

SEMINAR OVERVIEW

Morning Session:

7:45 - 8:30 a.m.: *Registration. Introduction and Networking (Continental Breakfast Provided)*

8:30 - 9:30 a.m. **Recent Cases and Proposed Legislation You Should Know, Trends in Medical Claim Petitions and Understanding Idiopathic Claims**

John H. Geaney, Esq., Capehart Scatchard

- ◆ What are the recent decisions your company needs to know?
- ◆ How will pending legislation affect your workers' comp program?
- ◆ Effectively using prior treating records to reduce your company's exposure.
- ◆ Is it idiopathic or a work aggravation of a prior condition?
- ◆ Can a medical provider file in NJ where the injured worker's employment contacts are outside New Jersey?

9:30 - 10:15 a.m. *Upper Extremity Claims in Workers' Compensation*

Dr. Peter Chan, Hand Surgery Specialists, LLC

- ◆ How does a hand/elbow surgeon decide whether a medical condition is work related?
- ◆ What kind of past medical history is helpful in carpal tunnel claims?
- ◆ What does the literature say on forceful and repetitive work?
- ◆ What are the non-work factors that may independently cause carpal tunnel syndrome?
- ◆ How successful are epicondylar and carpal tunnel releases in relieving symptoms?

10:15 - 10:30 a.m. *Morning Break and Network with Vendors*

10:30 - 11:20 a.m. *Key Defenses for Employers to Know in New Jersey*

Prudence M. Higbee, Esq., Capehart Scatchard

- ◆ How can you win occupational disease claims using the statute of limitations?
- ◆ Where does New Jersey law stand on parking lot claims?
- ◆ The going-and-coming rule in relation to reporting to job sites.
- ◆ Does fraud occur when a claimant misrepresents prior medical history?
- ◆ When should recreational and social activity claims be accepted and denied?

11:20 - 12:10 p.m. *Complex Pain Management Issues Facing New Jersey Employers: Panel Discussion*

**Dr. Giovanni Ramundo, Pain Medicine Physicians
Dr. Steven Crawford, IMX Medical Management Services
Dr. Jennifer Yanow, JLS Pain Management**

Moderator: John H. Geaney, Esq., Capehart Scatchard

- ◆ Are national and state efforts to curb opiate abuse having an impact on workers' compensation?
- ◆ What is the best indication for opiates in workers' compensation?
- ◆ Should interventional techniques and non-narcotic medications be the primary choice for pain following spine surgery?
- ◆ How do pain dependency and addiction complicate the job of the defense IME physician?
- ◆ If recreational marijuana is legalized in New Jersey, how will this affect workers' compensation?

12:10 - 1:00 p.m.: **Buffet Lunch Included (network with the speakers and visit the sponsor booths)**

Afternoon Session:

1:00 - 2:00 p.m.: *Panel Discussion: The Key Provisions of New York Versus New Jersey Workers' Compensation Laws*

Michael Vecchione, Esq., Vecchione, Vecchione & Connors, LLP

Ashley Fiore, Esq., Capehart Scatchard, New Jersey

Moderator: Prudence M. Higbee, Esq., Capehart Scatchard

- ◆ Contrast the rules for controlling medical care in each state.
- ◆ Learn how medical and temp benefits are terminated in each state.
- ◆ How involved is the Division of Workers' Compensation in each state? Can you close a file for good?
- ◆ Discussion of permanency determinations in each state.
- ◆ The hearing process for formal claim petitions in each state.

2:00 - 2:45 p.m.: *Challenges Facing Spine Surgeons In Workers' Compensation*

Dr. Richard Nachwalter, Atlantic Spine Specialists

- ◆ What does a spine surgeon look for in obtaining a useful past medical history?
- ◆ When should fusion surgery be recommended and when not?
- ◆ Reconciling conflicts between radiologists and surgeons: bulge versus protrusion versus herniation.
- ◆ Spinal cord stimulators: Overdone? Underwhelming? Percentage of success?
- ◆ Do surveillance videos help spine surgeons assess validity, treatment and MMI?

2:45 - 3:00 p.m. *Afternoon Break and Networking*

3:00 - 3:45 p.m.: *Treading Lightly: Terminating Workers With Restrictions After MMI*

Carmen Saginario Jr., Esq., Capehart Scatchard

- ◆ What are the considerations an employer should make before terminating an injured worker who has been out of work on workers' compensation?
- ◆ Analyzing the risks of a civil law suit under the NJLAD, ADA or FMLA.
- ◆ Learn the basic anatomy of a disability-based NJLAD or ADA claim.
- ◆ How helpful are FCEs in making decisions to terminate?
- ◆ Getting the greatest value out of job descriptions in the employment arena.

3:45 - 4:00 p.m.: *Workers' Comp Brain Teasers: Audience Participation and Dialogue*

- ◆ Don't miss this final and fun session on little known facts about New Jersey law.
- ◆ Test your knowledge of comp in this audience participation session.

4:00 p.m. **Program Concludes**