



Workers Compensation Claim State Environmental Guide - Alaska

ALASKA – <http://labor.state.ak.us/wc/>

Indemnity issues

Temporary Total Benefits	<p>The Alaska Average Weekly Wage (AAWW), determined by the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, and applicable for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2023, is \$1182.</p> <p>The maximum compensation rate under AS 23.30.175(a) is 120% of the AAWW, which is \$1418.</p> <p>The minimum compensation rate under AS 23.30.175(a) is 22% of the maximum compensation rate, which is \$312.</p> <p>The maximum compensation rate under AS 23.30.041(k) is 105% of the AAWW, which is \$1241.</p> <p>Alaska has a three day waiting period 3 days which starts on the first day missed not including the date of loss. The waiting period is retroactively paid if the time loss continues at 28 Days. There isn't a cap on TTD benefits.</p>
Temporary Partial Benefits	<p>TP Benefits are limited by the same maximum weekly TT rate given above. There is no minimum rate applied to TP benefits. The waiting period of 3 days if not previously addressed in TTD will be paid retroactively after 28 days. There is no cap on TP benefits.</p>
Permanent Partial Benefits	<p>There isn't a minimum for PP in Alaska. Injuries prior to 01/01/2023 the PPI rate is \$177,000.00 whole person. Injuries after 01/01/2023 the rate is \$273,000. Limited benefits based on whole body. AMA 6th Edition, 2nd revision.</p>
Permanent Total Benefits	<p>Effective January 1, 2023 the minimum is \$312.00 per week with a maximum of \$1418.00 and is lifetime.</p>
Fatality Benefits	<p>01/01/2023 Max: \$1418.00 - minimum and maximum payable per AS 23.30.215. plus a \$8,000 lump sum to surviving spouse after injured worker's death.</p>
Vocational Rehabilitation	<p>Plan: \$13,300.00, 041(k) benefits while plan is being developed and during training, 2 Year Plan. Max weekly 041(k) is \$1241.00.</p>
Settlement Allowed	<p>Yes, via a Compromise & Release settlement</p>
Cap on benefits, exceptions	<p>None</p>



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Medical issues

Initial Choice of Provider	Employee choice state.
Change of Provider	1 change without adjuster's approval; unless moving over 50 miles from current provider or a referral is provided for the new physician.
Medical Fee Schedule	09/28/11, Governor Sean Parnell signed House Bill 13 into law, Chapter 32, SLA 11. This legislation provides that the fees for medical treatment may not exceed the lowest of (1) the usual, customary, and reasonable fees in the community, for treatment or service provided on or after December 31, 2010, not to exceed the fees specified in a medical fee schedule adopted by the Alaska Workers' Compensation Board (Board) by reference in regulation; or (2) the fees for the general public; or (3) the fees negotiated by the provider and an employer under Alaska Statute 23.30.097(c).
Managed Care	No explicit managed care program in effect. A managed care arrangement may be implemented by an employer/insurer so long as it does not interfere with the employee's right to select a treating provider and does not attempt to influence the treatment provided by a treating provider. The employee may choose not to cooperate with managed care. It is voluntary.
Utilization Review	No. The board shall adopt regulations establishing standards for frequency of treatment. There is no reference in statutes to utilization review.. (AS 23.30.095(c).
Treatment Guidelines	None except for frequency standards for treatment with continuing and multiple treatment of the same nature
Generic Drug Substitution	The state mandates generic substitution.
Medical Mileage Reimbursement Rate	01/01/2023 \$0.655
Network Information	First Health is primary, and Corvel is secondary.
Ability to Terminate Medical Treatment	Yes, when a physician has declared the injured worker's work-related injury has returned to pre-injury status or injury is not the substantial cause in need for medical treatment.
Settlement Allowed	Yes, but must be Board Approved
Cap on benefits, exceptions	No

Other Issues

WC Hearing Docket Speed	3 to 4 months out.
Staff Counsel	No staff counsel option exists.
Hearings require attorney or claim handler participation	An attorney must represent the carrier/employer at a hearing.
Occupational Diseases	Handled the same as an injury claim.
Second Injury Fund availability	No. The SIF sunset and no new claims may be filed after 10/1/2020.
Other Offset Opportunities	Third party liens only

Other Issues

EDI	Claims EDI Release 3: FROI & SROI (7/22/2013)
In-State Adjusting Required	Yes
License or Certification Required	Yes, Claim professionals who handle claims not on Travelers paper (self-insured employers, fronted carrier, TPA, CSS claims) must be licensed.