

indemnity) for the cardiac condition. When we were told the insurer had not, we obtained signed verification and included the document in the submission. The approved MSA was more than \$90,000.00 less than it would have been had CMS required cardiac treatment costs to be included.

Conversely, we handled a claim in which we were instructed to remove costs from the MSA for treatment of a disputed lumbar spine condition. The claimant had slipped on a loose board, injuring her knee. The disputed back condition had never been litigated, and the medical records included treatment recommendations for the low back problem. While the insurer argued that the low back problems did not appear until much later, some diagnostic testing had been paid through the WC claim. While we complied with the insurer's instructions to remove the treatment costs from the proposed MSA, CMS required additional treatment costs (approximately \$10,000.00) for the disputed condition.

You may contact the author at 770-493-4167 or <http://www.bmanleymsa.com>

Does Electronic Data Live Forever?

Ken Robinson with LWG Consulting was our guest speaker at the luncheon last month. His topic Computer Forensics was not only informative but got all of us attending thinking about how we handle our communication in today's electronic environment. Ken informed us of the basic Computer Forensics 101 giving us high level details on the following concepts:

- What is computer forensics and why is it important?
- What is electronic data and how is it stored?
- What is the computer forensics process?
- How is the chain of custody preserved?
- What is hidden data and how can it be retrieved?
- What about damaged media?

As we know computers and some sort of electronic device that we all use are everywhere. At times this information is lost and there is a need to retrieve the data. In addition, there may be a need that the computer data is needed for a legal case and it is extremely important the data that is analyzed by the parties and what is ultimately presented in court can be held up as uncorrupted data during the retrieve process.



Did you know that Electronic Discovery is the biggest development in employment law in recent years? Did you know that the average time for Internet connected computer to be hacked is 40 minutes? Bottom line is that if you

have not been exposed to computer forensics you will eventually.

As we move further and further into more electronic communications from blackberries, thumb drives, PDAs, network servers, the Internet and other online service providers, we will become less reliant on paper and more reliant on electronic data. Unlike paper, which can be shredded, the electronic data, though you may think you deleted, is never gone and can always be retrieved should it be necessary.

ACA would like to thank Ken Robinson with LWG Consulting for his time and sharing with us this knowledge.

Membership Renewal Dues Are Now Due, Please submit your renewal dues ASAP!

ACA Going Green

The Atlanta Claims Association continues its efforts to be a responsible corporate citizen by launching their first "Going Green" initiative. Beginning in January 2010 we will begin progressing to the electronic delivery of our monthly newsletter. This effort will help us to reduce the paper waste generated by our current distribution channel and enable us to share important association news in a more timely and direct manner to our membership. Please look for additional information in the January edition to include our e-subscription registration.

