

SJ 30 Update
**Priorities, Research Questions
and Comparator States**

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SJ 30 Study To Include:

- Frequency of claims (by type of claim)
- Medical costs (duration, availability and access)
- Use of and effectiveness of utilization and treatment guidelines
- Evaluation of 2007 and 2008 fee schedules
- Should MT include occupational disease presumptions?
- Attorney fees in medical cases
- Use of exemptions
- Regulatory structure
- Other

Report to include reports from stakeholders and be completed by
9/15/2010

Priority of Public Policy Questions:

- **Medical Costs** (including duration, availability, access and cost containment options; U & T guidelines and their effectiveness)
- **Montana's Indemnity Benefit Structure** (especially duration of lost time benefits, RTW options, and PPD structure)
- Payment of **Attorney Fees in Medical Only Cases**
- **Course and Scope Issues** (how does MT compare to other states in what is covered?)
- **Injury Frequency** (Why does Montana have so many more injuries and what more can we do to prevent them?)
- **Occupational disease presumptions** (for certain occupations)
- **Regulatory Structural Issues**
- **Fraud**

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Recommendation on Comparator Western States

- Which states have similar demographics?
- Which states have a similar industry mix?
- Which states have a similar benefit structure?
- Which states have a similar insurance market and regulatory approach?
- Which states does Montana compete with the most for business?

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Recommendation on Comparator Western States

Alaska

South Dakota

Idaho

Washington

North Dakota

Wyoming

Oregon

Actions Needed By September 10

- Agreement on priorities
- Agreement on comparator states
- Listing of any additional research questions under each of the Topic Areas
- Any additional questions or concerns about the issues to be studied or the comparator states

Planned Future Presentations

- Summary of medical cost containment strategies used by states
- Options states use for payment of attorney fees in disputed medical only cases
- Benefit structure issues and options
- Return to work best practices – summary of literature and work done for the US DOL.
- Occupational disease presumptions – current status of the issue in other states and current status of the research
- Fraud in workers' compensation – current best practices and results