

New Jersey

The New Jersey Assembly bill requiring providers to submit workers' compensation bills electronically successfully emerged from the Senate subcommittee and was signed into law by Governor Chris Christie on November 14, 2016. This is a big change for providers who haven't been submitting bills electronically. The rules for submitting medical bills electronically are being drafted by the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce in consultation with the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance, and no start date has yet been established, but expectations are that there will be a 6-month "grace period" to allow providers to become compliant. The key bill highlights are as follows:

- **Assembly Bill 3401 provides for mandatory e-billing for workers' compensation bills**
 - **Bill passed on September 15th**
 - **Signed by the Governor on November 14th**
- **Providers who submit fewer than 25 medical bills per month are exempt**
- **New Jersey joins NC, MN, and TX as states that require mandatory e-billing**
- **Bills and medical attachments must be sent electronically**
- **Payers who fail to comply may be charged daily interest penalties**

The new rules also require payers to accept both claims and payments electronically. In addition, all undisputed charges are to be paid within 60 days or payers could face daily interest penalties.

New Mexico

In October 2016, the State of New Mexico Workers' Compensation Administration (NMWCA) issued updated hospital payment ratios for 2017 that were drastically reduced from previous years. EnableComp and the New Mexico Hospital Association successfully worked with member hospitals and the New Mexico Workers' Compensation Administration to amend the proposed payment ratios and limit the reductions in 2017, preventing an estimated \$20 Million in revenue losses for New Mexico hospitals. The key regulatory highlights are as follows:

- **2017 Health Care Provider Fee Schedule posted on October 3, 2016**
 - **32% reduction in hospital reimbursement across all NM Hospitals**
 - **Estimated \$40-million-dollar annual impact to NM Hospitals**
- **EnableComp and the New Mexico Hospital Association worked with member hospitals and NMWCA stakeholders to voice concern and influence change**
- **NMWCA published an amended 2017 Hospital Fee Schedule on December 1, 2016**
 - **Original rate reductions are now spread out over a 3-year period**
 - **Rate reductions limited to no more than 10% from previous year**