Hydraulics v. Illinois Industrial Commission (also known as "Petrillo Doctrine") and its Impact on Workers' Compensation Cases

This case law has significantly affected the manner in which insurers and employers are able to obtain medical information on WC cases within the Benefit State of Illinois.

This decision makes *ex-parté* (direct and unauthorized) communications to any and all of claimant's medical providers unlawful if a signed waiver from the employee or, if represented, his/her attorney has not been obtained.

It is necessary to alter the workflow process for claim administration on Illinois WC claims.

What Can Employers Do?

- The Hydraulic decision applies to both insurers and employers. Thus, employers are barred from direct communication to medical providers of their injured workers unless they have obtained the signed waiver release.

- Assist Travelers/CSS in getting the waiver signed prior to reporting a claim.

- Consult your legal department if you are in doubt about any such actions that you are contemplating regarding direct communication with injured worker's medical providers.

1. Please print the **Medical Authorization**.
2. Have it signed and dated by the injured employee
3. Please fax the executed Authorization to: Travelers/CSS at 877-786-5567. P.O. Box 3205, Naperville, IL 60566-3205