

CHALLENGE:

Case submitted to Tower for **Pre-MSA** Triage to assess Medicare exposure. In 2010, worker was doing electrical line work when he was struck by lightning. Injuries included electric shock with pain, insomnia, depression and seizure activity. Treatment included prescription drugs as follows: Hydrocodone/APAP (7.5 / 325 mg at 4 / day), Baclofen (muscle relaxant), **Topamax** (anti-seizure), Cymbalta (anti-depressant), **Keppra** (anti-convulsant), Naproxen (pain), Clonazepam (anti-anxiety). Cost drivers included **Keppra** and **Topamax**, both with generic available, but being prescribed, filled and paid by carrier as brand. Total **MSA** Exposure - **\$1,416,513**.

Pre-MSA Triage Case Study

SOLUTION:

As part of the standard **Pre-MSA** Triage process, Tower's clinical team identified the key cost drivers, made recommendations within the context of the state of jurisdiction to optimize the drug regimen, documented recommendations to achieve the desired result, and calculated the optimized **MSA** value at **\$641,930**. In this case, recommended next steps included Tower's Physician Follow Up service to contact the injured worker and treating physician to request a change from 'Brand' to 'Generic' formulation for **Topamax** and **Keppra**. Tower's legal team worked with defense to facilitate the switch by obtaining attestation of acceptance of the generic formulation by the injured worker (he had previously requested brand), then communicating with the prescribing physician to obtain written confirmation of the substitution of generic formulations of both drugs for the previously prescribed brand drugs.



RESULTS: \$774,583 IN SAVINGS

With client approval, Tower used the information prepared with the **Pre-MSA** Triage, added the attestations obtained from both injured worker and physician noting that substitution was allowed for both **Topamax** and **Keppra** and finalized the **MSA** for submission to **CMS**. In its review, **CMS** accepted the attestations as confirmation of the change in drug therapy and approved Tower's submitted **MSA** at **\$641,930**. Total savings = **\$774,583**. **Pre-MSA** Triage services are priced at 1/2 the price of the standard **MSA**. Physician Follow Up services are offered at no charge when completed in conjunction with **MSA** and **CMS** submission.

