



(CompMinute provides a briefing to Texas workers' compensation system participants on new initiatives underway at the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation).

New Workers' Compensation Codes Adopted by Accredited Standards Committee

(March 25, 2008) -- The Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (TDI-DWC) successfully worked with the International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions (IAIABC) and the Accredited Standards Committee (ASC X12) to add or revise claim adjustment reason codes for workers' compensation purposes. The addition and revision of codes will allow health care providers to use existing systems to electronically exchange medical bill data with insurance carriers.

Prior to the adoption of these codes, Texas insurance carriers were required to use non-standard or proprietary codes when paying or denying a medical bill. The use of these non-standard codes caused integration issues with practice management systems, code translators, and data exchanges through clearinghouses.

"The adoption of these codes by the national standard organization represents another step forward in aligning workers' compensation requirements with those in the health care industry," said Allen McDonald, Director of Information Management Services at TDI-DWC.

The new or revised codes are available for immediate use. TDI-DWC will remove references to the Texas specific codes from the *Texas Clean Claim and eBill Companion Guides* after a transition period of at least six months for any necessary adjustments to automated systems.

The eight new codes and four revised codes are included in the updated code list available through Washington Publishing Company at: http://www.wpc-edi.com/custom_html/claimadjustment.htm.

ASC X12 and IAIABC issued a joint press release on this matter. The release can be found at the ASC X12 website at: <http://www.x12.org>.

###