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Louisiana passes several workers' compensation laws during 2012 session

Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal signed several bills relating to workers' compensation into law which were enacted during the 2012 Legislative session. A full description of the changes enacted can be found [here](#). The most significant amendments to the workers' compensation system in Louisiana include:

- Enacting the Louisiana Workers' Compensation law, which goes into effect August 1, 2012 and requires workers' compensation cases to be decided on their merits;
- Mandating electronic bill submission by July 1, 2013;
- Mandating electronic data interchange (EDI) by December 31, 2013;
- Revising mandated timeframes for notifications and payments made electronically;
- Clarifying how and when utilization review companies can be used and procedures for when an independent medical exam is requested;
- Amending certain payment thresholds;
- Extending the prescriptive period of developmental injury exception from two years to up to three, effective August 1, 2012;
- Making claims and payment data available to the Louisiana Office of Workers' Compensation Administration (OWCA) for the purpose of identifying violations of the workers' compensation law;
- Requiring one lump sum payment of \$75,000 be paid to the employee's surviving biological and adopted children if an employee dies without legal dependents entitled to benefits under a state or federal compensation system.
- Modifying the obligation of an employer or insurer to pay medical expenses for an employee who was injured while participating in a work release or transitional work program.

If you have any questions concerning these legislative changes, please contact your Sedgwick client services director.

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