

**Washington State Insurance Commissioners Adopt New  
Provider Contracting Rules, Including Prompt Pay Requirements**  
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In July, 2000, the Washington State Insurance Commissioner adopted regulations that require payors to promptly pay clean claims provider, and otherwise regulate the terms of provider contracts. See WAC 284-43-300-340. In general, the regulations require insurers to pay "clean" claims in thirty days. Provider agreements are required to have a dispute resolution process that is fast and fair. The costs and inconvenience of audits must be reasonable. Providers would be given the right to review any insurer standards, manuals or documents prior to signing the provider agreement. Any change of the provider's responsibilities pursuant to such standards would require notice and the right to terminate by the provider. Insurers would also be prohibited from retaliating against providers that report possible violations of state or federal law. Lastly, insurers would be required to file any material change to their agreements, whether or not the change is to a provision required by law.

The text of the regulations can be found on the Insurance Commissioner's website at <http://www.insurance.wa.gov/>.

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