



## **Workers' Compensation-Colorado**

### **Overview**

Workers' Compensation provides insurance to employers to provide benefits and care to employees injured on the job and benefits to families of those killed on the job. Like Medicaid, Workers' Compensation, also known as industrial insurance, is administered by each state and, likewise, each state determines its own rules regarding PA reimbursement and scope of practice.

### **State Specific Information**

#### Enrollment/Credentialing/Billing

Physician assistants are not enrolled nor credentialed in the Colorado Workers' Compensation Program. Nor are PAs eligible for "Accreditation" in the Workers' Comp program. However, PAs are covered for medical services they provide to Workers' Compensation patients in Colorado. The reimbursement rate for PA services is 100% of the physician rate, with billing under the physician's ID number.

#### Covered Services

PAs are covered as First Assistants at surgery. The American College of Surgeons' 2007 Guidelines for assist at surgery are used to determine coverage. The reimbursement rate is 10% of the primary surgeon's fee. Use the CPT modifier-81 for assisting at surgery.

#### Supervision

Supervision requirements for PAs follow Colorado State law. The physician must see Workers' Compensation patients on their initial visits to the practice, although case law allows PA initial visits.. No special restrictions are in place on hospital-employed PAs. Impairment ratings must be signed by the physician.

### **More Information**

Information compiled by the AAPA about the Colorado Workers' Compensation Program can be found on the [AAPA website](#).

The phone number for [Colorado Workers' Compensation](#) Provider Services is 303/318-8700.

For assistance understanding Workers' Compensation policies, you may also contact the AAPA's reimbursement staff at 703/836-2272, ext. 3218 or 3219.