



James J. Campbell  
Commissioner

# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

## *Department of Industrial Accidents*

*600 Washington Street  
Boston, Mass. 02111*

### **CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 285A**

TO: INSURERS, SELF-INSURERS, SELF-INSURED GROUPS, AND  
OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES  
FROM: JAMES J. CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONER *JJC*  
RE: 1) THE APPOINTMENT OF AN INDUSTRY LIAISON  
COMMITTEE (ILC)  
2) THE SELECTION OF THE CENTER FOR HEALTH  
ECONOMICS RESEARCH (CHER) FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
THE MASSACHUSETTS WORKERS' COMPENSATION MEDICAL  
UTILIZATION TRACKING AND TRENDING SYSTEM (MUTTS)  
DATE: SEPTEMBER 18, 1996

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In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c. 152, s.13, as most recently amended by St. 1991 c. 398, s. 34, and pursuant to the reporting requirements of 452 CMR 6.05 et seq. The Department and its Commissioner has the statutory authority to review and monitor the appropriateness, the effectiveness, the cost and the quality of health care services rendered the Commonwealth's injured and ill workers. In order to meet this statutory responsibility the Department is establishing MUTTS, a system for the collection and analysis of medical bill information.

**This is the first in a series of circular letters, numbered 285 A through Z, specially designated to disseminate information and requirements related to MUTTS.**

## **I ILC**

The Department wishes to work cooperatively with the industry in the execution of MUTTS. Towards that end, the Department has constituted a committee of representatives of insurers, as well as other interested parties, to advise the Department relative to the development, implementation and integrity of MUTTS.

## **II MUTTS VENDOR**

The Department has awarded a five year contract to develop and implement MUTTS to CHER. CHER will receive and house data transmissions on behalf of the Department and recommend to the Department the reporting standards and acceptable magnetic media formats which insurers must use to meet the reporting requirements in 452 CMR 6.05. Prior to issuing specific technical standards and procedures for insurer data submission; CHER, with the oversight of the Department and the ILC, will design, conduct, analyze and report upon a survey of all potential insurer data sources in order to assess the key characteristics of the insurers' data reporting capabilities. CHER will conduct the survey from October 1996 through December 1996. All insurers will be required to complete the survey during the time period determined by the Department. Insurers will receive technical data standards manuals and submission schedules well in advance of data submission deadlines. In addition, technical staff from CHER and the Department's Office of Health Policy will provide orientation sessions and on-going technical assistance with insurer data administrators at no cost to insurers.