benefits.

(5) All other provisions under OAR 436-110 apply unless otherwise indicated.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.726(4), 656.622
Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.622
Hist.: Amended 11/1/07 as WCD Admin. Order 07-066, eff. 12/1/07

436-110-0310 Eligibility and End of Eligibility for the Preferred Worker Program

(1) The eligibility requirements for an employer, except as provided in OAR 436-110-0345(1) for Employment Purchases, are:

- (a) The employer has and maintains Oregon workers' compensation insurance coverage;
- (b) The employer complies with the Oregon Workers' Compensation Law;
- (c) The employer must offer or provide employment to an eligible Preferred Worker who is a subject Oregon worker according to ORS 656.027;

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(d) If the employer is a worker leasing company, it must be licensed with the division;
and

(e) The employer is not currently ineligible for Preferred Worker benefits under OAR 436-110-0900.

(2) The eligibility requirements for a worker are:

(a) The worker has an accepted disabling Oregon compensable injury or occupational disease. Injuries covered by the Injured Inmate Law do not qualify;

(b) Because of injury-caused limitations, medical evidence indicates the worker will not be able to return to regular employment as defined in OAR 436-110-0005 under the most recent disabling claim or claim opening. If the worker is not eligible under the most recent disabling claim or claim opening, eligibility may be based on the most recent disabling claim closure where injury-caused permanent restrictions prevented the worker from return to regular employment;

(c) Medical documentation indicates permanent disability exists as a result of the injury or disease, whether or not an order has been issued awarding permanent disability; and

(d) The worker is authorized to work in the United States.

(3) A worker may not use Preferred Worker benefits for self-employment unless the injury which gave rise to the worker's eligibility for the Preferred Worker Program occurred in the course and scope of self-employment. In that case, the worker may use the benefits to return to the same self-employment or for employment other than self-employment.

(4) Reasons for ending Preferred Worker Program eligibility include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) Misrepresentation or omission of information by a worker or employer to obtain assistance;

(b) Failure of a worker or employer to provide requested information or cooperate;

(c) Falsification or alteration of a Preferred Worker card or a *Preferred Worker Program Agreement*;

(d) Conviction of fraud in obtaining workers' compensation benefits;

(e) The worker no longer meets the eligibility requirements under section (2) of this rule;

(f) The worker or employer is sanctioned from receiving reemployment assistance in accordance with OAR 436-110-0900;

(g) The employer does not maintain Oregon workers' compensation insurance coverage, except as provided in OAR 436-110-0345(1) for Employment Purchases;

(5) The division retains the right to reinstate Preferred Worker Program eligibility if eligibility was ended prematurely or in error, or the employer has reinstated or obtained workers' compensation insurance coverage.

(6) A worker found ineligible because he/she was not authorized to work in the United

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States may request a redetermination of eligibility after providing the division with documentation that he/she is authorized to work in the United States.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.622, 656.726(4)
Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.622
Hist: Amended 11/1/07 as WCD Admin. Order 07-066, eff. 12/1/07

436-110-0320 Preferred Worker Identification Card

(1) The division issues a Preferred Worker Identification card to eligible workers. The card identifies the worker as being eligible to offer an employer Preferred Worker Program assistance. If a Preferred Worker loses the card, the division will issue a replacement card.

(2) The division issues this card as follows:

(a) Automatically at the time of claim closure based upon insurer submission of Preferred Worker information as specified in OAR 436-110-0240(5);

(b) When the worker or their representative request a card, and the worker is eligible; or

(c) Any other time the division finds a worker eligible.

(3) The division may inactivate a Preferred Worker card if:

(a) The Preferred Worker card was issued in error; or

(b) Any reason for ending Preferred Worker Program eligibility as specified in OAR 436-110-0310(4) applies.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.622, 656.726(4)
Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.622
Hist: Amended 6/12/08 as WCD Admin. Order 08-058, eff. 7/1/08

436-110-0325 Premium Exemption General Provisions

(1) Premium Exemption begins automatically when an employer hires a Preferred Worker, and is in effect for 3 years from the date of hire as defined in OAR 436-110-0005(3).

(2) If a worker is not a Preferred Worker on the date of hire, the division will determine when the worker is eligible. Premium Exemption will be effective for 3 years from that eligibility date.

(3) Premium Exemption releases an employer from paying workers' compensation insurance premiums and premium assessments on a Preferred Worker during the time Premium Exemption is in effect. While actively using Premium Exemption, the employer does not report, and the insurer cannot use, the Preferred Worker's payroll for the calculation of insurance premiums or premium assessments. However, the employer is required to report and pay workers' compensation employer assessments and withhold employee contributions as required by OAR 436-070. The employer must start paying insurance premiums and premium assessments when Premium Exemption ends.

(4) If a worker covered under Premium Exemption incurs a compensable injury or occupational disease during the Premium Exemption period, the employer must notify its insurer of the injury. If the employer fails to note the Preferred Worker status when the Form 801 was filed with the insurer, the employer must notify the insurer as soon as possible that the injury or

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disease was incurred by a Preferred Worker.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.726(4), 656.622
Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.622
Hist.: Amended 11/1/07 as WCD Admin. Order 07-066, eff. 12/1/07

436-110-0330 Claim Cost Reimbursement

(1) Claim Cost Reimbursement provides reimbursement to the insurer for claim costs when a Preferred Worker files a claim for injury or occupational disease while employed under Premium Exemption as follows:

(a) Reimbursements will be made for the life of the claim;

(b) Reimbursable claim costs include disability benefits, medical benefits, vocational costs in accordance with OAR 436-120-0720, Claim Disposition Agreements in accordance with ORS 656.236, Disputed Claim Settlements in accordance with ORS 656.289, stipulations, as well as attorney fees awarded the worker or the worker's beneficiaries, and administrative costs;

(c) Reimbursable claims costs for denied claims include costs incurred up to the date of denial, but are limited to benefits the insurer is obligated to pay under ORS 656 and diagnostic tests, including independent medical examinations necessary to determine compensability of the claim;

(d) The administrative cost factor to be applied to claim costs will be as published in *Bulletin 316*; and

(e) The claim must not be used for ratemaking, individual employer rating, dividend calculations, or in any manner that would affect the employer's insurance premiums or premium assessments with the present or a future insurer. The insurer must be able to document that claim data will not affect the employer's rates or dividend.

(2) The insurer must request Claim Cost Reimbursement as follows:

(a) Requests for reimbursement must be made within one year of the quarter within which payment was made, or within six months following notification by the employer that a preferred worker incurred an injury or disease, whichever is later;

(b) Quarterly reimbursement requests must be in the format the director prescribes by bulletin; and

(c) Reimbursement documentation must include, but not be limited to:

(A) Net amounts paid. "Net amounts" means the total compensation paid less any recoveries including, but not limited to, third party recovery or reimbursement from the Retroactive Program, Reopened Claims Program, or the fund;

(B) Payment certification statement; and

(C) Any other information the division deems necessary.

(3) Requests for reimbursement must not include:

(a) Claim costs for any injury which did not occur while the worker was employed with Premium Exemption;

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- (b) Costs incurred for conditions completely unrelated to the compensable claim;
 - (c) Costs incurred due to inaccurate, untimely, unreasonable, or improper processing of the claim;
 - (d) Penalties, fines or filing fees;
 - (e) Disposition amounts in accordance with ORS 656.236 (CDA) and 656.289 (DCS) not previously approved by the division;
 - (f) Costs reimbursed or outstanding requests for reimbursement from the Reopened Claims Program, Retroactive Program, or the fund; or
 - (g) Reimbursable Employer-at-Injury Program costs.
- (4) Periodically, the division will audit the physical file of the insurer to validate the amount reimbursed. Reimbursed amounts must be refunded to the division and, as applicable, future reimbursements denied if, upon audit, any of the following is found to apply:
- (a) Reimbursement has been made for any of the items specified in section (3) of this rule;
 - (b) If claim acceptance as a new injury rather than an aggravation is questionable and the rationale for acceptance has not been reasonably documented;
 - (c) The separate payments of compensation have not been documented;
 - (d) The insurer included claim costs in any dividend or retrospective rating or experience rating calculations;
 - (e) The insurer is unable to provide applicable records relating to experience rating, retrospective rating, or dividend calculations at the time of audit or within 14 working days thereafter.
- (5) If the conditions described in subsections (4)(a) through (e) of this rule are corrected and all other criteria of the rules are met, eligibility for reimbursement may be reinstated. If reimbursement eligibility is reinstated, any moneys previously reimbursed and then recovered will be reimbursed again according to these rules.
- (6) If an employer fails to notify its insurer of the "Preferred Worker" status when the *Form 801* is submitted or fails to send its insurer a copy of the *Preferred Worker Identification Card*, and later notifies its insurer that the injury or disease was incurred by a Preferred Worker, the insurer must correct all records previously filed which include claim costs in any dividend, retrospective rating, or any claim valuation for experience rating performed.
- (7) A Claim Disposition Agreement according to ORS 656.236, a Disputed Claim Settlement according to ORS 656.289, or any stipulation or agreement of a claim subject to claim cost reimbursement from the fund must meet the following requirements for reimbursement:
- (a) The insurer must obtain prior written approval of the disposition from the division. The proposed disposition must be submitted to the division prior to submitting the disposition to the Workers' Compensation Board or administrative law judge for approval;

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(b) A claim's future liability and the proposed contribution from the fund must be a reasonable projection, as determined by the division, in order to be approved for reimbursement from the fund; and

(c) A request for approval of the proposed disposition must include:

(A) The original proposed disposition, containing appropriate signatures and appropriate signature lines for division and Workers' Compensation Board or administrative law judge approval, which specifies the proposed assistance from the fund;

(B) A written explanation of how the calculations for the amount of assistance from the fund were made; and

(C) Other information as required by the division.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.726(4), 656.622

Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.622

Hist.: Amended 11/1/07 as WCD Admin. Order 07-066, eff. 12/1/07

Amended 6/12/08 as WCD Admin. Order 08-058, eff. 7/1/08

436-110-0335 Wage Subsidy General Provisions

Wage Subsidy provides an employer with partial reimbursement of a worker's gross wages for a specified period. Wage Subsidy benefits are subject to the following conditions:

(1) The effective date of a Wage Subsidy is mutually agreed to by the division, employer, and worker if applicable;

(2) A Wage Subsidy is limited to a duration of 183 calendar days and a monthly reimbursement rate of 50 percent, except for a worker with an exceptional disability as defined in OAR 436-110-0005(9). For a worker with an exceptional disability, the Wage Subsidy duration is limited to 365 calendar days and a monthly reimbursement rate of 75 percent;

(3) A *Wage Subsidy Agreement* may be interrupted once for reasonable cause and extended to complete the *Wage Subsidy Agreement* on a whole workday basis. Reasonable cause includes, but is not limited to, personal or family illness, death in the worker's family, pregnancy of the worker or worker's spouse, a compensable injury to the worker, participation in an Employer-at-Injury Program, or layoff. A layoff must be a minimum of 10 consecutive work days. A period of time during which the employer is without workers' compensation insurance coverage is not "reasonable cause," and no extension will be granted;

(4) A Preferred Worker's pay structure must be the same as the pay structure for other workers employed in similar jobs by the employer;

(5) Wages subject to reimbursement must be within the prevailing wage range for that occupation. The prevailing wage range is determined by the following method:

(a) First, examine the wages paid by the employer for other workers doing the same job;

(b) If no other workers are doing the same job, a labor market survey of the local labor market may be conducted; and

(c) If the labor market survey does not support the wage rate requested, the division will determine the wage subject to reimbursement;

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(6) Preferred Worker Program Wage Subsidies may not be combined with a wage subsidy for a training plan under OAR 436-120;

(7) A worker-activated and employer at injury-activated wage subsidy can not be used for the same job with the employer at injury;

(8) If the worker's employer changes during the *Wage Subsidy Agreement* period due to a sale of the business, incorporation, or merger, the agreement can be transferred to the new employer by an addendum to the agreement approved by the division as long as the worker's job remains the same and the new employer is eligible under OAR 436-110-0310(1);

(9) A completed and signed *Wage Subsidy Reimbursement Request* form must be submitted to the division with a copy of the worker's payroll records. The payroll record must state the dates (daily or weekly), hours, wage rate, and the worker's gross wage. Payroll records must be a legible copy and compiled in accordance with generally accepted accounting procedures; and

(10) All requests for reimbursement must be made within one year of the *Wage Subsidy Agreement* end date.

(11) Wage Subsidy cannot be used for "regular employment" as defined in OAR 436-110-0005(13) unless the job has been modified to overcome the worker's injury-caused permanent restrictions.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.726(4), 656.622
Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.622
Hist: Amended 12/5/05 as WCD Admin. Order 05-079, eff. 1/1/06
Amended 11/1/07 as WCD Admin. Order 07-066, eff. 12/1/07

436-110-0336 Wage Subsidy – Employer at Injury Activated

Wage Subsidy is activated by the employer at injury as follows:

(1) The job must be within the worker's injury-caused restrictions. If a worksite modification is necessary to meet this requirement, Wage Subsidy will not be approved until the modification is complete, and verified by a representative of the division.

(2) The employer must complete and sign a Wage Subsidy Agreement, and send it to the division in the timeframes allowed in OAR 436-110-0290.

(3) The completed and signed job offer must accompany the request as required in OAR 436-110-0290(3), unless it was already submitted with another request.

(4) The employer at injury may use Wage Subsidy once during an eligibility period.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.726(4), 656.622
Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.622
Hist: Amended 11/1/07 as WCD Admin. Order 07-066, eff. 12/1/07

436-110-0337 Wage Subsidy – Worker Activated

A Wage Subsidy may be requested by a worker as follows:

(1) A *Wage Subsidy Agreement* must be completed and signed by the worker and employer and submitted to the division within three years of the date of hire.

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(2) A Preferred Worker may use Wage Subsidy twice, once each for two different jobs. The number of allowable uses will be restored if there is a subsequent claim closure, and the worker is unable to return to regular employment.

(3) If the employer at injury uses Wage Subsidy for a job, the worker cannot use Wage Subsidy for the same job.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.726(4), 656.622
Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.622
Hist: Amended 11/1/07 as WCD Admin. Order 07-066, eff. 12/1/07

436-110-0345 Employment Purchases – General Provisions

(1) An Employment Purchase is assistance necessary for a worker to find, accept, or retain employment. These purchases may be provided for a job with a non-subject employer in Oregon, as long as that employer complies with the appropriate workers' compensation law. Except as provided in subsection 2(h) of this rule, all purchases become the worker's property.

(2) Employment Purchases are limited to:

(a) Tuition, books, and fees for instruction provided by an educational entity accredited or licensed by an appropriate body in order to update existing skills or to meet the requirements of an obtained job. Maximum expenditure per use is \$1,000;

(b) Temporary lodging, meals, and mileage to attend instruction when overnight travel is required. The cost of meals, lodging, public transportation, and use of a personal vehicle will be reimbursed at the rate of reimbursement for State of Oregon classified employees as published in *Bulletin 112*. Lodging, meals, and mileage are limited to a combined period of one month, and the total maximum expenditure per use is \$500;

(c) Tools and equipment mandatory for employment. Purchases must not include items the worker possesses, duplicate Worksite Modification items, vehicles, or items needed for worksite creation. Maximum expenditure per use is \$2,500;

(d) Clothing required for the job. Maximum expenditure per use is \$400;

(e) Moving expenses for a job if the new worksite is in Oregon and more than 50 miles from the worker's primary residence. When the worker's permanent disability from the injury precludes the worker from commuting the required distance, moving expenses may be provided to move within 50 miles of the worker's primary residence or within the distance the worker commuted for work at claim opening. Moving expenses are limited to one use. Expenditure is limited to:

(A) The cost of moving household goods weighing not more than 10,000 pounds and reasonable costs of meals and lodging for the worker. The cost of meals, lodging, public transportation, and use of a personal vehicle will be paid at the rate of reimbursement for State of Oregon classified employees as published in *Bulletin 112*. Lodging and meals are limited to a maximum period of two weeks. Mileage for one personal vehicle is limited to a single one-way trip; and

(B) Rental allowance for the worker's primary residence limited to first month's rent as specified in the rental agreement, non-refundable deposit in an amount not to exceed the first

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month's rent, and a required credit check for that residence;

(f) Initiation fees, or back dues and one month's current dues, required by a labor union; and

(g) Occupational certification, licenses, and related testing costs, drug screen testing, physical examinations, or membership fees required for the job. Maximum expenditure is \$500.

(h) Worksite creation costs which are limited to equipment, furnishings or other things the employer needs to create a new job for the worker. All items purchased are the property of the employer. Maximum expenditure per use is \$5,000.

(i) Miscellaneous purchases which do not fit into subsections (a) through (h) of this section. This category may be used to help a worker to find, accept, or retain employment, but does not include a vehicle purchase. Finding employment is limited to necessary purchases to go to an interview in Oregon. This category can be used as often as necessary up to a maximum of \$2,500 per claim opening.

(j) Employment Purchases cannot be used for "regular employment" as defined in OAR 436-110-0005(13) unless the job has been modified to overcome the worker's injury-caused permanent restrictions.

(3) The person or entity that purchased the item(s) may request reimbursement by submitting to the division a legible copy of an invoice or receipt showing payment has been made for the item(s) purchased. Reimbursement will be made for only those items and costs approved and paid.

(4) Costs of Employment Purchases will be paid by reimbursement, by an *Authorization for Payment*, or by other instrument of payment approved by the director.

(5) The division will not purchase directly or otherwise assume responsibility for Employment Purchases.

(6) Reimbursed costs will not be charged by the insurer to the employer as claim costs or by any other means.

(7) All requests for reimbursement must be made within one year of the *Employment Purchase Agreement* end date.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.726(4), 656.622
Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.622
Hist.: Amended 11/1/07 as WCD Admin. Order 07-066, eff. 12/1/07

436-110-0346 Employment Purchases – Employer at Injury Activated

Conditions for use of Employment Purchases by the employer at injury are as follows:

(1) The employer must submit a completed *Employment Purchase Agreement* listing item(s) that are required of the worker to perform the job for which the worker is employed.

(2) The employer at injury may use each Employment Purchase category once.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.726(4), 656.622
Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.622
Hist.: Amended 11/1/07 as WCD Admin. Order 07-066, eff. 12/1/07

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436-110-0347 Employment Purchases – Worker Activated

Conditions for use of Employment Purchases by a worker are as follows:

(1) Except for moving expenses, and miscellaneous purchases needed to find a job, the worker and employer must submit a completed *Employment Purchase Agreement* listing item(s) that are required of the worker to perform the job.

(2) If Employment Purchases are to be used with a non-subject employer in Oregon, Premium Exemption is not activated.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in these rules, a Preferred Worker may use each Employment Purchase category twice, once each for two different jobs. The number of allowable uses will be restored if there is a subsequent claim closure, and the worker is unable to return to regular employment.

(4) A Preferred Worker may request Employment Purchases as follows:

(a) The worker must contact the division directly for assistance in receiving Employment Purchases. The worker may make the request prior to employment, but not more than three years after the date of hire.

(b) The *Employment Purchase Agreement* form must be completed and signed by the worker and employer and submitted to the division. If the request is for moving expenses, or the miscellaneous category, only the worker's signature is required.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.726(4), 656.622

Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.622

Hist: Amended 11/1/07 as WCD Admin. Order 07-066, eff. 12/1/07

436-110-0350 Worksite Modification – General Provisions

(1) Worksite Modification means altering a worksite in Oregon, or available for inspection and modification in Oregon, by purchasing, modifying, or supplementing equipment, or changing the work process, to enable a worker to work within the limitations imposed by compensable injuries or occupational diseases. Worksite Modification may also include the means to protect modifications purchased by the Preferred Worker Program in an amount not to exceed \$2,500.

(2) Conditions for the use of Worksite Modification assistance are as follows:

(a) Modifications will be provided to allow the worker to perform the job duties within the worker's injury-caused permanent limitations. In order to determine appropriate Worksite Modifications, the Reemployment Assistance Unit consultants have discretion to use reports by a medical service provider specific to the worker, specific documented "best practices" described by a medical service provider or authority, and their own professional judgment and experience;

(b) A job analysis which includes the duties and physical demands of the job before and after modification may be required to show how the modification will overcome the worker's limitations. The job analysis may be submitted to the attending physician for approval before the modification is performed;

(c) Modifications are limited to a maximum of \$25,000 for one job. A modification over \$25,000 may be provided if the worker has an exceptional disability as defined in OAR 436-110-

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0005(9);

(d) Modifications not to exceed \$1,000 may be provided which would reasonably be expected to prevent further injury or exacerbation of the worker's accepted condition. Appropriateness of this type of modification will be determined by a Reemployment Assistance Consultant based upon his or her professional judgment and experience, reports by a medical service provider specific to the worker, or specific documented "best practices" described by a medical service provider or authority. Costs of the modification(s) are included in the calculation of the total Worksite Modification costs;

(e) Modifications are limited to \$2,500 for on-the-job training under OAR 436-120 or other similar on-the-job training programs when the trainer is not the employer-at-injury. A modification will not be approved for any other type of training;

(f) Modifications limited to \$2,500 may be provided to protect the items approved in the *Worksite Modification Agreement* from theft, or damage from the weather. Insurance policy premiums will not be paid;

(g) When a vehicle is being modified, the vehicle owner must provide proof of ownership and insurance coverage. The worker must have a valid driver license;

(h) Rented or leased vehicles and other equipment will not be modified;

(i) Modifications must be reasonable, practical, and feasible, as determined by the division. ;

(j) When the division determines the appropriate form of modification and the worker or employer requests a form of modification equally appropriate but with a greater cost, upon division approval, funds equal to the cost of the form of modification identified by the division may be applied toward the cost of the modification desired by the worker or employer;

(k) A modification may include rental of tools, equipment, fixtures, or furnishings to determine the feasibility of a modification. It may also include consultative services necessary to determine the feasibility of a modification, or to recommend or design a Worksite Modification;

(l) Rental of Worksite Modification items and consultative services require division approval and are limited to a cost of up to \$3,500 each. The cost for rental of Worksite Modification items and consultative services does not apply toward the total cost of a Worksite Modification;

(m) Modification equipment will become the property of the employer, worker, or worker leasing company's client on the "end date" of a *Worksite Modification Agreement* or when the worker's employment ends, whichever occurs first. The division will determine ownership of Worksite Modification equipment prior to approving an agreement and has the final authority to assign property;

(n) The division may request a physical capacities evaluation, work tolerance screening, or review of a job analysis to quantify the worker's injury-caused permanent limitations. The cost of temporary lodging, meals, public transportation, and use of a personal vehicle necessary for a worker to participate in one or more of these required activities will be reimbursed at the rate of reimbursement for State of Oregon classified employees as published in *Bulletin 112*. The

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cost of the services described in this subsection does not apply toward the total cost of a Worksite Modification;

(o) If the property provided for the modification is damaged, in need of repair, or lost, the division will not repair or replace the property;

(p) The employer must not dispose of the property provided for the modification or reassign it to another worker while the worker is employed in work for which the modification is necessary or prior to the end of the agreement without division and worker approval. Failure to repair or replace the property, or inappropriate disposal or reassignment of the property, may result in sanctions under OAR 436-110-0900; and

(q) The worker must not dispose of the property provided for the modification while employed in work for which the modification is necessary or prior to the end of the agreement without division approval. Failure to repair or replace the property, or inappropriate disposal of the property, may result in sanctions under OAR 436-110-0900.

(3) A worker, employer or their representative may request Worksite Modification assistance.

(4) The person or entity that purchased the item(s) may request reimbursement by submitting to the division proof of payment for the items purchased. Reimbursement will be made for only those items and costs approved and paid; and

(5) Costs of approved Worksite Modifications are paid by reimbursement, an *Authorization for Payment*, or by other instrument of payment approved by the director.

(6) The division will not purchase directly or otherwise assume responsibility for Worksite Modifications.

(7) Reimbursed costs will not be charged by the insurer to the employer as claims costs or by any other means.

(8) A division Worksite Modification Consultant will determine if competitive quotes are required.

(9) All requests for reimbursement must be made within one year of the *Worksite Modification Agreement* end date.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.726(4), 656.622

Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.622

Hist: Amended 11/1/07 as WCD Admin. Order 07-066, eff. 12/1/07

436-110-0351 Worksite Modification – Employer at Injury Activated

Conditions for use of Worksite Modifications by the employer at injury are as follows:

(1) The employer at injury may use Worksite Modification assistance once for a job provided for their injured worker, or a second time if the worker changes to another job with the employer at injury within the timeframes allowed in OAR 436-110-0290(1).

(2) Modifications are limited to a maximum of \$25,000 on the claim which qualified the worker for assistance. A modification over \$25,000 may be provided if the worker has an exceptional disability as defined in OAR 436-110-0005(9).

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(3) The division must approve, by authorized signature, a completed and signed *Worksite Modification Agreement* prior to any reimbursement or *Authorization for Payment*.

(4) Modifications may be provided for requests received within 180 days from the worker's claim closure date. Additional modifications may be provided under an approved agreement by addendum for requests received within three years from the date the worker started work for the employer in employment for which the Worksite Modification request was made.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.726(4), 656.622
Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.622
Hist: Amended 11/1/07 as WCD Admin. Order 07-066, eff. 12/1/07

436-110-0352 Worksite Modification – Worker Activated

Conditions for use of Worksite Modification assistance by the worker are as follows:

(1) The division must approve, by authorized signature, a completed and signed *Worksite Modification Agreement* form, prior to any reimbursement or *Authorization for Payment*.

(2) Modifications may be provided for requests received within three years from the date of hire.

(3) A worker may use Worksite Modification assistance once with one employer and once with a second employer, or twice with the same employer if there is a job change. The number of allowable uses will be restored if there is a subsequent claim closure, and the worker is unable to return to regular employment.

(4) Modifications after June 30, 1990, are limited to a maximum of \$25,000 on the claim which qualified the worker for assistance. A modification over \$25,000 may be provided for a worker with an exceptional disability as defined in OAR 436-110-0005(9). This maximum is not reduced by the use of Worksite Modifications by the employer at injury.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.726(4), 656.622
Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.622

436-110-0850 Audits

(1) Insurers and employers are subject to periodic program and fiscal audits by the division. All reimbursements are subject to subsequent audits, and may be disallowed on any of the grounds set forth in these rules. Disallowed reimbursements may be recovered by the division directly or from future reimbursements by way of offset. If the division finds upon audit that procedures which led to disallowed reimbursements are still being used, the division may withhold further reimbursements until corrections satisfactory to the division are made.

(2) An insurer or employer must maintain claim records, notices, worker payroll records, reports, receipts, and documentation of payment supporting reemployment assistance costs for which reimbursement has been requested or expenditure by *Authorization for Payment* has been made. These records must be maintained for a period of three years after the last reimbursement request or expenditure by *Authorization for Payment*.

(3) The division reserves the right to visit the worksite to determine compliance with the agreement under which reemployment assistance has been provided.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.455, 656.622, 656.726(4), 731.475;
Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.455, 656.622, 731.475

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Hist: Amended 11/1/07 as WCD Admin. Order 07-066, eff. 12/1/07

436-110-0900 Sanctions

(1) Any person who knowingly makes any false statement or representation to the director or an employee of the director for the purpose of obtaining any benefit or payment from the Preferred Worker Program or who knowingly misrepresents the amount of a payroll, or knowingly submits a false payroll report, is subject to penalties under ORS 656.990.

(2) Reasons for the director to sanction an individual certified under OAR 436-120, a vocational assistance provider authorized under OAR 436-120, an agency of the State of Oregon, an insurer, an employer, or a Preferred Worker include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) Misrepresenting information in order to obtain reemployment assistance. Two examples of misrepresentation are:

(A) Changing a job description or job title where there are not corresponding job duty changes in order to obtain benefits; and

(B) Obtaining a worker's signature on incomplete, incorrect, or blank agreements or reimbursement requests;

(b) Making a serious error or omission which resulted in the division approving a *Preferred Worker Program Agreement*, issuing a Preferred Worker card, or reimbursing claim costs in error;

(c) Failing to abide by the terms and conditions of a *Preferred Worker Program Agreement*;

(d) Failing to abide by the provisions of these rules or ORS 656.990;

(e) Failing to return required receipts or invoices;

(f) Submitting false reimbursement requests or job analyses;

(g) Altering an *Authorization for Payment* form or purchasing unauthorized items; or

(h) Failing to return a Preferred Worker card if requested by the division.

(3) Sanctions by the director may include one or more of the following:

(a) Ordering the person being sanctioned to repay the department for reemployment assistance costs incurred, including the department's legal costs;

(b) Prohibiting the person being sanctioned from negotiating or arranging reemployment assistance for such period of time as the director deems appropriate;

(c) Decertifying an individual or vocational assistance provider under the authority of OAR 436-120;

(d) Ordering an employer or worker ineligible for reemployment assistance for a specific period of time; and

(e) Pursuing civil or criminal action against the party.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 656.622, 656.726(4);

Stats. Implemented: ORS 656.622, 656.990

Hist: Amended 5/24/05 as WCD Admin. Order 05-058, eff. 7/1/05

**Secretary of State
Certificate and Order for Filing
PERMANENT ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

I certify that the attached copies* are true, full and correct copies of the PERMANENT Rule(s) adopted on

June 12, 2008 by the
Date prior to or same as filing date

Department of Consumer and Business Services
Workers' Compensation Division
Agency and Division

OAR chapter 436
Administrative Rules Chapter No.

Fred Bruyns
Rules Coordinator

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to become effective July 1, 2008 Rulemaking Notice was published in the May 2008 *Oregon Bulletin*.**
Date upon filing or later Month and Year

Rules affecting workers' compensation insurance, claims processing, medical billing, and return-to-work assistance.

Not more than 15 words that reasonably identifies the subject matter of the agency's intended action.

RULEMAKING ACTION

List each rule number separately, 000-000-0000.

ADOPT: OAR 436-050-0025

AMEND: OAR:

436-001-0003	436-001-0252	436-009-0070	436-045-0003	436-050-0175	436-160-0330
436-001-0004	436-001-0265	436-009-0090	436-050-0002	436-050-0190	436-160-0340
436-001-0005	436-001-0296	436-015-0005	436-050-0003	436-050-0200	436-160-0350
436-001-0009	436-001-0300	436-015-0009	436-050-0005	436-050-0210	436-160-0360
436-001-0019	436-009-0004	436-015-0010	436-050-0008	436-050-0220	436-160-0410
436-001-0023	436-009-0008	436-015-0020	436-050-0045	436-110-0240	436-160-0430
436-001-0027	436-009-0010	436-015-0030	436-050-0050	436-110-0320	
436-001-0030	436-009-0015	436-015-0040	436-050-0100	436-110-0330	
436-001-0170	436-009-0020	436-015-0110	436-050-0110	436-160-0020	
436-001-0240	436-009-0030	436-030-0003	436-050-0120	436-160-0070	
436-001-0246	436-009-0040	436-040-0003	436-050-0170	436-160-0090	

REPEAL: OAR 436-040-0100

ORS 656.726(4)
Statutory Authority

Other Authority

ORS chapter 656
Statutes being Implemented

RULE SUMMARY

Amendments to OAR 436-001, "Procedural Rules for Rulemaking and Hearings":

- Clarify the applicability of the rules (436-001-0003)
- Carry out ORS 183.335 by requiring notice to legislators about proposed rulemaking (436-001-0009)
- Clarify the requirements for and methods of requesting a hearing (436-001-0019)

Certificate and Order for Filing Permanent Administrative Rules

- Clarify that parties only need to provide supplemental exhibits to the director's representative if the director has filed an entry of appearance; clarify that all exhibits offered will be included in the hearing file whether or not they are admitted into the evidentiary record (436-001-0240)
- Clarify that written exceptions to a proposed and final order should include argument (436-001-0246)
- Provide that a party may request that director review be stayed if there is a pending matter concerning a claim that may make the matter within the director's jurisdiction moot (436-001-0252)
- Change the time frame for submitting a statement of services from seven days of the hearing date to any time before an order is issued (436-001-0265)
- Allow the ALJ to issue a proposed and final order dismissing the request for hearing if the parties resolve all issues within the director's jurisdiction via a settlement or agreement (436-001-0170 & 0296)

Amendments to OAR 436-009, "Oregon Medical Fee and Payment Rules":

- Adopt by reference updated medical fee schedules and resources for the payment of health care providers, except as otherwise provided in these rules (436-009-0004)
- Extend the time for an insurer to request that a health care provider refund an overpayment for a compensable medical service from 90 to 180 days from the payment date; if the provider fails to respond or disagrees that an overpayment occurred, the insurer may request review by the director within 90 days of requesting the refund (436-009-0008)
- Exclude lumbar artificial disc replacement from compensability except under specified conditions (436-009-0015)
- Remove electronic data interchange medical reporting requirements in Appendix B, because OAR 436-160 includes the "Medical Bill Data Element Requirement Table" (436-009-0030)
- Raise the evaluation/management conversion factor from \$59.79 to \$64.79; lower the surgery conversion factor from \$93.66 to \$86.44 (436-009-0040)
- Reduce the maximum allowable fee for medications from 88% of the average wholesale price (AWP) to 83.5% of AWP and reduce the dispensing fee from \$8.70 to \$2.00 (436-009-0090)

Amendments to OAR 436-015, "Managed Care Organizations":

- Clarify MCO certification requirements by defining the terms "group" (of medical service providers) and "non-qualifying employer." (436-015-0005 & 0009)
- Require that if an MCO has not obtained contracts with more than one insurer within one year from the effective date of its first contract, the MCO must provide the director with a report documenting its efforts to obtain additional contracts (436-015-0009)
- Eliminate the requirement that a prospective MCO submit certain documentation within 120 days of the filing of the "Notice of Intent to Form" (436-015-0010 & 0030)
- Reduce the number of copies of MCO applications or plans that must be submitted to the director from four copies to one copy (436-015-0020 & 0030)
- Eliminate the requirement that a prospective MCO submit a certification of incorporation and a copy of the MCO by-laws with its application (436-015-0030)
- For the purpose of quarterly data reporting, require that MCOs submit National Provider Identification (NPI) numbers rather than Oregon license numbers for their member providers (436-015-0040)
- Update the wording of appeal rights notices that MCOs must provide to a worker and all other parties that may appeal an MCO's decision, to include updated department contact information, and that appeal time frames begin with the mailing date of the notice, not from the date notice is received by the party; simplify the process for making complaints about rule violations (436-015-0110)

Amendments to OAR 436-030, "Claim Closure and Reconsideration," 436-040, "Workers with Disabilities Program," and 436-045, "Reopened Claims Program":

- Correct the applicability provisions in rules 030-0003, 040-0003, and 045-0003

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- Repeal OAR 436-040-0100, “Suspension and Revocation of Authorization to Issue Guaranty Contracts,” because this rule duplicates OAR 436-050-0015

Amendments to OAR 436-050, “Employer/Insurer Coverage Responsibility”:

- Abbreviate the definition of “complete records” and adequately describe the term in the context of several rules in division 050 (436-050-0005, 0110, & 0210)
- Clarify rights of parties to appeal department orders by deleting an unnecessary and potentially misleading provision, which implies that if an order is final it cannot be appealed (436-050-0008(5)(d))
- Adopt a rule to explain how the Workers’ Compensation Division will serve penalty orders (436-050-0025)
- To implement House Bill 2007, expand the definition of “owner of the private home” to include any person related by an Oregon registered domestic partnership (436-050-0045)
- Eliminate the provision that an employer’s cancellation of coverage with an insurer does not terminate a guaranty contract; relocate a provision regarding overlapping self-insurance certification and guaranty contract coverage to rule 0200 (436-050-0100 & 0200)
- Supplement and clarify the description of record-keeping requirements (436-050-0110)
- Eliminate the requirement to include workers’ social security numbers on lists of claims provided to the director when an insurer or self-insured employer transfers claims to a new processor/location (436-050-0110 & 0210)
- Require insurers and self-insured employers to keep written records as to whether supplemental disability benefits were approved or denied (436-050-0120 & 0220)
- Provide that excess insurance coverage may include a deductible endorsement acceptable to the director (436-050-0170)
- Increase the time for a self-insured municipality to provide its annual report to the director (436-050-0175)
- Require that self insured employers notify the director within 30 days when the employer changes its operation in any manner that affects its workers’ compensation claims liability (436-050-0190)
- Require that self-insured employers conduct certain claim processing activities and record-keeping, and accommodate periodic audits, at in-state locations (436-050-0210)
- Require that self-insured employers provide contact information to the director for the location where records are or will be kept and where claims are or will be processed in Oregon; require that self-insured employers provide the director contact information for a designated person or position within the company who will assure payment of penalties and resolution of collections issues resulting from orders issued by the director (436-050-0220)

Amendments to OAR 436-110, “Preferred Worker Program”:

- Allow issuance of a Preferred Worker card to a worker determined eligible before claim closure, even if the worker does not have available, immediate employment (436-110-0320)
- Provide additional time for insurers to request claim cost reimbursement (from the Workers’ Benefit Fund) if an employer informs an insurer about an injury to a preferred worker after the existing reimbursement deadlines have passed (436-110-0330)

Amendments to OAR 436-160, “Electronic Data Interchange”:

- Provide the director discretion to require a trading partner agreement for medical data reporting, but eliminate the mandate for trading partner agreements for all EDI (436-160-0020)
- Clarify and simplify address reporting requirements (436-160-0090)
- Eliminate the requirement to submit paper reports to add or delete coverage for non-subject workers; the insurer must file the appropriate “include” or “exclude” endorsement transaction to the associated policy filing (436-160-0340 & 0350)
- Require insurers to notify the director of guaranty contract terminations within ten days (not within seven days) consistent with requirements in OAR 436-050 (436-160-0360)

Certificate and Order for Filing Permanent Administrative Rules

- Eliminate the requirement that the insurer submit a cancellation of a medical bill before resubmitting (436-160-0430)
- Revise electronic data interchange medical reporting requirements in Appendix B (436-160-0410)

Direct questions to: Fred Bruyns, Rules Coordinator; phone 503-947-7717; fax 503-947-7581; or e-mail fred.h.bruyns@state.or.us. Rules are available on the Internet: <http://www.wcd.oregon.gov/policy/rules/rules.html>

For a copy of the rules, contact Publications at 503-947-7627, Fax 503-947-7630.

/s/ John L. Shilts

Authorized Signer

6/12/08

Date

John L. Shilts, Administrator, Workers' Compensation Division

Printed name

*With this original, file one photocopy of certificate, one paper copy of rules listed in Rulemaking Actions, and electronic copy of rules.

**The *Oregon Bulletin* is published on the 1st of each month and updates the rule text found in the Oregon Administrative Rules Compilation. Notice forms must be submitted to the Administrative Rules Unit, Oregon State Archives, 800 Summer Street NE, Salem, Oregon 97310 by 5:00 pm on the 15th day of the preceding month unless this deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday when Notice forms are accepted until 5:00 pm on the preceding workday.

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