Chapter Ins 17

HEALTH CARE LIABILITY INSURANCE PATIENTS COMPENSATION FUND

Ins 17.001 Definitions. In this chapter:

(1) "Board" means the board of governors established under s. 619.04 (3), Stats.

(1m) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of insurance or deputy commissioner acting under s. 601.11 (1) (b), Stats.

(2) "Fund" means the patients compensation fund established under s. 655.27 (1), Stats.

(3) "Hearing" has the meaning given in s. Ins 5.01 (1).

(4) "Plan" means the Wisconsin health care liability insurance plan, a nonprofit, unincorporated association established under s. 619.01 (1) (a), Stats.

History: Cr. Register, July, 1979, No. 283, eff. 8-1-79; am. (intro.) to (4), cr. (1m), Register, June, 1990, No. 414, eff. 7-1-90.

Ins 17.005 Purpose. This chapter implements ss. 619.01 and 619.04 and ch. 655, Stats.

History: Cr. Register, June, 1990, No. 414, eff. 7-1-90.

Ins 17.01 Payment of mediation fund fees. (1) PURPOSE. This section implements s. 655.61 (2), Stats., relating to the payment of mediation fund fees.

(2) (a) Each physician subject to ch. 655, Stats., except a resident, and each hospital subject to ch. 655, Stats., shall pay to the commissioner an annual fee to finance the mediation system created by s. 655.42, Stats.

(b) The fund shall bill a physician or hospital subject to this section under s. Ins 17.28 (7) (a). The entire annual fee under this section is due and payable 30 days after the fund mails the bill.

(d) The fund shall notify the medical examining board of each physician who has not paid the fee as required under par. (b).

(e) The fund shall notify the department of health and social services of each hospital which has not paid the fee as required under par. (b).

(f) Fees collected under this section are not refundable except to correct an administrative billing error.

(3) FEE SCHEDULE. The following fee schedule shall be effective July 1, 1991:

(a) For physicians — $40.00

(b) For hospitals, per occupied bed — $ 2.00

History: Cr. Register, August, 1978, No. 272, eff. 9-1-78; emerg. r. and recr. eff. 7-2-86; r. and recr., Register, September, 1986, No. 369, eff. 10-1-86; cr. (2) (f), am. (3), Register, June, 1987, No. 378, eff. 7-1-87; am. (1), (2) (a), (d) and (e), (3), r. and recr. (2) (b), r. (2) (c), Register, June, 1990, No. 414, eff. 7-1-90; emerg. am. (3) (intro.), eff. 7-1-91; am. (3) (intro.), Register, July, 1991, No. 427, eff. 8-1-91.

behalf of the provider and the number and amounts of claims paid by the plan, the fund or both.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1988, No. 387, eff. 4-1-88; cr. (3) (e), Register, June, 1990, No. 414, eff. 7-1-90.

Ins 17.28 Health care provider fees. (1) PURPOSE. This section implements s. 655.27 (3), Stats.

(2) SCOPE. This section applies to fees charged to providers for participation in the fund, but does not apply to fees charged for operation of the mediation system under s. 655.61, Stats.

(3) DEFINITIONS. In this section:

(a) "Annual fee" means the amount established under sub. (6) for each class or type of provider.

(b) "Begin operation" means for a provider other than a natural person to start providing health care services in this state.

(bm) "Begin practice" means to start practicing in this state as a medical or osteopathic physician or nurse anesthetist or to become ineligible for an exemption from ch. 655, Stats.

(c) "Class" means a group of physicians whose specialties or types of practice are similar in their degree of exposure to loss. The specialties and types of practice included in each fund class are the following:

1. Class 1:

Administrative medicine
Aerospace medicine
Allergy
Cardiovascular disease - no catheterization or surgery
Dermatology - no surgery
Diabetes - no surgery
Endocrinology - no surgery
Family practice and general practice - no surgery
Forensic medicine
Gastroenterology - no surgery
General preventative medicine - no surgery
Geriatrics - no surgery
Gynecology - no surgery
Hematology - no surgery
Hypnosis
Infectious diseases - no surgery
Internal medicine - no surgery
Laryngology - no surgery
Legal medicine
Neoplastic diseases - no surgery
Nephrology - no surgery
Neurology - including child - no surgery
Nuclear medicine
Nutrition
Occupational medicine
Ophthalmology - no surgery
Osteopathy - manipulation only
Otology - no surgery
Otorhinolaryngology - no surgery
Pathology - no surgery
Pediatrics - no surgery
Pharmacology - clinical
Physiatry
Physical medicine and rehabilitation
Physicians - no surgery
Psychiatry - including child
Psychoanalysis
Psychosomatic medicine
Public health
Pulmonary diseases - no surgery
Radiology - diagnostic - no surgery
Rheumatology - no surgery
Rhinology - no surgery

2. Class 2:

Anesthesiology -applicable to all physicians who perform general anesthesia or acupuncture anesthesia
Broncho-esophagology
Cardiology - including catheterization, but not including cardiac surgery
Cardiovascular disease - minor surgery
Dermatology - minor surgery
Diabetes - minor surgery
Emergency medicine - no major surgery — applicable to any family or general practitioner or other specialist primarily engaged in emergency practice at a clinic, hospital or other facility who does not perform major surgery
Endocrinology - minor surgery
Family practice and general practice - minor surgery - no obstetrics
Family practice or general practice - including obstetrics
Gastroenterology - minor surgery
Geriatrics - minor surgery
Gynecology - minor surgery
Hematology - minor surgery
Infectious diseases - minor surgery
Intensive care medicine - applicable to any family or general practitioner or other specialist employed in an intensive care hospital unit.
Internal medicine - minor surgery
Laryngology - minor surgery
Neoplastic diseases - minor surgery
Nephrology - minor surgery
Neurology - including child- minor surgery
Ophthalmology - minor surgery
Otology - minor surgery
Otorhinolaryngology - minor surgery
Pathology - minor surgery
Pediatrics - minor surgery
Physicians - minor surgery
Radiology - diagnostic - minor surgery
Rhinology - minor surgery
Surgery - colon and rectal
Surgery - endocrinology
Surgery - gastroenterology
Surgery - general practice or family practice - not primarily engaged in major surgery
Surgery - geriatrics
Surgery - neoplastic
Surgery - nephrology
Surgery - ophthalmology
Surgery - urological
Urgent care - practice in urgent care, walk-in or after hours facility

3. Class 3:

Emergency medicine - including major surgery
General surgery - as a specialty
Surgery - abdominal
Surgery - cardiac
Surgery - cardiovascular disease
Surgery - gynecology
Surgery - hand
Surgery - head and neck
Surgery - laryngology
Surgery - orthopedic
Surgery - otology
Surgery - otorhinolaryngology - no plastic surgery
Surgery - plastic
Surgery - plastic - otorhinolaryngology
Surgery - rhinology
Surgery - thoracic
Surgery - traumatic
Surgery - vascular
Weight control - bariatrics

4. Class 4:

Surgery - neurology - including child
Surgery - obstetrics

the provider's signed exemption form, whichever is later, to the due date of the next payment.

(cs) *Ineligibility for fund coverage; refund.* 1. If a provider who has paid all or part of the annual fee is or becomes ineligible to participate in the fund because he or she is a federal, state, county or municipal employe, or does not practice in this state, the fund shall issue a full refund of any amount the provider paid for fund coverage for which he or she was not eligible.

2. If a provider that has paid all or part of the annual fee is ineligible for fund coverage because the provider is not in compliance with sub. (3e), the fund shall issue a full refund of the amount paid for the period of noncompliance, beginning with the date the noncompliance began.

(d) *Change of class or type; increased annual fee.* If a provider changes class or type, including a change from part-time to full-time practice, resulting in an increased annual fee, the fund shall adjust the provider's annual fee to equal the sum of the following:

1. One twenty-fourth of the annual fee for the provider's former class or type for each full semimonthly period from the due date of the provider's first payment during the current fiscal year to the date of the change.

2. One twenty-fourth of the annual fee for the provider's new class or type for each full or partial semimonthly period from the date of the change to the next June 30.

(e) *Change of class or type; decreased annual fee.* 1. If a provider changes class or type, including a change from full-time to part-time practice, resulting in a decreased annual fee, the fund shall adjust the provider's annual fee to equal the sum of the following:

a. One twenty-fourth of the annual fee for the provider's former class or type for each full or partial semimonthly period from the due date of the provider's first payment during the current fiscal year to the date of the change.

b. One twenty-fourth of the annual fee for the provider's new class or type for each full semimonthly period from the date of the change to the next June 30.

2. The fund may issue a refund or may credit the provider's account for amounts due under subd. 1. If the provider or the provider's insurer does not give the fund advance notice of the change, the refund or credit may not exceed 3 twenty-fourths of the annual fee for the provider's former class.

(f) *Refund of interest.* If a provider entitled to a refund or credit under this subsection has paid interest under sub. (7) (c) 1, the fund shall issue a refund or credit of the interest using the same method used to calculate a refund or credit of an annual fee.

(g) *Refund for administrative error.* In addition to any refund authorized under par. (c), (cm), (cs), (e) or (f), the fund may issue a refund to correct an administrative error in the current or any previous fiscal year.

(5) FILING OF CERTIFICATES OF INSURANCE. An insurance company required under s. 655.23 (3) (b), Stats., to file a certificate of insurance on

behalf of a provider shall file the certificate with the fund within 45 days after the original issuance and each renewal and within 45 days after a change of class or type that would affect the provider's fee under sub. (4).

(6) FEE SCHEDULE. The following fee schedule shall be effective from July 1, 1991 to June 30, 1992:

(a) Except as provided in pars. (b) to (g), for a physician:

Class 1	$2,571	Class 3	$12,854
Class 2	5,142	Class 4	15,425

(b) For a resident acting within the scope of a residency or fellowship program:

Class 1	$1,286	Class 3	$6,427
Class 2	2,572	Class 4	7,716

(c) For a resident practicing part-time outside the scope of a residency or fellowship program:

All classes	$1,543

(d) For a medical college of Wisconsin, inc., full-time faculty member:

Class 1	$1,028	Class 3	$5,140
Class 2	2,056	Class 4	6,168

(g) For a part-time physician with an office practice only and no hospital admissions who practices less than 500 hours in a fiscal year: $643

(h) For a nurse anesthetist: $688

(i) For a hospital:

1. Per occupied bed $169; plus

2. Per 100 outpatient visits during the last calendar year for which totals are available $8.40

(j) For a nursing home, as described under s. 655.001 (8), Stats., which is wholly owned and operated by a hospital and which has health care liability insurance separate from that of the hospital by which it is owned and operated:

Per occupied bed $32

(k) For a partnership comprised of physicians or nurse anesthetists, whichever of the following is applicable:

1. If the total number of partners and employed physicians or nurse anesthetists is from 2 to 10 $100.00

2. If the total number of partners and employed physicians or nurse anesthetists is from 11 to 100 $1,000.00

3. If the total number of partners and employed physicians or nurse anesthetists exceeds 100 $2,500.00

(7) BILLING; PAYMENT SCHEDULES. (a) For each fiscal year, the fund shall issue an initial bill to each provider showing the amount due, including any applicable surcharge imposed under s. Ins 17.285, and the payment schedules available and shall bill the provider according to the payment schedule selected. Each bill shall indicate the payment due dates. Once the provider has selected a payment schedule, that schedule shall apply for the remainder of that fiscal year.

(b) A provider shall pay the amount due on or before each due date.

1. Renewal fees. The payment due dates for renewal fees are:

a. Annual payment - 30 days after the fund mails the initial bill.

b. Semiannual payments - 30 days after the fund mails the initial bill; January 1.

c. Quarterly payments - 30 days after the fund mails the initial bill; October 1; January 1; April 1.

2. Fees for providers that begin practice or operation after the beginning of a fiscal year. For a provider that begins practice or operation or enters the fund under sub. (3s) (b) after July 1 of any fiscal year, the due dates are as follows:

a. The first payment is due 30 days from the date the fund mails the initial bill.

b. For semiannual payment schedules, the 2nd payment is due on January 1. Any provider whose first payment due date is January 1 or later may not choose the semiannual payment schedule.

c. For quarterly payment schedules, if the first payment is due before October 1, the subsequent payments are due on October 1, January 1 and April 1. If the first payment is due from October 1 to December 31, the subsequent payments are due on January 1 and April 1. If the first payment is due from January 1 to March 31, the subsequent payment is due on April 1. Any provider whose first payment is due after March 31 may not choose the quarterly payment schedule.

3. Increased annual fees. If a provider changes class or type, which results in an increased annual fee, the first payment resulting from that increase is due 30 days from the date the fund mails the bill for the adjusted annual fee.

(c) 1. The fund shall charge interest and an administrative service charge of $3 to each provider who chooses the semiannual or quarterly payment schedule.

2. The fund shall charge interest and a late payment fee of $10 to each provider whose payment is not received on or before a due date or whose fund coverage is retroactive under sub. (3s) (b).

3. The daily rate of interest under subds. 1 and 2 shall be the average annualized rate earned by the fund for the first 3 quarters of the preceding fiscal year as determined by the state investment board, divided by 360. Late payment fees and administrative service charges are not refundable.

History: Cr. Register, June, 1980, No. 294, eff. 7-1-80; am. (6), Register, June, 1981, No. 306, eff. 7-1-81; r. and recr. (6), Register, June, 1982, No. 318, eff. 7-1-82; am. (6) (h) and (i),

Register, August, 1982, No. 320, eff. 9-1-82, am. (6), Register, June, 1983, No. 330, eff. 7-1-83; am. (6) (i), Register, September, 1983, No. 333, eff. 10-1-83; am. (6) (intro.), (a) to (h), (j) and (r), Register, June, 1984, No. 342, eff. 7-1-94; am. (6) (i), Register, August, 1984, No. 344, eff. 9-1-84; am. (3) (c) and (6) (intro.), (a) to (e) 1., (f) to (h), (j) and (k), r. (intro.), cr. (3) (c) 1. to 9. and (7), Register, July, 1985, No. 355, eff. 8-1-85; am. (7) (a) 2. and (c), r. (7) (a) 5., renum. (7) (a) 3. and 4. to be 4. and 5. and am., cr. (7) (a) 3., Register, December, 1985, No. 360, eff. 1-1-86; emerg. r. and recr. (3) (c) intro., 1. to 9., (4), (6) (intro.), (a) to (k) and (7), eff. 7-2-86; r. and recr. (3) (c) intro. and 1. to 9., (4), (6) (intro.), (a) to (k) and (7), Register, September, 1986, No. 369, eff. 10-1-86; am. (2), (4) (b) and (d), (6) and (7) (intro.), Register, June, 1987, No. 378, eff. 7-1-87; am. (6) (i) and (j), cr. (6) (k) to (o) and (6m), Register, January, 1988, No. 385, eff. 7-1-88; cr. (6s), Register, February, 1988, No. 386, eff. 3-1-88; am. (6) (intro.) to (j), (m) 1. and (n), Register, June, 1988, No. 390, eff. 7-1-88; renum. (3) (a) to be (3) (d), cr. (3) (a), (bm), (e) to (i), (3e), (3m) and (3s), r. and recr. (3) (b) and (4), r. (7) (intro.) and (b) 4., am. (7) (a), (b) (intro.) to 3. and (c), Register, April, 1989, No. 400, eff. 5-1-89; emerg. r. (4) (c) 1. b., am. (4) (c) 2. and 3., (6) (intro.) to (j), (l) (intro.), (m) 1., (n) and (o), cr. (4) (c) 4., (6) (k) 1. to 3. and (6) (l) 3. and (lm), renum. (6) (k) to be (6) (k) (intro.) and am., r. and recr. (6) (l) 1. and 2., eff. 6-1-89; r. (4) (c) 1. b., am. (4) (c) 2. and 3., (6) (intro.) to (j), (l) (intro.), (m) 1., (n) and (o), cr. (4) (c) 4., (6) (k) 1. to 3. and (6) (l) 3. and (lm), renum. (6) (k) to be (6) (k) (intro.) and am., r. and recr. (6) (l) 1. and 2., Register, July, 1989, No. 403, eff. 8-1-89; am. (1), (2), (3) (c) and (f), (3e), (6) (intro.), (a) (intro.), (b) (intro.), (c) (intro.), (d) (intro.), (e) (intro.), (f) (intro.), (g), (h), (i) (intro.), (j) (intro.), (k) (intro.), (l) (intro.), (lm) (intro.), (m) (intro.), (n) (intro.) and (o) and (6m), renum. (3m) (a) (intro.), 1., 2., 3. intro., b. and c., and (6m) to be (3m) (intro.), (a), (b), (c), and (6m) (a), r. (3m) (a) 3. a. and (b), r. and recr. (5), (6) (a) (intro.), (b) (intro.), (d) (intro.), (e) (intro.), (f) (intro.), (6s) (c) 1. intro., 2. intro., 3. intro. and 4. intro., cr. (3) (intro.) and (hm), (4) (cm) and (g), (6e) and (6m) (b), Register, June, 1990, No. 414, eff. 7-1-90; emerg. am. (6) (b) and (6e), r. (6) (e) and (f), eff. 7-1-90; am. (6) (b) and (6e), r. (6) (e) and (f), Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90; cr. (4) (cs), am. and (3s) (b) (4) (g), Register, April, 1991, No. 424, eff. 5-1-91; emerg. am. (3) (c) 2. and 3., (6) (intro.), eff. 7-1-91; am. (3) (c) 2. and 3., (6) (intro.), Register, July, 1991, No. 427, eff. 8-1-91.

Ins 17.285 Peer review council. (1) PURPOSE. This section implements ss. 619.04 (5) (b) and (5m) (b), 655.27 (3) (a) 2m and (bg) 2 and 655.275, Stats.

(2) DEFINITIONS. In this section:

(a) "Aggregate indemnity" means the total amount paid or owing to or on behalf of any claimant, including amounts held by the fund under s. 655.015, Stats. "Aggregate indemnity" does not include any expenses paid in the defense of the claim.

(b) "Closed claim" means a claim against a provider, or a claim against an employe of a health care provider for which the provider is vicariously liable, for which there has been a final determination based on a settlement, award or judgment that indemnity will be paid to or on behalf of a claimant.

(c) "Council" means the peer review council appointed under s. 655.275, Stats.

(d) "Provider" means a health care provider who is a natural person. "Provider" does not include a hospital or other facility or entity that provides health care services.

(e) "Review period" means the 5-year period ending with the date of the most recent closed claim reported under s. 655.26, Stats., for a specific provider.

(f) "Surcharge" means the automatic increase in a provider's plan premium or fund fee established under s. Ins 17.25 (12m) or 17.28 (6s) or both.

(2m) TIME FOR REPORTING. In reporting claims paid under s. 655.26, Stats., each insurer or self-insurer shall report the required information by the 15th day of the month following the date on which there has been

a final determination of the aggregate indemnity to be paid to or on behalf of any claimant.

(3) EXAMINATION OF CLAIMS PAID. (a) Each month the council shall examine all claims paid reports received under s. 655.26, Stats., to determine whether each provider for whom a closed claim is reported has, during the review period, accumulated enough closed claims and aggregate indemnity to require the imposition of a surcharge, based on the tables under ss. Ins 17.25 (12m) (c) and 17.28 (6s) (c). In determining the number of closed claims accumulated by a provider, the council shall count all claims arising out of one incident or course of conduct as one claim.

(b) If the board does not have a provider's claims record for the entire review period, the council may request from the provider a statement of the number and amounts of all closed claims that have been paid by or on behalf of the provider during the review period. The request shall include notice of the provisions of par. (c).

(c) If the provider fails to comply with the request under par. (b), the provider shall be assessed a surcharge for a 3-year period as follows:

1. If the provider has practiced in this state for the entire review period, 10 % of the next annual plan premium, fund fee or both, subject to sub. (11) (d) to (f).

2. If the provider has practiced in any place other than this state for any part of the review period, 50% of the next annual plan premium, fund fee or both, subject to sub. (11) (d) to (f).

(d) A provider who does not comply with the request under par. (b) is not entitled to a review of his or her claims record as provided in this section nor to a hearing on the imposition of a surcharge.

(4) REVIEW REQUIRED; NOTICE TO PROVIDER. (a) If the number of closed claims and the aggregate indemnity of any provider for all closed claims reported under s. 655.26, Stats., and sub. (3) would be sufficient to require the imposition of a surcharge, the council shall review the provider's claims record for the review period to determine whether a surcharge should be imposed.

(b) The council shall notify each provider subject to a review that a surcharge may be imposed and that the surcharge may be reduced or eliminated following a review as provided in this section. The notice shall also include:

1. A description of the procedures specified in this section and a statement that the provider may submit in writing relevant information about any incident involved in the review and a description of mitigating circumstances that may reduce the future risk to the plan, the fund or both.

2. A request that the provider furnish the council with written authorization to obtain, from the claim files of any insurer that provided coverage during the review period and from any defense attorney's files relevant factual information about each closed claim that would aid in making any determination required in this section.

(c) 1. If the provider complies with the request under par. (b) 2, the plan, the fund, private insurers and defense attorneys shall provide photocopies or summaries of any information requested by the council.

2. If a private insurer or defense attorney is unable to comply with the council's request under subd. 1, or if the information provided is inadequate, the council shall notify the provider that it will proceed under subs. (5) to (7) using only the available information. A provider does not have a right to a hearing under sub. (9) on the grounds that a private insurer or defense attorney was unable to comply with the council's request under subd. 1, or provided inadequate information.

(d) If the provider does not comply with the request under par. (b) 2 with respect to any claim, the council shall, without review, include that claim in determining whether to impose a surcharge.

(5) PROCEDURE FOR REVIEW. (a) The council may identify an organization in this state that represents each type of provider included in the plan and the fund and may notify each organization that it may recommend individual providers or a committee of members of the organization as consultants for purposes of par. (b) or (c).

(b) Unless the council determines, after a preliminary review, that no surcharge should be imposed, for each review, the council shall do one of the following:

1. If the provider is a physician, refer the matter for consultation to a physician or committee of physicians recommended under par. (a) or to another physician or physicians selected by the council who practice the same specialty or, if possible, the same subspecialty as the provider. If the provider's specialty or subspecialty is different from that of the medical procedure involved in any incident, the council shall also refer the record relating to that incident to at least one physician who practices that specialty or, if possible, subspecialty.

2. If the provider is a nurse anesthetist, refer the matter for consultation to a nurse anesthetist or a committee of nurse anesthetists recommended under par. (a) or to another nurse anesthetist or nurse anesthetists selected by the council.

(c) If the provider is not a physician or nurse anesthetist, and a consultant for the provider's profession has been recommended under par. (a), the council may refer the matter to that consultant or to any other person with expertise in the area of the specialty or specialties involved in any incident or may review the provider's claims record itself.

(d) In reviewing a closed claim, the council or a consultant may consider any relevant information except information from a juror who participated in a civil action for damages arising out of an incident under review. The council or a consultant may consult with any person except a juror, interview the provider, employes of the provider or other persons involved in an incident or request the provider to furnish additional information or records.

(6) CONSULTANT'S OPINION; COUNCIL DETERMINATION. (a) A consultant shall provide the council with a written opinion as to whether, with respect to each incident reviewed, there are mitigating circumstances which reduce the future risk to the plan, the fund or both, and which

The contract shall include a provision for its cancellation if performance or delivery is not made in accordance with its terms and conditions.

(5) The servicing agent shall perform all of the following functions:

(am) Reporting to the claims committee of the board on claim files identified by that committee, at the times and in the manner specified by that committee.

(b) Establishing and revising case reserves.

(c) Contracting for annuity payments as part of structured settlements under guidelines adopted by the board.

(d) Investigating and evaluating claims.

(e) Negotiating to settlement all claims made against the fund except in cases where this responsibility is retained by the claims committee of the board.

(f) Filing with the commissioner and the board the annual report required under s. 655.27 (2), Stats., and any other report requested by the commissioner or the board.

(g) Reviewing court orders, verdicts and judgments and making recommendations on appeals.

(h) All other functions specified in the contract.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1984, No. 338, eff. 3-1-84; am. (1), (3) and (4), r. and recr. (2), r. (5) (a), renum. (5) (b) to be (5) and am. (5) (intro.), (b) to (g), cr. (5) (am) and (h), Register, June, 1990, No. 414, eff. 7-1-90.

Ins 17.30 Peer review council assessments. (1) PURPOSE. This section implements ss. 655.27 (3) (am) and 655.275 (6), Stats., relating to the assessment of fees sufficient to cover the costs, including the costs of administration, of the patients compensation fund peer review council appointed under s. 655.275 (2), Stats.

(2) ASSESSMENTS. (a) The following fees shall be assessed annually beginning with fiscal year 1986-87:

1. Against the fund, one-half of the actual cost of operating the council for each fiscal year, less one-half of the amounts, if any, collected under subd. 3.

2. Against the plan, one-half of the actual cost of operating the council for each fiscal year, less one-half of the amounts, if any, collected under subd. 3.

3. Against a private medical malpractice insurer, the actual cost incurred by the council for its review of any claim paid by the private insurer, if the private insurer requests a recommendation on premium adjustments with respect to that claim under s. 655.275 (5) (a) 3, Stats.

(b) Amounts collected under par. (a) 3 shall be applied to reduce, in equal amounts, the assessments under par. (a) 1 and 2 for the same fiscal year.

(3) PAYMENT. Each assessment under sub. (2) shall be paid within 30 days after the billing date.

History: Cr. Register, June, 1987, No. 378, eff. 7-1-87; am. (2) (a) 1. and 2., Register, June, 1990, No. 414, eff. 7-1-90.

Ins 17.35 Primary coverage; requirements; permissible exclusions; deductibles. (1) PURPOSE. This section implements ss. 631.20 and 655.24, Stats., relating to the approval of policy forms for health care liability insurance subject to s. 655.23, Stats.

(2) REQUIRED COVERAGE. To qualify for approval under s. 631.20, Stats., a policy shall at a minimum provide all of the following:

(a) Coverage for providing or failing to provide health care services to a patient.

(b) Coverage for peer review, accreditation and similar professional activities in conjunction with and incidental to the provision of health care services, when conducted in good faith by an insured.

(c) Coverage for utilization review, quality assurance and similar professional activities in conjunction with and incidental to the provision of health care services, when conducted in good faith by an insured.

(d) Indemnity limits of not less than the amounts specified in s. 655.23 (4), Stats.

(e) Coverage for supplemental payments in addition to the indemnity limits, including attorney fees, litigation expenses, costs and interest.

(f) That the insurer will provide a defense of the insured and the fund until there has been a determination that coverage does not exist under the policy or unless otherwise agreed to by the insurer and the fund.

(g) If the policy is a claims-made policy:

1. A guarantee that the insured can purchase an unlimited extended reporting endorsement upon cancellation or nonrenewal of the policy.

2. If the policy is a group policy, a provision that any health care provider, as defined under s. 655.001 (8), Stats., whose participation in the group terminates has the right to purchase an individual unlimited extended reporting endorsement.

3. A prominent notice that the insured has the obligation under s. 655.23 (3) (a), Stats., to purchase the extended reporting endorsement unless other insurance is available to ensure continuing coverage for the liability of all insureds under the policy for the term the claims-made policy was in effect.

4. A prominent notice that the insurer will notify the commissioner if the insured does not purchase the extended reporting endorsement and that the insured, if a natural person, may be subject to administrative action by his or her licensing board.

(2m) RISK RETENTION GROUPS. If the policy is issued by a risk retention group, as defined under s. 600.03 (41e), Stats., each new and renewal application form shall include the following notice in 10-point type:

NOTICE

Under the federal liability risk retention act of 1986 (15 U.S.C. ss. 3901 to 3906, the Wisconsin insurance security fund is not available for payment of claims if this risk retention group becomes insolvent. In that event, you will be personally liable for payment of claims up to your limit of liability under s. 655.23 (4), Wis. Stat.

Note: Subsection (2m) first applies to applications taken on October 1, 1991.

(3) PERMISSIBLE EXCLUSIONS. A policy may exclude coverage, or permit subrogation against or recovery from the insured, for any of the following:

(a) Criminal acts.

(b) Intentional sexual acts and other intentional torts.

(c) Restraint of trade, anti-trust violations and racketeering.

(d) Defamation.

(e) Employment, religious, racial, sexual, age and other unlawful discrimination.

(f) Pollution resulting in injury to a 3rd party.

(g) Acts that occurred before the effective date of the policy of which the insured was aware or should have been aware.

(h) Incidents occurring while a provider's license to practice is suspended, revoked, surrendered or otherwise terminated.

(i) Criminal and civil fines, forfeitures and other penalties.

(j) Punitive and exemplary damages.

(k) Liability of the insured covered by other insurance, such as worker's compensation, automobile, fire or general liability.

(l) Liability arising out of the ownership, operation or supervision by the insured of a hospital, nursing home or other health care facility or business enterprise.

(m) Liability of others assumed by the insured under a contract or agreement.

(n) Any other exclusion which the commissioner determines is not inconsistent with the coverage required under sub. (2).

(4) DEDUCTIBLES. If a policy includes a deductible or coinsurance clause, the insurer is responsible for payment of the total amount of indemnity up to the limits under s. 655.23 (4), Stats., but may recoup the amount of the deductible or coinsurance from the insured after the insurer's payment obligation is satisfied.

History: Cr. Register, June, 1990, No. 414, eff. 7-1-90; emerg. cr. (2m), eff. 7-1-91; cr. (2m), Register, July, 1991, No. 427, eff. 8-1-91.

Ins 17.50 Self-insured plans for health care providers. (1) PURPOSE. This section implements s. 655.23 (3) (a), Stats.

(2) DEFINITIONS. In this section:

(a) "Actuarial" means prepared by an actuary meeting the requirements of s. Ins. 6.12 who has experience in the field of medical malpractice liability insurance.

(b) "Level of confidence" means a percentage describing the probability that a certain funding level will be adequate to cover actual losses.

(c) "Occurrence coverage" means coverage for acts or omissions occurring during the period in which a self-insured plan is in effect.

(d) "Office" means the office of the commissioner of insurance.

(e) "Provider," when used without modification, means a health care provider, as defined in s. 655.001 (8), Stats., that is responsible for the establishment and operation of a self-insured plan.

(f) "Risk margin" means the amount that must be added to estimated liabilities to achieve a specified confidence level.

(g) "Self-insured plan" means a method, other than through the purchase of insurance, by which a provider may furnish professional liability coverage which meets the requirements of ch. 655, Stats.

(h) "Year" means the self-insured plan's fiscal year.

(3) COVERAGE. (a) A self-insured plan shall provide professional liability occurrence coverage with limits of liability in the amounts specified in s. 655.23 (4), Stats., for the provider, the provider's employes, other than employes who are natural persons defined as health care providers under s. 655.001 (8), Stats., and any other person for whom the provider is legally responsible while the employe or other person is acting within the scope of his or her duties for the provider.

(b) A self-insured plan may also provide occurrence coverage for any natural person who is a health care provider, as defined in s. 655.001 (8), Stats., and who is an employe, partner or shareholder of the provider. The self-insured plan shall provide separate limits of liability in the amounts specified in s. 655.23 (4), Stats., for each such natural person covered.

(c) A self-insured plan shall also provide for supplemental expenses in addition to the limits of liability in s. 655.23 (4), Stats., including attorney fees, litigation expenses, costs and interest incurred in connection with the settlement or defense of claims.

(d) A self-insured plan may not provide coverage for anything other than the professional liability coverage required under ch. 655, Stats., or for any other person than those specified in pars. (a) and (b).

(4) INITIAL FILING. A provider that intends to establish a self-insured plan shall file with the office a proposal which shall include all of the following:

(a) If the provider is not a natural person, the history and organization of the provider.

(b) If the provider is not a natural person, a resolution adopted by the provider's governing body approving the establishment and operation of a self-insured plan.

(c) A description of the proposed method of establishing and operating the self-insured plan.

(d) An actuarial estimate of the liabilities that will be incurred by the self-insured plan in the first year of operation, an actuarial review of the cost of the first year's funding and a description of how the self-insured plan will be funded.

(e) If prior acts coverage is required under sub. (6) (f) 1, an actuarial estimate of the liabilities of the provider and any natural person covered under sub. (3) (b) for prior acts, an actuarial review of the cost of funding the coverage and a description of how the coverage will be funded.

(f) An actuarial feasibility study which includes a 5-year projection of expected results.

(g) The identity of the bank that will act as trustee for the self-insured plan and a proposed trust agreement between the provider and the bank.

(h) Any proposed investment policy that will be applicable to the investment of the trust's assets.

(i) A description of the provider's existing or proposed risk management program.

(j) The estimated number and the professions of natural persons that the self-insured plan will cover under sub. (3) (b).

(k) A description of the proposed contractual arrangements with administrators, claims adjusters and other persons that will be involved in the operation of the self-insured plan.

(l) The provider's most recent audited annual financial statement.

(m) A proposed draft of a letter of credit, if the provider intends to use one as part of the initial funding.

(n) Any additional information requested by the office.

(5) REVIEW OF PROPOSAL; APPROVAL. (a) After reviewing a proposal submitted under sub. (4), the office may approve the proposal if all of the following conditions are met:

1. The initial filing is complete.

2. The proposal is actuarially sound.

3. The proposal complies with ch. 655, Stats.

4. The proposal ensures the provider's continuing ability to meet the financial responsibility requirements of s. 655.23, Stats.

5. The provider is sound, reliable and entitled to public confidence and may reasonably be expected to perform its obligations continuously in the future.

(b) If any of the conditions specified under par. (a) is not met, the office may request the provider to submit additional information in writing or may assist the provider in revising the proposal.

(c) A self-insured plan may not begin operation without the written approval of the office which specifies the earliest date operation may begin.

(6) FUNDING REQUIREMENTS; PROHIBITIONS. (a) The minimum initial funding required for a self-insured plan is $2,000,000.

(b) Before a self-insured plan begins operation, the provider shall establish a trust with a Wisconsin-chartered or federally-chartered bank with trust powers which is located in this state.

(c) 1. If the actuarial estimate under sub. (4) (d) is less than $2,000,000, the provider shall, before the self-insured plan begins operation, deposit in the trust cash equal to the first year's estimated liabilities plus a letter of credit equal to the difference between the cash funding and $2,000,000.

2. In each of the next 3 years, the provider shall make quarterly cash payments to the trust in amounts sufficient to keep the estimated liabilities fully funded and shall keep in effect a letter of credit equal to the difference between the total estimated liabilities and $2,000,000.

3. If the total estimated liabilities for the 5th year of operation are less than $2,000,000, the provider shall, during that year, make quarterly cash payments to the trust in amounts sufficient to ensure that, by the end of that year, the trust's cash assets equal $2,000,000, except that if the provider files a written request with the commissioner before the beginning of that year, the commissioner may permit the provider to continue using a letter of credit equal to the difference between the total estimated liabilities and $2,000,000. This permission may be renewed annually if the provider files a written request with the commissioner before the beginning of each subsequent fiscal year.

4. A letter of credit under this subsection shall meet all of the following conditions:

a. It shall be irrevocable.

b. It shall be issued by a Wisconsin-chartered or federally-chartered bank located in this state.

c. It shall be issued solely for the purpose of satisfying the funding requirements of the trust.

d. It shall describe the procedure by which the trustee may draw upon it.

(d) If the actuarial estimate under sub. (4) (d) is greater than $2,000,000, the provider shall, before the self-insured plan begins operation, deposit $2,000,000 cash in the trust. The provider shall make quarterly cash payments to the trust so that at the end of the first year of operation, the trust's cash assets equal the first year's estimated liabilities.

(e) In each subsequent year of the self-insured plan's operation, the provider shall make quarterly cash payments to the trust in amounts sufficient to ensure that the total cash assets of the trust at the end of each year are not less than the estimated liabilities reported under sub. (8) (a) 1.

(f) 1. If the provider or any natural person covered under sub. (3) (b) had claims-made coverage before the self-insured plan was established and did not purchase an extended reporting endorsement from the previous carrier, the self-insured plan shall provide coverage for prior acts by means of cash payments to the trust in addition to the funding required for the occurrence coverage.

2. If the actuarial estimate under sub. (4) (e) is less than $500,000, the provider shall, before the self-insured plan begins operation, deposit in the trust the entire amount of the estimate in cash.

3. If the actuarial estimate under sub. (4) (e) is greater than $500,000, the provider shall, before the self-insured plan begins operation, deposit in the trust $500,000 or the first year's estimated payments, whichever is greater. The provider shall make quarterly cash payments to the trust so that at the end of the first year, the trust's assets include the total estimated liabilities for prior acts.

(g) Quarterly cash payments under this subsection shall be in equal amounts except that the amount of the last quarter's payment shall be adjusted by the amounts of the trust's investment income and actual expenses incurred, and except that the first quarter's payment shall not be less than the amount of a quarterly payment for the previous year before adjustment for income and expenses.

(h) 1. A provider may not deposit in the trust, and the trustee may not pay from the trust, any funds other than those intended to meet the financial responsibility requirements of ch. 655, Stats., and to pay the administrative expenses of operating the self-insured plan and the trust.

2. The trustee may not invest any of the trust's assets in securities or real property of the provider or any of its affiliates.

(i) If the assets of the trust at any time are insufficient to pay all claims against the self-insured plan, the liabilities are those of the provider without recourse against any employe, partner or shareholder covered by the self-insured plan.

(7) FILING PRIOR TO OPERATION OF SELF-INSURED PLAN. Before an approved self-insured plan begins operation, the provider shall file with the office all of the following:

(a) Certified copies of the executed self-insured plan document and trust agreement.

(b) If the provider is not a natural person, a certified copy of an executed resolution adopted by the provider's governing body approving the self-insured plan and trust agreement.

(c) A certified copy of any trust investment policy adopted by the provider or the provider's governing body.

(d) The trustee's certification that the initial amount of cash required under sub. (6) has been deposited in the trust.

(e) A certified copy of any letter of credit held by the trustee.

(f) If any part of the operation of the self-insured plan is conducted by a person other than the provider or an employe, partner or shareholder of

the provider, a certified copy of an executed contract with each such person.

(8) FINANCIAL REPORTING. (a) Within 120 days after the end of a year, the self-insured plan shall submit to the office all of the following:

1. Actuarial estimates of the projected liabilities for the current year and of the total liabilities for all prior years covered by the self-insured plan and the risk margin for all projected and incurred claims, and an actuarial opinion of the reasonableness of the estimates.

2. A description of the proposed method of funding for the current year.

3. The provider's audited annual financial statement.

4. The self-insured plan's audited annual financial statement.

(b) Within 60 days after the end of each quarter, the self-insured plan shall submit to the office the most recent quarterly financial statement of the trust.

(9) OTHER REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. (a) After a self-insured plan begins operation, the provider shall report to the office any proposed change in the self-insured plan document, trust agreement, trust investment policy, letter of credit or any other document on file with the office if the change would materially affect the operation of the self-insured plan or its funding. No proposed change may take effect without the written approval of the office.

(b) The provider shall annually file with the patients compensation fund proof of financial responsibility under s. 655.23, Stats., in the form specified by the office. The provider shall also file proof of financial responsibility on behalf of each natural person covered under sub. (3) (b).

(c) The provider shall immediately notify the patients compensation fund if either of the following occurs:

1. A claim filed with the self-insured plan has a reserve of 50% or more of the limit specified in s. 655.23 (4), Stats., for one occurrence.

2. The self-insured plan's total aggregate reserves for the provider or for any natural person covered under sub. (3) (b) for a single year exceed 66% of the limit specified in s. 655.23 (4), Stats., for all occurrences in one year.

3. A claim filed with the self-insured plan creates potential exposure for the patients compensation fund, regardless of the amount reserved.

(d) The provider shall ensure that all claims paid by the self-insured plan are reported to the medical examining board and the board of governors of the patients compensation fund as required under s. 655.26, Stats.

(10) DISCOUNTING PROHIBITED. All actuarial estimates required under this section shall be reported on a nondiscounted basis.

(11) LEVELS OF CONFIDENCE. (a) The risk margin used in determining the initial funding under sub. (6) shall be at not less than a 90% level of confidence and, except as provided in pars. (b) and (c), shall remain at that level.

(b) After a self-insured plan has operated for at least 5 years and experience can be reasonably predicted, the office may permit the use of a risk margin of less than a 90%, but not less than a 75%, level of confidence in determining annual funding of the trust. For at least 5 years after such permission is granted, the provider shall fund the difference between the cash required at the lower level of confidence and the 90% level of confidence with funds restricted by the provider or the provider's governing body for the purpose of paying obligations of the self-insured plan. The restricted funds may be part of the provider's operating budget rather than assets of the trust.

(c) After a self-insured plan has operated for at least 5 years under par. (b), the office may permit the use of a risk margin of not less than a 75% level of confidence without additional restricted funds if the self-insured plan's actuary states that the self-insured plan's exposure base is stable enough to estimate the required liabilities.

(12) MONITORING; ORDERS. (a) If the office determines that a self-insured plan's operation does not ensure that the provider can continue to satisfy the conditions specified in sub. (5) (a), the commissioner may order the provider to take any action necessary to ensure compliance with those conditions.

(b) If the provider does not comply with the commissioner's order within the time specified in the order, the commissioner may order the provider to terminate the self-insured plan and the office may take whatever action is necessary to ensure the continued existence of the trust for a sufficient length of time to meet all of the obligations of the self-insured plan.

(13) EXISTING SELF-INSURED PLANS; COMPLIANCE. After this section takes effect, the office may review any approved self-insured plan to determine if it complies with this section. If the office determines that any self-insured plan is not in compliance, the commissioner may order the provider to take any action necessary to achieve compliance.

History: Cr. Register, December, 1989, No. 408, eff. 1-1-90.