The Claims Administrator's News Source for Settlement Class Members

January 2019



# **2019 Inflation Adjustment**

Under Section 6.9 of the Settlement Agreement, in January of each year the Special Masters may direct an inflation adjustment to the Monetary Award amounts, not to exceed 2.5%, based on consideration of the Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers. The Special Masters have approved a 1.9% upward adjustment, effective as of January 12, 2019. Click <a href="here">here</a> for a copy of the updated Monetary Award Grid values. We also post the Monetary Award Grid on the Reference Guides page of the Settlement Website.

If you did not receive payment by January 12, 2019, on a Notice of Monetary Award or Notice of Derivative Claimant Award previously issued, we will calculate the 1.9% upward adjustment, add it to your Award and pay you that new Award amount if and when your Award is paid. You do not need to take any action to receive this additional amount. All Monetary Award Determination Notices issued on or after January 12, 2019, will use the increased Monetary Award Grid values.

#### A Message from the Claims Administrator



# February 6, 2019 is the Claim Package submission DEADLINE for pre-Effective Date diagnoses!

This means if you were examined by a doctor on or before February 6, 2017, and the doctor gave you a Qualifying Diagnosis based on that exam, you must submit a Monetary Award claim for the diagnosis by February 6, 2019, if you wish to make a claim. Click here to read a letter from Co-Lead Class Counsel about this deadline.

If you are subject to and miss the February 6, 2019 deadline, Section 8.3(a)(i) of the Settlement Agreement says you cannot receive a Monetary Award for the Qualifying Diagnosis unless you can show "substantial hardship." Click <a href="here">here</a> to read an FAQ with more on this.

#### **Orran Brown**

Founding Partner BrownGreer PLC

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# Now that 2019 is here, we want to highlight some of what happened last year in the Program.

Go to the Reports & Statistics page on the Settlement Website to see total numbers since the Program opened. But here are some highlights just on the period from January to December 2018:

- 582 Retired NFL Football Players and Representative Claimants received Notices of Monetary Award.
- \$335,486,619 was paid to or on behalf of 521 Players and Representative Claimants.
- 139 Derivative Claimants received Notices of Derivative Claimant Award.
- \$592,961 was paid to or on behalf of 114 Derivative Claimants.
- We handled 18,416 communications, including 5,747 emails and 12,669 calls made or received.
- Players attended 5,333 BAP exam appointments (some of which the BAP Administrator had scheduled in 2017).

- The BAP Administrator scheduled 5,273 new BAP exam appointments (some of which will take place in 2019).
- We redesigned and added a search feature to the Settlement Website.
- There were 127,096 unique visits to the Settlement Website, coming from 100 countries and all 50 of the United States.
- We started issuing these monthly "Insights" newsletters.
- We issued 7,021 notices to 3,902 different persons.
- The Court and Special Masters issued 12 decisions and designated them to be published on the Settlement Website.

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# **Claims for Supplemental Monetary Awards**

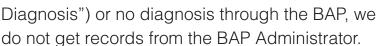
This month, we launched the process by which Retired NFL Football Players (or their Representative Claimants) may submit claims

**Create New Supplemental Claim** 

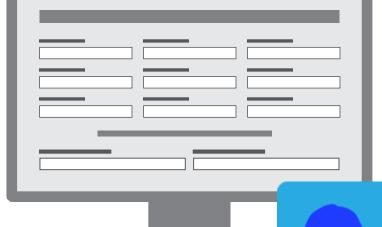
for <u>Supplemental Monetary Awards</u>. If you use an online portal with us and were paid a Monetary Award, the Claim Package tab in your portal will have a "Create New Supplemental Claim" button you can use to submit a Supplemental Claim Package based on a new Qualifying Diagnosis received after the Qualifying Diagnosis for which the Award was paid. We posted an Alert about this on the Settlement Website (under "Documents," click "Alerts"). We also put the necessary forms in a new section titled "Supplemental Monetary Awards" on the <u>Forms</u> page.

# **Records from the BAP Administrator**

In our <u>August newsletter</u>, we reported that the BAP Administrator uploads directly through a secure online portal all medical records related to Level 1.5 and Level 2 Neurocognitive Impairment diagnoses ("Qualifying Diagnoses") made in the BAP. If you receive a diagnosis of Level 1 Neurocognitive Impairment (not a "Qualifying



Additionally, while the NFL Parties and Co-Lead Class Counsel receive general statistical information about all BAP exams, the personal health information or medical records from your BAP exam is not shared with the NFL, its attorneys, or its consultants. Click <a href="here">here</a> for an FAQ with more details about what happens after a BAP exam.



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## **Resolving Attorneys' Liens Disputes**

On January 7, 2019, Magistrate Judge Strawbridge issued a Report and Recommendation with these five factors to analyze a lawyer's performance under a contingency fee contract and resolve Attorneys' Liens Disputes after a Settlement Class Member receives an Award:



- (1) Reasonableness of the contingency fee contract when it was signed;
- (2) Reasonableness of the contract at the time the lienholder seeks enforcement;
- (3) Results obtained by the lawyer;
- (4) Quality of representation; and
- (5) How the work contributed to the Award.

Click <u>here</u> to read an Alert with more information about these five factors. The Court will review the Report and Recommendation and issue a final decision accepting, rejecting, or modifying its findings. If you were previously represented by a lawyer in this Program and have questions about this as it relates to you and that lawyer, call or email us for help.

### **Generally Consistent Order**

On January 9, 2019, the Court entered an Order regarding Qualified MAF Physicians who deviate from the Baseline Assessment Program ("BAP") testing protocols and diagnostic criteria to make Level 1.5 or Level 2 Neurocognitive Impairment diagnoses. In that

Order, the Court directed that we develop for its review and approval a clarification to the Rules Governing Qualified MAF Physicians that will require Qualified MAF Physicians who deviate from the BAP criteria to provide a written description in their reports as to why, in their

medical judgment, the evaluation and evidence is "generally consistent" with the BAP criteria. We are working with the Court and Special Masters on how best to implement this and will announce any process or Rule changes in a future Alert.

#### You can send materials to us at one of these addresses:

#### U.S. Mail:

NFL Concussion Settlement Claims Administrator P.O. Box 25369 Richmond, VA 23260

#### Delivery (ex., FedEx, UPS):

NFL Concussion Settlement c/o BrownGreer PLC 250 Rocketts Way Richmond, VA 23231 If you call us at 1-855-887-3485 with questions about the BAP, select Option 2 to speak to the BAP Administrator.

Email: ClaimsAdministrator@NFLConcussionSettlement.com