

PLANK 4 - THE HEALTH CARE MARKETPLACE

RESOLUTION 4.02:

REFORM WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Wisconsin has been a national leader when it comes to worker's compensation, as it was the first state in the nation to approve a workers' compensation law in 1911. Wisconsin's workers' compensation program differs in some important ways from programs in neighboring states. Wisconsin has not adopted medical cost containment measures in its worker's compensation programs. In Wisconsin, most employers still pay billed charges for health services related to workers' compensation. More than 40 other states, including Illinois, have adopted workers' compensation fee schedules.

The Alliance has built its membership through the years by adhering to a set of principles that guide the way it contracts with health providers. One of those principles is that a fair price is a fair price for a health service. Once a price is agreed upon, it shouldn't matter who is paying it or how it is being paid. As a result, most Alliance contracts stipulate that providers will accept the same reimbursement for a workers' compensation claims that they do for group health claims.

The Alliance resolves to work with Wisconsin policymakers and the Wisconsin Workers' Compensation Advisory Council to ensure that common sense reforms are considered and enacted. As an advocate for employers and an organization that understands "market prices" for health care services, The Alliance can play an important role in helping policy makers understand what may constitute an acceptable solution for employers.