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Governor

State of Wyoming
Department of Workforce Services
DIVISION OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION

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Dear Provider:

Wyoming Worker's Compensation is pleased to announce the implementation of a new spine treatment protocol. The protocol is based on two spine studies that were sponsored by the legislature in 2011 and 2013. Both studies reported fewer lost work days with lower medical and indemnity costs using evidenced based guidelines. The new spine protocol utilizes these same guidelines and will be implemented on March 1, 2015.

Objectives for the protocol include:

- Initiate treatment within 48 hours of injury whenever possible.
- Promote conservative treatment when indicated
- Identify workers at risk for chronic disability with early intervention
- Efficient utilization of diagnostics

Recommendations include:

- Education (quick return to normal activity, regular exercise, and proper body mechanics)
- Medications (acetaminophen or NSAIDS, narcotics as needed for up to 2 weeks, injections and consideration of muscle relaxants)
- Physical therapy or Chiropractic treatment for up to 4 weeks.
- No MRI or CT; the use of these diagnostics will disqualify participation in the protocol.
- Bed rest is not recommended.

There will be **monetary incentives** applied to this protocol for the injured workers, providers, and employers.

- **Injured workers** - \$250 when the program is initiated and \$250 upon completion at 6 weeks or return to work
- **Providers** - \$250 when the program is initiated and \$250 upon completion at 6 weeks or return to work
- **Employers** – All treatment during the 6 week protocol will be non-chargeable

To find out more about this program, please visit our website www.wyomingworkforce.org or contact either the Customer Service Advocate at 307-777-5476 or Risk Management at 307-777-6763.

