

Dear Legal Aid Group Member

I had not anticipated sending out another update so soon, but important news about the upgrade to CCMS interface to enter bills, rather than using Claim-Upload with external software, has changed that.

**1. Draft claims and copy rejected claims on CCMS will be wiped after Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

Due to problems with CCMS, the upgrade that will wipe draft claims has had to be postponed and I have been informed at today's PET meeting that this is now scheduled for **5pm next Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**

The copy function for bills rejected before the upgrade will not work for a few days after this, due to compatibility for the upgrade with these claims which the LAA will need some time to rectify.

Communications this new deadline are due to go out on Twitter and LinkedIn this Wednesday and the LAA e-bulletin on Thursday. I have asked for feedback to be given to the relevant team dealing with the upgrade and to ask them whether more time can be given because of the relatively short notice this will now give to providers and costs professionals for claims that they are currently working on. However, I do not know if this will result in a further delay and you should work to next Monday as the deadline.

**2. Paper final claims (Claim1s etc) must be submitted asap**

As detailed in our pre-Christmas update, the LAA were asking for final claims to be submitted by end January 2022 on paper certificate cases where a 100% POA was claimed under contingency measures. The LAA further confirmed to us that they would liaise with providers about outstanding cases after this date. Presumably, failure to engage with the LAA about this will result in recoupments of POAs at some stage.

The LAA have received about 500 final claims out of the 1000-odd applicable cases. Due to Covid restrictions introduced since the new year in Wales and uncertainty about whether England would follow, they delayed initiating discussions with providers that was due to be triggered yesterday but will be looking to do this shortly.

A reminder that submitting paper claims via email [CIS-SFE@Justice.gov.uk](mailto:CIS-SFE@Justice.gov.uk) was introduced during lockdown and has recently been made permanent this autumn and the guide for this can be found on the LAA training website and is also attached.

**3. Inquest Cases – some new cases will be claimed on Claim 1s**

Following a long running campaign by the charity Inquest, means testing on applications for inquests will be removed from tomorrow. The LAA are still working on getting the means testing function removed from CCMS for inquests and in the interim new cases will be granted and run on the old CIS meaning that they will be under old paper certificates, managed using the paper forms (CIV APP 8s etc.) and will be claimed on CIV Claim 1 form; such cases will not be subsequently transferred on CCMS. The LAA anticipate that CCMS will be able to deal with non-means tested inquest cases within a few weeks and so do not anticipate that there will be many paper-based cases.

Kind regards

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