

Updating the Philippines' List of Prescribed Diseases

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Abstract

To update the present Philippines list of 29 compensable diseases, claims for compensation from the private and government insurance agencies were reviewed covering the period 1989 to 1993. A total of 3758 records were analyzed. Prevalent work-related diseases noted which shall be proposed for compensation include the following: Musculoskeletal disorders (including Low Back Pain, Carpal Tunnel Syndrome etc.); Occupational Eye disorders; Psychiatric illness specifically Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, Occupational Skin Disorders (Contact dermatitis, irritant and allergic, chloracne etc.), and Additional infectious diseases (Tetanus, Endemic Viral Diseases and Parasitism). In addition, after review of the ILO Working Document on the Revised List of Occupational Diseases, Diseases caused by chemicals from benzoquinone, n-hexane, methyl n-butyl ketone and chemical asphyxiants (carbon monoxide, hydrogen cyanide and hydrogen sulfide) were added. Consequent to this, a modification of the format of the prescribed list has been proposed (i.e., classifying diseases according to the different occupational hazards: chemical, physical, biologic, including Occupational Lung disorders and Occupational cancers) as well as the retitling of previous diseases listed. Likewise, recommended guidelines to assess the compensability of both prescribed and non-prescribed diseases has been developed.