

# **NY intervention helps 600 workers obtain speedy treatment, says board**

Copyright. InsuranceTimes™ © 2003 by M&S Communications, Inc. All rights reserved. September 30, 2003

ALBANY — In 2002, the New York Workers Compensation Board began intervening on behalf of claimants whose request for authorization related to non-emergency medical treatment had not been addressed by the insurer within 30 days. To date, nearly 600 orders have been issued authorizing treatment, according to officials.

Medical providers are required to seek prior approval from an insurer for procedures costing more than \$500 for a patient. Insurers are expected to provide authorization or a denial in a timely fashion.

The procedure requires medical providers to contact insurers by telephone and by mail to request medical authorizations prior to requesting intervention from the Board. If an intervention form is received, the Board will issue an order within 10 days directing the insurer to authorize the treatment. The directive can be rescinded if evidence is presented within 10 days indicating that the treatment is not medically necessary. □