
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to expedite the
2 diagnosis of, and streamline medical treatment for, serious
3 injuries to the cervical or lumbar spine that could result in
4 paralysis for injuries sustained by an employee while working.

5 SECTION 2. Chapter 386, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
7 and to read as follows:

8 "§386- Cervical and lumbar spinal injuries; treatment
9 plan not required. During the first sixty days after an injury,
10 an employee may obtain the following medical care or services
11 without a treatment plan:

12 (1) One magnetic resonance imaging of the cervical spine
13 if the employee's attending physician determines that:

14 (A) The employee has objective indicia of radicular
15 symptoms and the radicular symptoms reasonably
16 could be caused by injury to the cervical spine;
17 or



- 1 (B) The employee has objective traumatic injury or
- 2 other neurologic symptoms to the cervical spine
- 3 shown by an x-ray or computed tomography scan;
- 4 (2) One magnetic resonance imaging of the lumbar spine if
- 5 the employee's attending physician determines that:
- 6 (A) The employee has objective indicia of radicular
- 7 symptoms and the radicular symptoms reasonably
- 8 could be caused by injury to the lumbar spine; or
- 9 (B) The employee has objective traumatic injury or
- 10 other neurologic symptoms to the lumbar spine
- 11 shown by an x-ray or computed tomography scan;
- 12 and
- 13 (3) One consultation with an orthopedic or neurologic
- 14 specialist if the employee's attending physician
- 15 reasonably determines that the opinion or advice of an
- 16 orthopedic or neurologic specialist should be obtained
- 17 for the evaluation and treatment of the employee's
- 18 injury; provided that:
- 19 (A) The orthopedic or neurologic specialist shall
- 20 provide written notice of the consultation to the



1 employer within seven days of the consultation;

2 and

3 (B) The orthopedic or neurologic specialist shall
4 provide a written report to the employer within
5 fourteen days of the consultation."

6 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Workers' Compensation; Cervical and Lumbar Spinal Injuries;
Coverage; MRI; Specialists

Description:

Authorizes certain types of radiographical coverage and specialist consultations without a treatment plan within the context of workers' compensation coverage for employees with cervical and lumbar spinal injuries, or suspected cervical and lumbar spinal injuries. Takes effect 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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