

New Contract Will Help MTA Save Money on Medical Claims

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Oct. 22, 2002) A new contract with a medical services company that processes employee injury claims and assists employees injured on the job also promises cost-saving benefits for MTA.

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The five-year contract the MTA Board awarded in August to Employers and Occupational Services Group, Inc. (EOS), will give the agency access to a broad range of medical-related services.

One of the most critical, says Risk Management Executive Officer Michael Koss, is medical invoice review.

EOS will review every submitted medical invoice to ensure that the medical services provided the injured employee match the doctor's diagnosis and the treatment prescribed. The company also will check to see that the service was provided within the maximum fees allowed by the state.

And, rather than receiving a percentage of the money saved as its payment, EOS will perform each review for a flat \$15 fee.

Enormous savings to MTA

"That's an enormous savings to the agency," says Koss. "Third-party administrators are charging up to 30 percent of the savings on each invoice. A hospital invoice, for example, could be many hundreds of dollars."

EOS also will help MTA collect from companies or individuals who are found to be responsible for injuries to MTA employees. An example might be an accident in which a delivery truck runs a stoplight and hits a Metro Bus, injuring the operator.

In addition, EOS is arranging for a network of vocational rehabilitation providers for employees who have suffered a permanent injury and can no longer perform their regular jobs.

Under state statutes, these employees are eligible for retraining for another career. EOS will make employees aware of their entitlement and will help them get into a rehab program.

"Most employees who are injured can be rehabilitated and return to their jobs," says Koss. "But, there's a small group whose injuries may be too severe or permanent. This will give them an opportunity to explore a new career."

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