

CITY OF MERCED

"Gateway to Yosemite"



NOTICE OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION PROGRAM: MEDICAL PROVIDER NETWORK

California law requires your employer to provide and pay for medical treatment if you are injured at work. The City of Merced will provide this medical care by using a Workers' Compensation Medical Provider Network (MPN). This notification describes the program and your rights in choosing medical care for work related injuries and illnesses.

What is a Primary Treating Physician (PTP)?

This is the doctor with overall responsibility for treating your injury or illness. He or she may be:

- The doctor you name in writing before you get hurt on the job,
- A doctor from the medical provider network (MPN),
- The doctor chosen by your employer during the first 30 days of injury if your employer does not have an MPN; or,
- The doctor you chose after the first 30 days if your employer does not have an MPN.

What is a Medical Provider Network (MPN)?

An MPN is a select group of health care providers who treat injured workers. Check with your employer to see if they are using an MPN.

If you have not named a doctor before you get hurt and your employer is using an MPN, you will see an MPN doctor. After your first visit, you are free to choose another doctor from the MPN list.

What is Predesignation?

Predesignation is when you name your regular doctor to treat you if you get hurt on the job. The doctor must be a medical doctor (M.D.), doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.) or a medical group with an M.D. or D.O. You must name your doctor in writing before you get hurt or become ill.

You may predesignate a doctor if you have health care coverage for non-work injuries and illnesses. The doctor must have:

- Treated you
- Maintained your medical history and records before your injury and
- Agreed to treat you for a work-related injury or illness before you get hurt or become ill.

You may use the "Predesignation of Personal Physician" form included with this memo. After you fill in the form, be sure to route it to the Insurance Department.

If your employer does not have an approved MPN, you may name your chiropractor or acupuncturist to treat you for work related injuries. The notice of Personal Chiropractor or Acupuncturist must be in writing before you get hurt. You may use the form included in this memo. After you fill in the form, be sure to route it to the Insurance Department. State law does not allow a chiropractor to continue as your treating physician after 24 visits.

WHAT IF THERE IS A PROBLEM?

If you have a concern, speak up. Talk to your employer or the claims administrator handling your claim and try to solve the problem. If this doesn't work, get help by trying the following:

Contact the Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) Information and Assistance (I&A) Unit All 24 DWC offices throughout the state provide information and assistance on rights, benefits and obligations under California's workers' compensation laws. I&A officers help resolve disputes without formal proceedings. Their goal is to get you full and timely benefits. Their services are free.

To contact the nearest I&A Unit, go to www.dwc.ca.gov and under "Workers' Compensation programs and units", click on "Information & Assistance Unit." At this site you will find fact sheets, guides and information to help you.

The nearest I&A Unit is located at:
2550 Mariposa Mall, Room 2035 Fresno, CA 93721-2219 (559) 445-5355

Consult with an attorney

Most attorneys offer one free consultation. If you decide to hire an attorney, his or her fees may be taken out of some of your benefits. For names of workers' compensation attorneys, call the State Bar of California at (415) 538-2120 or go to their website at www.californiaspecialist.org. You may get a list of attorneys from your local I&A Unit or look in the yellow pages.

Warning

Your employer may not pay workers' compensation benefits if you get hurt in a voluntary off-duty recreational, social or athletic activity that is not part of your work-related duties.

Additional rights

You may also have other rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA). For additional information, contact FEHA at (800) 884-1684 or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) at (800) 669-4000.

PREDESIGNATION OF PERSONAL PHYSICIAN

In the event you sustain an injury or illness related to your employment, you may be treated for such injury or illness by your personal medical doctor (M.D.), doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.) or medical group if:

- on the date of your work injury you have health care coverage for injuries or illnesses that are not work related;
- the doctor is your regular physician, who shall be either a physician who has limited his or her practice of medicine to general practice or who is a board-certified or board-eligible internist, pediatrician, obstetrician-gynecologist, or family practitioner, and has previously directed your medical treatment, and retains your medical records;
- your “personal physician” may be a medical group if it is a single corporation or partnership composed of licensed doctors of medicine or osteopathy, which operates an integrated multispecialty medical group providing comprehensive medical services predominantly for non-occupational illnesses and injuries;
- prior to the injury your doctor agrees to treat you for work injuries or illnesses;
- prior to the injury you provided your employer the following in writing: (1) notice that you want your personal doctor to treat you for a work-related injury or illness, and (2) your personal doctor's name and business address.

You may use this form to notify your employer if you wish to have your personal medical doctor or a doctor of osteopathic medicine treat you for a work-related injury or illness and the above requirements are met.

NOTICE OF PREDESIGNATION OF PERSONAL PHYSICIAN

Employee: Complete this section.

To: _____ (name of employer) If I have a work-related injury or illness, I choose to be treated by:

(name of doctor)(M.D., D.O., or medical group) _____ (street address, city, state, ZIP) _____ (telephone number)

Employee Name (please print): _____ Employee's Address: _____

Name of Insurance Company, Plan, or Fund providing health coverage for non-occupational injuries or illnesses:

Employee's Signature _____ Date: _____

Physician: I agree to this Predesignation:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

The physician is not required to sign this form, however, if the physician or designated employee of the physician or medical group does not sign, other documentation of the physician's agreement to be predesignated will be required pursuant to Title 8, California Code of Regulations, section 9780.1(a)(3).

Title 8, California Code of Regulations, section 9783.

NOTICE OF PERSONAL CHIROPRACTOR OR PERSONAL ACUPUNCTURIST

If your employer or your employer's insurer does not have a Medical Provider Network, you may be able to change your treating physician to your personal chiropractor or acupuncturist following a work-related injury or illness. In order to be eligible to make this change, you must give your employer the name and business address of a personal chiropractor or acupuncturist in writing prior to the injury or illness. Your claims administrator generally has the right to select your treating physician within the first 30 days after your employer knows of your injury or illness. After your claims administrator has initiated your treatment with another doctor during this period, you may then, upon request, have your treatment transferred to your personal chiropractor or acupuncturist.

NOTE: If your date of injury is January 1, 2004 or later, a chiropractor cannot be your treating physician after you have received 24 chiropractic visits unless your employer has authorized additional visits in writing. The term "chiropractic visit" means any chiropractic office visit, regardless of whether the services performed involve chiropractic manipulation or are limited to evaluation and management. Once you have received 24 chiropractic visits, if you still require medical treatment, you will have to select a new physician who is not a chiropractor. This prohibition shall not apply to visits for postsurgical physical medicine visits prescribed by the surgeon, or physician designated by the surgeon, under the postsurgical component of the Division of Workers' Compensation's Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule.

You may use this form to notify your employer of your personal chiropractor or acupuncturist.

Your Chiropractor or Acupuncturist's Information:

(name of chiropractor or acupuncturist)

(street address, city, state, zip code)

(telephone number)

Employee Name (please print):

Employee's Address:

Employee's Signature _____ Date: _____

Title 8, California Code of Regulations, section 9783.1.
(Optional DWC Form 9783.1 Effective date July 1, 2014)

Predesignation of Personal Physician; Reporting Duties of the Primary Treating Physician Regulations 8 C.C.R. section 9780, et seq. (Approved 02/12/2014)