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## Worker's Compensation Insurance Letter

<b>INS #</b>	502
<b>Date</b>	December 11, 2014
<b>Program</b>	Claims Management
<b>Type</b>	Informational
<b>Replaces</b>	Insurance Letter 498

**To:** Claims Handling Offices for Insurance Carriers and Self Insured Employers  
**From:** John Metcalf, Division Administrator  
**Subject:** Worker's Compensation 2015 Rate Changes

**Purpose:** Announce 2015 maximum rates effective January 1, 2015.

**Background:** Wisconsin's maximum Worker's Compensation rate will increase to \$911 per week for temporary total disability, permanent total disability and death benefits for injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2015. The new state average weekly wage used to compute the maximum rate is \$1,366.50.

Using this new wage raises the maximum death benefit for fatal injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2015 to \$273,300. The maximum burial expense remains \$10,000 and the death benefit to unestranged parents remains \$6,500.

As of this date, the maximum weekly indemnity rate for permanent partial disability will remain \$322 for injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2015. If this benefit is changed through the Worker's Compensation Advisory Council's (WCAC) "agreed bill" process, a new Insurance Letter will be sent.

In accordance with Wisconsin Administrative Code, DWD 80.49(7)(e), the 2015 maximum payment for private vocational rehabilitation services increased by 1.62% to \$1,611. This change is based on the average annual percentage change in the U.S. Consumer price index for all urban consumers. The new limit applies regardless of the date of injury

**Action Requested:** Please inform all claim handlers of these changes.

**Inquiries:** A chart with detailed benefit payment information for 2015 is available on our web site at: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/publications/wc/WKC-9572-P.pdf>.

If you have any questions, please contact us at (608) 266-1340.

**Reference:** Insurance Letter 498.