

Workers Compensation Benefit Overview – Arizona

Major Developments: Last major legislation in 2004 (SB899), affected indemnity rates, disability rating, medical treatment, medical-legal disputes, penalties, and apportionment. 2007 legislation affects caps on TD and post-surgical treatments.

Indemnity Issues


Temporary Total Benefits	Min: \$200/month Max: \$3600/month 7 day waiting period with retro benefits paid if more than 14 days lost. Benefits paid bi-weekly. Unlimited benefits.
Temporary Partial Benefits	See temporary benefits for min/max. No waiting period. Benefits paid monthly. Unlimited benefits. Job search required.
Permanent Total Benefits	No waiting period. Benefits paid monthly based on average monthly wage. Lifetime benefits.
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Fatality Benefits	No waiting period. Based on average monthly wage. Paid to dependents over lifetime of spouse and age 18/22 of children. Claims must be submitted within one year of death.
Vocational Rehabilitation	Not required.
Settlement Allowed	Yes. Indemnity benefits and medical benefits if dispute exists. Must be approved by the Industrial Commission of Arizona.
Cap on benefits, exceptions	None
Temporary Partial Benefits	See temporary benefits for min/max. No waiting period. Benefits paid monthly. Unlimited benefits. Job search required.

Medical Issues

Initial Choice of Provider	Employer may direct one visit. Injured worker has choice.
Change of Provider	Must be done through Industrial Commission of Arizona
Medical Fee Schedule	Yes
Managed Care	Reasonable & necessary – Network in place
Treatment Guidelines	Yes. ACOEM Medical Guidelines holds a statutory presumption of correctness, but all treatment must be in accordance to evidence-based, nationally recognized guidelines.
Utilization Review	Not required
Treatment Guidelines	None.
Medical Mileage Reimbursement Rate	44.5/mile if worker must travel outside of metropolitan area or attend IME
Ability to Terminate Medical Treatment	No. Can limit by IME.
Settlement Allowed	Only if legitimate dispute exists, normally medical settlements only allow credit against future Supportive Care, not active medical treatment. Must be approved by Industrial Commission.
Cap on benefits, exceptions	None

Other Issues

Hearings require attorney or claim handler participation	Claim handlers can handle any and all matters before the WCAB, including trials and appeals.
Hearings require attorney or claim handler participation	Yes. Attorney must be appointed for defense. Worker may represent self.
Occupational Diseases	Yes
Second Injury Fund availability	No



Other Offset Opportunities	Apportionment only in specific instances.
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State workers compensation website link: www.ica.state.az.us

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