

1849 The Exchange
Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30339
678.303.9290
800.282.0224
Fax 678.303.3732
www.mag.org



Medical Association of Georgia

Building a Better State of Health Since 1849

June 3, 2010

Via Certified Mail

Honorable Richard Thompson, Chairman
State Board of Workers' Compensation
270 Peachtree Street NW
Atlanta, Georgia, 30303-1299

Dear Chairman Thompson:

The Medical Association of Georgia ("MAG") is a professional association comprised of physicians licensed to practice medicine in the State of Georgia and represents the interests of Georgia physicians. MAG's mission is to enhance patient care and the health of the public by advancing the art and science of medicine. As such, MAG has a vital interest in the State Board of Workers' Compensation's rules governing physicians.

As the use of proprietary utilization review techniques increases, making it more difficult for Georgia providers to deliver the prompt medical treatment Georgia employers expect for their work injured employees, the Medical Association of Georgia opposes any changes to the WC-205 "advance authorization" procedure of Board Rule 205.

From all parts of this State, physician members of MAG report that the current WC-205 process is of great value in expediting delivery of medical care to Georgia's injured workers; consequently, use by MAG members of that statewide, uniform process continues to increase.

We urge the Board to reject any proposed changes to the one process which has proven to be effective in expediting delivery of authorized medical care; a process which has also been a significant factor in allowing Georgia physicians to meet their social duty to Georgia's injured workers and their employers which ask so many of our physician members to participate in the treatment and recovery of their employees by being members of Panels of Physicians.

Building a Better State of Health Since 1849

Honorable Richard Thompson, Chairman

June 3, 2010

Page 2

If the "advance authorization" process currently in place is weakened at a time when use of the multiplicity of proprietary utilization review processes is increasing throughout Georgia, the numbers of physicians willing to accept and treat Georgia injured workers will continue to decline, a completely preventable unintended consequence impacting Georgia's employers, employees and physicians.

Sincerely,



Donald J. Palmisano, Jr.

General Counsel/Director of Government Relations

Copy: Honorable Stephen Farrow – State Board of Workers' Compensation (via certified mail)
Honorable Warren Massey – State Board of Workers' Compensation (via certified mail)
Honorable Mark Gannon – Savell & Williams, LLP (via certified mail)