



HOOPER, LUNDY & BOOKMAN, PC

HEALTH CARE LAWYERS & ADVISORS

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Hooper Lundy & Bookman Files Suit Against ILWU-PMA For Failure To Pay Medical Claims

(Los Angeles) -- On March 21, 2014, Hooper, Lundy & Bookman, PC, filed a complaint in federal district court against the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union – Pacific Maritime Association (ILWU-PMA) Welfare Plan for its refusal to pay for medical services provided to its members. The complaint alleges that ILWU-PMA has failed to pay for physicians' and surgery center claims as a result of problems caused by its third party administrators, Cigna and Zenith.

"I have received calls from many physicians and surgery centers who have not been paid for approximately two years," said Daron Toooh, lead attorney in the federal lawsuit.

The complaint alleges that ILWU-PMA's problems started when CIGNA stopped processing claims in 2012. When Zenith took over claims processing, there were a back-log of approximately 89,000 claims. The complaint alleges that the problems were further exacerbated because Zenith lacked the technological and staffing capacity to process the claims.

The complaint alleges that most of the services were authorized by either SHPS or Innovative Care Management. However, rather than pay for the authorized services, ILWU-PMA hired a company called TC3 to send out form letters asking for medical records, even though in most cases, ILWU-PMA already had copies of the medical records. ILWU-PMA then used the TC3 letters as an excuse to pay the claims.

"It is evident that the problems stem from the dysfunction at ILWU-PMA and its third party administrators," said Mr. Toooh. "I am sure that ILWU-PMA will try to blame the physicians for why the claims are not getting paid."

About Hooper, Lundy & Bookman, PC: Hooper, Lundy & Bookman's litigation lawyers are regularly engaged in complex litigation involving hospitals and health systems, as well as other health care providers. The firm's litigation department regularly assists provider clients with litigation, arbitration and mediation services that have resulted in numerous favorable judgments and new case law. With clients in 50 states and offices in Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, and Washington, D.C., the firm is the largest law firm in the country dedicated solely to the representation of health care providers and suppliers. For more information, visit the firm's website at www.health-law.com.