

# Bulletin

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**WORKERS' COMPENSATION  
BULLETIN 11-2  
September 20, 2010**

**To:** Workers' Compensation Coordinators

**Subject:** Adjustment of Workers' Compensation Benefits

Minnesota workers' compensation laws provide for an annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to certain indemnity benefits. Adjustments are usually made on the anniversary date of the employee's injury. For injuries occurring after 10-1-95, the adjustment is made on the fourth anniversary and annually thereafter. The amount of the adjustment is tied to the increase/decrease of the Statewide Average Weekly Wage. The Statewide Average Weekly effective 10-1-10 is \$868, which is a 1.14% decrease from the current Statewide Average Weekly Wage of \$878.

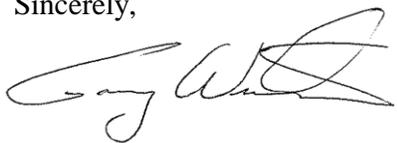
This means that employees receiving workers' compensation benefits who are eligible for a cost-of-living-adjustment to their workers' compensation benefit will experience a 1.14% reduction to their current workers' compensation benefit rate between 10-1-10 and 9-30-11.

We are sharing this information with you as we anticipate that you might receive questions from some employees who experience a reduction to their current workers' compensation benefit rate after 10-1-10. This is a statutory adjustment set forth by workers' compensation laws.

We will provide notice of this adjustment to employees receiving benefits when this is applicable. Notice will be sent by letter and by the filing of any required form. Minnesota Workers' Compensation Rules require that we notify employees and/or dependents by either a Notice of Intention to Discontinue Benefits form or by a Notice to Discontinue Dependency Benefits form. While we are not discontinuing any benefits, workers' compensation rules require that we file this form anytime we reduce certain employee or dependent indemnity benefits. The information that will be provided on the form will clearly indicate that we are simply reducing their weekly benefit by the COLA.

Employees should be directed to contact the Workers' Compensation Specialist managing their claim should they have questions. This contact information will be on the letters and forms that we send.

Sincerely,



Gary Westman, Manager  
Workers' Compensation Program  
Risk Management Division