Department of Veterans Affairs

Memorandum

Date: January 14, 2000

From: Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Administration (006)

Subj: Electronic Filing of Occupational Injury and Illness Forms

To: Administration Heads, Assistant Secretaries, Other Key Officials, and Deputy Assistant Secretaries

1. The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Administration is pleased to announce the immediate availability of a computer program that allows electronic filing of initial reports of occupational injuries and illnesses. This Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) is a feature of VA's Workers' Compensation Management Information System (WC-MIS), which is managed by VA's Workers' Compensation Program Office in (OOS1). EDI is now available to all VA organizations nationwide.

2. VA's EDI system, developed in cooperation with the Department of Labor, permits facility workers' compensation managers to create and send initial reports of injury or illness directly to the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP). This process will considerably improve the timely submission of claims.

3. The new EDI capability will reduce workers' compensation claim submission time by 3-5 days. This increased efficiency enhances VA's ability to comply with the President's Federal Worker 2000 initiative and VA's commitment to Congress to enhance workers' compensation case management systems. It will also provide immediate case receipt feedback from OWCP, reduce form completion errors and inconsistencies, and simplify injury and illness coding on the OWCP claim forms.

4. The EDI is designed to accommodate VHA's Automated Safety Incident Surveillance and Tracking System (ASISTS) program. The combination of ASISTS and WC-MIS as a One VA system will further our efforts to assemble the finest safety tracking and workers' compensation system in the Federal Government.

5. To facilitate implementation of the EDI and to obtain WC-MIS user input from workers' compensation case managers, a WC-MIS Steering Committee and Users Forum will be formed in the near future. This initiative will formalize and continue the customer service forum and management oversight programs that have existed throughout the development of the WC-MIS.

6. I encourage each of you to take advantage of this system improvement. If you wish to participate, please have a member of your staff contact the VA Workers' Compensation Program Office on (202) 273-9830 for additional information, instructions for activating this system, or EDI training availability. Thank you for your participation.

Eugene A. Brickhouse

VA FORM MAR 1989 2105