

New benefit and provider fee levels effective October 2015

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The statewide average weekly wage (SAWW) effective Oct. 1, 2015, is \$989, a 2.91 percent increase from the current SAWW of \$961, which has been in effect since Oct. 1, 2014. (See the table below.) The levels for minimum and maximum weekly benefit payments are presented in the table on page 4. The statewide annual average wage will change to \$51,420 on Jan. 1, 2016.

The new SAWW is based on 2014 payroll and employment figures supplied by the Department of Employment and Economic Development and the calculation procedure in Minnesota Statutes § 176.011, subd. 1b. The change in the SAWW is the basis for the M.S. § 176.645 annual benefit adjustment. The time of the first adjustment is limited by M.S. § 176.645, subd. 2.

Pursuant to Minnesota Rules 5220.1900, subp. 1b, the maximum qualified rehabilitation consultant (QRC) hourly fee will increase by 2.91 percent to \$104.09 on Oct. 1, 2015. The maximum hourly rate for rehabilitation job development and placement services, whether provided by rehabilitation vendors or by QRC firms, will increase to \$79.02 on Oct. 1, 2015. Notice of the increase will be published in the *State Register* in September 2015.

Fee schedule adjustments

The adjustments to the workers' compensation medical fee schedule conversion factors and the independent medical examination fees are as follows and will be published in the *State Register* in September.

1. Conversion factor annual adjustment: Minnesota Statutes § 176.136, subd. 1a, paragraph (c)(1), provides for annual adjustment of the medical fee schedule conversion factors by no more than the percent change in the SAWW. As in previous years, DLI is adjusting the conversion factors by the percent change in the Producer Price Index for Offices of Physicians (PPI-P) between 2013 and 2014 (annual-average basis).^{*} This change is +0.6 percent.

Therefore, for services provided on or after Oct. 1, 2015, the new conversion factors will be:

- medical/surgical services described in Minnesota Rules 5221.4030 \$65.12
- pathology and laboratory services described in Minn. R. 5221.4040 \$56.08
- physical medicine/rehabilitation services described in Minn. R. 5221.4050 \$49.18
- chiropractic services described in Minn. R. 5221.4050 \$49.09

2. IME fee adjustment: Minnesota Rules, part 5219.0500, subp. 4, provides for adjustment of the maximum fees for independent medical examinations (IMEs) in the same manner as the adjustment of the conversion factors. Therefore, the maximum IME fees will increase by 0.6 percent for services provided on or after Oct. 1, 2015.

^{*}The PPI, produced by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, measures the average change over time in the selling prices received by producers for their output. The annual PPI-P and the associated annual changes (using industry code 62111 – offices of physicians) are available at www.bls.gov/ppi/data.htm.

Statewide average weekly wage Effective Oct. 1 of the indicated year		
	Statewide average weekly wage	Percent change from prior year
2001	\$680	5.92%
2002	\$702	3.24%
2003	\$718	2.28%
2004	\$740	3.06%
2005	\$774	4.59%
2006	\$782	1.03%
2007	\$808	3.32%
2008	\$850	5.20%
2009	\$878	3.29%
2010	\$868	-1.14%
2011	\$896	3.23%
2012	\$916	2.23%
2013	\$945	3.17%
2014	\$961	1.69%
2015	\$989	2.91%

Compensation rates as of Oct. 1, 2015

Statewide average weekly wage (SAWW) = \$989 Percentage change in SAWW from previous year = 2.91%

(Apply Minnesota Statutes § 176.645 adjustment as necessary based on date of injury.)

Maximum under M.S. §§ 176.101 and 176.111	Minimum under M.S. § 176.101, subd. 1(2)	Supplementary benefits under M.S. § 176.132 (Minnesota Statutes 1994) and permanent total minimum under M.S. § 176.101, subd. 4 (for injuries 10-1-95 and later)
10-01-88\$391.00	50% of the SAWW or gross wage, whichever is less, but in no case less than 20% of the SAWW	10-01-96\$340.60 (rounded to \$341)*
10-01-89\$413.00	50%\$195.50 (gross wage - \$293.25)\$ 78.20	10-01-97\$359.45 (rounded to \$360)*
10-01-90\$428.00	50%\$206.50 (gross wage - \$309.75)\$ 82.60	10-01-98\$376.35 (rounded to \$377)*
10-01-91\$443.00	50%\$214.00 (gross wage - \$321.00)\$ 85.60	10-01-99\$399.75 (rounded to \$400)*
105% of SAWW	50%\$221.50 (gross wage - \$332.25)\$ 88.60	10-01-00\$417.30 (rounded to \$418)*
10-01-92\$481.95	20% of the SAWW or the employee's actual weekly wage, whichever is less	10-01-01\$442.00 (round)
10-01-93\$508.20	10-01-92\$91.80	10-01-02\$456.30 (rounded to \$457)*
10-01-94\$516.60	10-01-93\$96.80	10-01-03\$466.70 (rounded to \$467)*
Set by statute	10-01-94\$98.40	10-01-04\$481.00 (round)
10-01-95\$615.00	Set by statute, the listed amount or the employee's actual weekly wage, whichever is less	10-01-05\$503.10 (rounded to \$504)*
10-01-00\$750.00	10-01-95\$104.00	10-01-06\$508.30 (rounded to \$509)*
10-01-08\$850.00	10-01-00\$130.00	10-01-07\$525.20 (rounded to \$526)*
102% of SAWW		10-01-08\$552.50 (rounded to \$553)
10-01-13\$963.90		10-01-09\$570.70 (rounded to \$571)*
10-01-14\$980.22		10-01-10\$564.20 (rounded to \$565)*
10-01-15\$1,008.78		10-01-11\$582.40 (rounded to \$583)*
		10-01-12\$595.40 (rounded to \$596)*
		10-01-13\$614.25 (rounded to \$615)*
		10-01-14\$624.65 (rounded to \$625)*
		10-01-15\$642.85 (rounded to \$643)*

*Rounding applies to supplementary benefits.