

**STATEMENT OF EMERGENCY BASIS AND PURPOSE FOR  
AMENDMENT TO THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION RULES OF PROCEDURE  
7 CCR 1101-3**

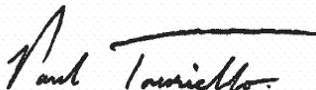
As reported cases of COVID-19 increase, they place a significant strain upon medical resources. These emergency rules are being promulgated to increase access to telehealth services in order to assure injured workers maintain access to reasonable and necessary medical care while complying with physical distancing guidelines and mandates.

COVID-19-related actions to promote physical distancing have disrupted workers' ability to receive in-person care for their job-related injuries and illnesses. Continuity of care is essential to monitor the progress of recovery. Treatment delays impede recovery and may increase claims costs. Increasing reimbursement for remote services to levels equivalent to in-person care should promote use of these alternatives to in-office care.

A temporary rule is needed to increase payment for telemedicine services between injured workers and health care providers to promote continued treatment and communication about the progress of recovery, when in-person care services are not possible or are unavailable. The Division has recommended that reimbursement rates for telemedicine services mirror payment rates for equivalent office visits.

Accordingly, I find that immediate adoption of this rule amendment is imperatively necessary to comply with state law, and compliance with 24-4-103 would be contrary to the public interest. This emergency rule will become effective on March 24, 2020 and be in effect for 120 days unless suspended or superseded.

Dated this 31 day of March, 2020



Paul Tauriello  
Director

March 31, 2020  
Date